

Colorado CCA News

Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Newsletter



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Colorado CCA News

is a quarterly publication of the
Colorado Certified Crop Advisers.

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Greetings from you CCA Board

Highlights from ICCA Meeting
In September I had the honor of representing Colorado's CCAs at the International CCA meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. While listening to all the fascinating discussions, I spent some time studying a meeting handout that listed the fees and membership numbers for each local board. I was happy to see that out of the total of 36 local CCA organizations, only seven had lower fees than Colorado, while 27 had higher fees! The fee you pay will be going up \$5 for 2006, but this is due to an increase in the portion that goes to ICCA, not the \$20 that goes to your local organization.

I also pondered the distribution of CCAs among the states and regions. The North Central Region contains 60% of the total CCA membership. None of the 12 North Central CCA organizations have less than 300 members, while 75% of the remaining 24 local organizations have less than 300 members. We currently have 179 CCAs in our Colorado organization. We are small, but efficient! I believe that it is important that we remain active within the ICCA organization to make sure that the direction taken addresses the needs of Colorado CCAs.

Survey Results

ICCA recently completed a web-based survey of all CCAs (or at least those willing to complete a web-based survey!). The overall response rate was 9.8%, while the response rate from Colorado CCAs was 11.7% (21 Colorado CCAs responded).

If you are interested in the complete results, they are available at the following website:

http://www.zoomerang.com/reports/public_report.zgi?ID=L22ARUBRUW4F

A few of the highlights from this survey:

- 21 responses were received from Colorado's 179 CCAs
- 75% have a Bachelors degree or higher
- Type of employment
 - 59% work for retailer or basic company rep
 - 13% work in university/government/ag extension
- Primary reason for maintaining CCA certification (rank out of 11 choices):
 - Conveys a sense of professionalism
 - Personal sense of achievement
- Low satisfaction with marketing efforts to increase recognition of CCA program
- "Electronic delivery of messages can be more effective than previously thought"
 - 90% use email daily, 9% use it 2-3 times per week
 - BUT this was a web-based survey

I am attempting to obtain results for just the Colorado CCAs from ICCA. Based on the heavy proportion of CCA's in the Midwest, I am interested in seeing if the concerns of Colorado's CCAs differ from what a national survey would indicate. For all of the survey results received, only 10% came from the Western region, compared to 54% from the North Central Region.

**Laura Quakenbush, Chair,
Colorado Certified Advisers Board**

News from Colorado Department of Agriculture



Cindy Lair, Colorado State Conservation Board Program Manager

New Division Director for Division of Plant Industry

Mitch Yergert has been appointed Director of the Plant Industry Division.

Creation of Conservation Services Division

Earlier this year, an analysis of the programs within the Plants and Conservation Divisions resulted in a merger that provides better leverage of the Conservation District infrastructure while providing a stronger base to carry out the mission of these programs. In addition to various meetings with the industry, this analysis led to the creation of the new Conservation Services Division, which will include all activities of the Conservation Board, the Agricultural Chemicals and Groundwater Protection Program and the Noxious Weed and Insectary Programs.

In creating the Conservation Services Division, Cindy Lair was hired as the

new Manager of the State Conservation Programs, and Jim Miller is the Interim Director of the Division.

Profile of Cindy Lair

Cindy Lair came to work to work for the Colorado Department of Agriculture in August as the new Program Manager for the Colorado State Conservation Board, replacing Bob Zebroski, who retired last December. Cindy brings a wide variety of professional experiences and skills to her position. Most recently, she was the Director of Land Management for the City of Louisville and prior to that, was the Boulder County Noxious Weed Manager. Cindy enjoys furthering land conservation goals and assisting the State Conservation Board and willing conservation districts in the task of reinventing themselves in this difficult climate of changing economic times. Lair can be reached at 303-239-4111 or by email at: cindy.lair@ag.state.co.us.

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 or (970) 491-3947.

CCA CEU Sign-in Procedures

Sign-in Sheet

When you attend a meeting that contains topics which are considered acceptable for CCA CEUs, it is your responsibility to ensure that you get your CEU credits by properly signing in on the sign-in sheet. Courses that are submitted for CCA credit before the meeting occurs will have a printed CEU sign-in sheet sent by the ICCA office. Please print and sign your name and provide your CCA certification number. Your CCA certification number must be provided to receive credit. In the past

it was acceptable to write a social security number in place of a CCA number if the CCA number was not known or readily available. With the current increase in the number of identity thefts, Colorado CCA no longer recommends using a social security number for this purpose.

If the meeting organizer has not applied for CEUs or has applied for them recently, he/she may not have the "official" sign-in sheet. If this occurs, copies are available for

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CCA CEU Sign-in Procedures

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download from the ICCA website at http://www.agronomy.org/cca/pdf/sign_in_sheet.pdf. A blank sheet may also be used, including the meeting title, location, and date; printed name and signature, and CCA number.

Be Proactive

Each meeting offering CEUs may run differently; some meeting organizers have the sign-up sheets at the back of the room while others announce the location of the sign-up sheets. You need to be proactive in signing your name on the sign-up sheet.

What to do if CEUs are Not Available

If you attend a meeting that you feel should be eligible for CCA CEUs, but the meeting organizer has not applied for CEUs, you should ask him/her to provide a sign-in sheet for the names of attendees and their CCA number. The meeting organizer should then contact John Mortvedt for post-approval of CEUs. If the meeting organizer does not submit those CEUs for approval, then you may report the CEUs as self-reported CEUs, but they will NOT be part of the 20 minimum board-approved credits per 2-year cycle.



New CCA Radio Spot

A new 60 second CCA Radio Spot is available at the ICCA website: <http://www.agronomy.org/cca/pdf/radiospot.mp3>.

The radio spot will be submitted to the Colorado Agriculture News Network to promote the CCA program throughout Colorado.



Calendar of Upcoming CEUs

Date and Location	Course Title	CEU's	For more information contact:
11/15/05 Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Denver	Livestock and Environment Update: Antibiotics in the Environment	2.5 NM 2.5 SW	Jessica Davis 970-491-1913
11/16/05-11/18/05 Sheraton, Colorado Springs	Colorado Agricultural Aviation Association Annual Convention	3.0 PM	Dolle Lehrkamp 719-768-3367
11/29/05 Southwest Weld County Service Complex, Longmont	CSU Cooperative Extension Meeting— Law & Order	0.5 CM 1.5 PM	Bob Hamblen 303-678-6328
1/10/06–1/11/06 Holiday Inn-DIA, Denver	Rocky Mountain Agri-Business Association Convention and Trade Show	2.0 CM 2.0 NM 4.0 PM 2.0 SW	Gary Leeper 303-433-4446

Other meetings for continuing education credits will be announced in future CCA newsletters or can be found on the Colorado CCA website at <http://www.coloradocca.org/calendar.htm>.

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



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!

Crop Variety Performance for Colorado Crops
www.extsoilcrop.colostate.edu/CropVar/
Helping Colorado Producers make better decisions. Includes 2005 variety results.

CSU Crops Online
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/menucrop.html>
Links to Cooperative Extension publications, CSU publications, and other education and government links.

Restricted Use Pesticide Dealer License Information
<http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/Pesticides/RestrictedUse.html>
A new webpage from the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Includes a downloadable application/instructions document and a list of product names for state RUPs.

USDA Crop Explorer
<http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/>
Features near-real-time global crop condition information based on satellite imagery and weather data.

USDA NRCS TechReg
<http://techreg.usda.gov/>
TechReg is NRCS's online tool for Technical Service Providers to register, become certified, and manage their TSP profiles.

