

# Colorado CCA News



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## Colorado CCA News

is a quarterly publication of the Colorado Certified Crop Advisers.

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## *Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Newsletter*

### Colorado CCA Update

*By Jim Sharkoff, Colorado CCA Board Chairman*

**ICCA West Regional Representative** – Congratulations are in order for Merlin Van Deraa. Merlin, who represents the Independent Agricultural Consultants of Colorado to the Colorado CCA Board, has been elected to serve as the West Regional Representative to the ICCA Board. Many thanks to all of you who took the time to vote.

**Farm Bill** - President Bush signed the 2002 Farm Bill into law in May, but the details of the NRCS Technical Service Provider Rule are still unknown. Consequently, we do not know exactly how the program will work. We will keep you posted.

**Continuing Education** - The continuing education component of the CCA Program is evolving to better meet the needs of our membership. While the primary focus of continuing education has been on the agronomic competency areas covered in the exam, the ICCA Board and Advisory Council voted unanimously to add an optional educational area to the program called Professional Development. The subject matter for this new educational area should include topics such as ethics training, computer and business courses, economics seminars, legislative and policy related training and communications. The Continuing Education Committee is working out the details and hopefully, this new educational area will be available for the next CEU cycle.

**Strategic Planning** – The mission and vision of the CCA Program is being revised nationally to reflect changes in the agricultural business environment and the life-cycle stage of the Program. The following statements are from the 2003-2005 Strategic Plan adopted by the ICCA Board and Advisory Council:  
**CCA Mission** – The Certified Crop Adviser Program validates the credentials of professional crop advisers by establishing standards for knowledge, experience, ethics and continuing education.

**CCA Vision** – To be the most valuable certification a professional crop adviser can hold by establishing Certified Crop Advisers' essential role in agricultural production, food safety and environmental stewardship.

The revised goals and objectives of the Program are as follows:

1. Increase the value of CCA Certification
  - Increase the value of certification to the individual CCA
  - Continuously refine and communicate criteria for quality assurance
  - Establish relationships with the food supply chain
  - Be actively engaged in the development and implementation of public and private policy
2. Implement an effective marketing and promotional plan for the CCA Program
  - Marketing efforts directed

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## Colorado CCA Update (Continued)

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- toward CCAs and their employers
  - Marketing efforts directed toward producers
  - Marketing efforts directed toward the food supply chain
  - Marketing efforts directed toward government agencies, legislators and educators
  - Marketing efforts directed toward the general public, interested parties and organizations
3. Improve relevance, quality and delivery of continuing education as the foundation and strength of the CCA Program
    - Highlight the importance of the CCA Code of Ethics
    - Broaden the use of emerging information delivery technologies
    - Expand self-directed CEUs
    - Develop current and relevant educational objectives for continuing education, complementary to those for the exam
  4. Increase and improve standardization of the CCA Program
    - Improve the standardization of continuing education requirements
    - Improve the standardization of the exam process
    - Improve the standardization of program fees and governance structure for local boards
    - Improve standardization of guidelines for use of the CCA logo
  5. To effectively and efficiently administer the CCA Program
    - Ensure that budget projections reflect new goals and objectives
    - Maintain self-supporting cost-effective structure
    - Continue to look for quality improvement opportunities
    - Maintain financial accountability to CCAs and the organization

**Bottom Line** – It is the membership that makes the CCA Program what it is and we are dedicated to maintaining and improving the effectiveness of the Program for the benefit of Colorado CCAs. Please contact any of the Colorado Board members if you have a suggestion.

## CDA Notes—New National Organic Standards

*By Mark Klapperich, Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Division of Plant Industry Inspector and CCA.*

### What are the National Organic Standards?

The new organic standard offers a national definition for the term "organic." It details the methods, practices, and substances that can be used in producing and handling organic crops and livestock, as well as processed products. It establishes clear organic

labeling criteria, and specifically prohibits the use of genetic engineering methods, ionizing radiation, and sewage sludge for fertilization. All agricultural products labeled organic must originate from farms or handling operations certified by CDA or a private agency accredited by USDA. Farms and handling operations that sell less than \$5,000 per year of organic agricultural products are exempt from certification.

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## CDA Notes (Continued)

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### History of Colorado Organic Certification

Colorado has had a state organic certification program since the state legislature enacted the Organic Act in 1989. The program started out with just 59 producers in 1989. Since that time the program has grown to 214 producers in 2001. The state has certified all types of crops, from amaranth to zucchini, including most of the major production crops, fruits and vegetables, and various herbs such as milk thistle.

In 1990 the National Farm Bill was passed by congress. One of the provisions in the Farm Bill was the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990. The Act required rules (National Standards) to be adopted that would supercede all other organic certification standards. Both state and private programs were affected. However, the National Standards were not adopted until December 2000, with an implementation date of October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002.

What this meant to Colorado organic producers was that the CDA certification would not be valid after October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002. CDA received encouragement from organic producers to pursue accreditation from USDA to continue organic inspections and certifications.

For CDA to receive accreditation from the USDA, the state legislature needed to change the current organic act to adopt the National Standards. The state legislature also needed to make changes to allow the CDA to apply for accreditation, with no guarantee of acceptance into the USDA program. In June of 2002, the legislative changes were completed and CDA received permission to start the application process.

### Implementation of National Organic Standards

CDA received accreditation from the USDA on Friday, October 18, 2002 to become an organic inspector. This is good news for Colorado producers. With CDA being accredited, those crops that were certified under the Colorado Organic Act will be grandfathered into to the USDA program this year. For example, wheat certified in June will still be certified organic after October 21, 2002.

While the Colorado organic program certified only crops, the National Organic Standards certify crops, livestock, livestock products, and processors/handlers. CDA will now not only inspect producers, but also will inspect anyone handling or processing organic products. CDA will be working with more business types than it has in the past. It needs to be remembered that the USDA, not Colorado, has set the standards that must be followed and that private organic certifiers also have to follow these rules. With the new organic rules, CDA will be dealing with new requirements for certification, and so will the businesses wishing certification. Unfortunately, this will mean more paperwork for everyone involved, including specific record keeping to be done by the people wishing certification.

### Impact of Organic Standards on CCAs

The one important note for the CCAs is that there are organic producers scattered throughout Colorado. If you chose to handle some of the inputs for these organic producers, you may want to check and see if you need to follow any special handling requirements. Also, being certified organic does not necessarily mean that products are being produced pesticide and fertilizer free. This is a common misconception. The National Standards does list

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*This seal alerts consumers that a product is at least 95% organic.*

## Call for Articles

Do you have an idea for a future newsletter article? Do you know of a CCA member who has received recognition and should be mentioned in a future CCA newsletter? Do you know of any websites that would be of interest to other CCAs?

If you have answered "yes" to any of the above questions or have any other ideas or comments to share, please contact Betsy Buffington at [Betsy.Buffington@ColoState.edu](mailto:Betsy.Buffington@ColoState.edu) or (970) 491-3947.

## CDA Notes (Continued)

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acceptable products that organic businesses can use and obtain organic certification.

To find out more about the National Organic Standards on the internet go to: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/>. To download a pdf file of the standards go to: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/oldnop/nop2000/nop2/finalrulepages/finalrulemap.htm>.

The National Standards have very precisely defined who, when, and where the organic label can be used in both production and processing. If you have questions, you can either contact Don Gallegos with CDA at 303-349-4150, or a private certifier.



## 2003 CCA Exam Information

The 2003 State and International CCA exams will be held on Friday, February 7th, 2003. The registration deadline is Friday, December 20, 2002. For registration forms, call Lorene Peterson at (608) 273-8090 extension 310 or email her at [lpeterson@agronomy.org](mailto:lpeterson@agronomy.org). Registration forms can also be downloaded from [http://www.agronomy.org/cca/exam\\_registration.html](http://www.agronomy.org/cca/exam_registration.html).

Colorado Study Guides, based on the Colorado CCA performance objectives, will be available soon at the following address:

Gary Leeper  
11166 Huron Street, Suite 27  
Denver, CO 80234  
Phone: (303) 433-4446

The ICCA provides the following list of study materials. They do not produce nor endorse these study materials.

AgExplorer  
<http://www.agexplorer.com/>  
An agricultural encyclopedic reference and CCA certification training CD-ROM. \$99.95

Agri-Growth study materials  
<http://www.agrigrowth.com>  
A comprehensive self-study guide for the ICCA Exam. Includes 100 pages plus simulated exam, updated module and glossary. \$159.00

Audio CDs and audiocassettes containing explanations to multiple choice questions given in the CCA Self-Study Manual. Audio CDs \$29.95, Audiocassettes \$19.95

An interactive CD-ROM with 190 sample questions is also available. The program randomly selects questions and a performance score is given. This program can be used in combination with the CCA Self-Study Manual. \$39.95

Iowa State University Agribusiness Education Program  
<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/aged/CCA/Tapes.htm>

A 13 tape video set and companion notebook that is helpful in preparation for the ICCA exam. \$200.00

Potash & Phosphate Institute CCA Review Manual  
<http://www.store.yahoo.com/ppi-store/ccamanual.html>

Provides information on each of the CCA performance objectives which will be helpful in preparation for the ICCA Exam. \$40.00

## Meet the Colorado CCA Board—Roger Saffer

Roger Saffer was born and raised in Flagler, Colorado, where he graduated in 1977. He attended college at USC in Pueblo, Colorado and CSU in Fort Collins, Colorado.

He received his Private Pilots license at 18 years of age, and a few years later obtained his commercial pilots license. In 1984, he purchased an aerial application business in Eads, Colorado. The business has grown to a full service ag business to include aerial and ground application, seed sales, fertilizer sales and crop consulting. From 1990-2000 he was a partner in another aerial application business in Akron, Colorado.

Industry related service includes:

- Colorado Ag Aviation Board of

Directors for 12 years, President 1995-1996

- National Ag Aviation Association Board 1996-present, National Secretary 2000-2001
- Named to NAREF (National Ag Aviation Research & Education Foundation) Board 2001-present
- PAASS (Professional Aerial Applicators Support System) program development committee member
- CCA Board 1995-1998, 2000-present

Roger and his wife Loraine have 2 children, Adam 15 and Destiny 14. He is also involved in school, community, and church activities.



*Roger Saffer  
CCA Board Member*

## Calendar of Upcoming CEUs

Date and Location	Course Title	CEU's	For more information contact:
11/18/02 Antlers Adams Mark Hotel Denver, CO	Drought Issues Workshop	SW 2.0 PM 1.0	Rich Rhoades 719-543-8386
11/20/02 Best Western Hitching Post Cheyenne, WY*	The Laramie County Irrigation Technology Workshop	SW 5.0 CM 1.0	Doug Miyamoto or Ken Andrews 307-772-2314
11/20/02–11/21/02 Sheraton Hotel Colorado Springs, CO	Colorado Aerial Applicators Association Annual Meeting	PM 3.0	Roger Saffer 719-438-5346
12/3/02-12/4/02 Renaissance Hotel Denver, CO	Carbon as a Potential Commodity	SW 6.5 CM 1.0	Rich Rhoades 719-543-8386
12/11/02– 12/12/02 Adams Mark Hotel Grand Junction, CO	Colorado Weed Management Association's Annual Conference	PM 8.0	Charles Henry 970-887-1228
Other meetings for continuing education credits will be announced in future CCA newsletters or can be found on the Colorado CCA website at <a href="http://www.coloradocca.org/calendar.htm">http://www.coloradocca.org/calendar.htm</a> .			

\* To receive proper credit when attending meetings in adjoining states, sign the attendance sheets along with your CCA number. You should follow up on out-of-state CEUs to make sure that your records are credited. If they are not, contact Lorene Peterson of the ICCA office in Madison, WI at (608) 273-8090 extension 310.



# Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Newsletter

Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Program  
Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1170



## CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER

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### Web Sites Worth A Look

Colorado CCA website

<http://www.coloradocca.org>

Calendar of upcoming CEUs, current and past CCA newsletters, links to Colorado and National sites, information on board and committee members, and much more!

Economic Research Service

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/>

The mission of ERS is to inform and enhance public and private decisionmaking on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural development.

Back-to-Basics

<http://www.back-t-basics.net/>

Soil fertility information with quick tips, regional updates, and nutrient deficiency symptom photos.

RMA Online

<http://www.act.fcic.usda.gov/>

Information on crop insurance from USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Crop Adviser Institute

<http://www.cai.iastate.edu/>

The mission of the Crop Adviser Institute is to provide high quality, interactive, computer-based, learning modules designed for the continuing education of agricultural professionals.

CO/NE/WY Elevator Afternoon Grain Bids

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/GL\\_GR111.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/GL_GR111.txt)

Current grain market prices.

Farms.com

<http://www.farms.com/>

AgSearch engine, news, weather, markets, and more.

