

# Colorado CCA News



## Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Newsletter

### Nutrient Management CEUs Available

Five CEUs in Nutrient Management have been nationally approved by the ICCA Board for self study. "Managing Nitrogen and Phosphorus in Organic Amendments" provides you with practical information and tools that can be used to assess the fate of N and P in land-applied organic amendments such as biosolids, manures, sludges, and composts.

The course includes a 51 page textbook and an Excel Workbooks diskette which

can be used to estimate agriculturally and environmentally important aspects of the N and P cycles including a N Balance Sheet and P Index. Self-study exam sheets are provided.

To request a copy, please send your name, mailing address, and a check for \$50.00 to: John Gilmour, P.O. Box 610, Fayetteville, AR 72702.

Completed exam sheets are remitted directly to the International CCA Program with payment of \$33.00 for processing.

### Self-Study vs. Self-Directed CEUs

The difference between self-study and self-directed continuing education units (CEUs) continues to cause confusion among CCAs.

Self-study credits are those that are pre-approved by the Colorado Continuing Education Committee or the International CCA board. To obtain credit for self-study CEUs, the CCA registrant must complete an exam on the material and achieve a passing score of 70% or provide proof of successful completion of a correspondence course. Self-study materials are most readily found on the American Society of Agronomy CCA website at <http://www.agronomy.org/cca/exams/> or in the CCA Advantage newsletter found in the Crop Decisions magazine. An electronic version of the CCA Advantage, including over 15 self-study exams, is available at <http://www.cropdecisions.com>. Completed exams should be sent to ASA c/o CCA Self

Study Exam, 677 S. Segoe Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53711.

Self-directed CEUs are continuing education events including meetings, seminars, symposia, and/or short courses that meet one or more of the ICCA performance objectives, but are not preapproved by the Colorado CCA board. CCAs applying for self-directed CEUs need to fill out a CEU reporting form to get credit. CEU reporting forms are available online at [http://www.agronomy.org/cca/ceu\\_reporting\\_form.html](http://www.agronomy.org/cca/ceu_reporting_form.html).

Colorado CCAs are required to have a minimum of 20 board-approved CEUs. The remaining 20 hours can be any combination of self-study, self-directed or board-approved credits.



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#### Colorado CCA News

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## CCA Exam Registration and Study Materials Available

The 2002 State and International CCA exams will be held on Friday, February 1st, 2002. The registration deadline is Friday, December 14, 2001. 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/exams/>.

Colorado Study Guides covering the Colorado CCA performance objectives are available for \$45.00 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

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 CCA 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 CCA Exam. \$35.00



## Updating your CCA Address

Have you moved recently? If you have not contacted both the State and International CCA offices with your updated address information, you may be missing out on important news and opportunities.

To contact the Colorado CCA office, mail or email the address change to:

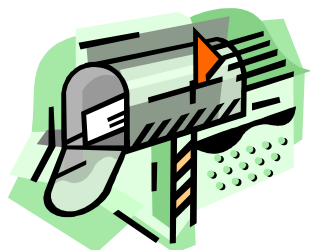
Gloria Blumanhourst  
C4 Plant Sciences Bldg.  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1170  
Phone: (970) 491-6201  
[gbluman@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:gbluman@lamar.colostate.edu)

To change your address at the International CCA office, do one of the

following:

1. If you have internet access, go to <http://www.agronomy.org/cca>. On the left hand side of the page is a column with CCA Home listed at the top. Scroll down to Misc. and click on "Update your address."
2. Mail the address change to the office at:  
CCA  
677 South Segoe Road  
Madison, WI 53711-1086

When mailing your information to either the State or International CCA offices, please be sure to include your certification number, your previous address, and your current address.



## Meet the Colorado CCA Board—Merlin Van Deraa

I was born and raised in Kimberly, Wisconsin. Living only 35 miles away from Green Bay, (home of the pro football team, the “Packers”) ensured that I received the “cheese head” brain washing effect that most Wisconsin natives undergo while growing up. The “brain washing” ensures a lifetime of fan support for the Packers, regardless of their performance on the field, although 2001 may be the year for the Pack! See how the training works? True Packer fans rarely miss an opportunity to talk about the Packers.

After graduating from high school in 1975, I attended college at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and graduated with a B.S. degree in Soil Science in December of 1980. For those people that know me already, it's to be pointed out that the B.S. stands for Bachelor of Science, not just B.S.

After college, I soil mapped for the SCS in Illinois. Wanting to travel (and save the world), I joined the U.S. Peace Corps and spent 2 years, 2 months, 22 days, and 2 minutes in Niger, West Africa. I worked mainly as an Agricultural Extension Agent. Joking aside, the time I spent in Niger living and trying to work in a third world country has had a big effect upon my life and how I view the world. I have always felt blessed that I had the

opportunity to live and work in such a different world than the one I live and grew up in. It is impossible for me to sum up that time of my life, other than to express that my real accomplishment from that experience was not what I did while living there, but rather what the place and the people of Niger did for me. If anyone got saved, I believe it to be me.

Returning from Niger in 1985, I found work as a Crop Consultant in Colorado working for Servi-tech, inc. I briefly returned to Wisconsin in 1987 to work as a Conservation Planner for the SCS, but saw little future or desire to be a “Soils Policeman” for the SCS. I returned to Colorado in 1988 and started my own crop consulting business, Terra Firma Ag Consulting, inc., which I have owned and operated ever since.

I have tried to stay active in the agricultural sector here in northeast Colorado over the past 16 years. I am a member of the IACC, NAICC, and hold such titles as CPAG, CPCS, and CCA. I have served on the board of directors of the Golden Plains Pest Survey, IACC, the IRF, and now on the Colorado CCA board. As a member of the CCA board, I will try and represent the interest of not only the crop consultants of Colorado, but of all CCA members.



*Merlin Van Deraa  
CCA Board Member*

## Calendar of CCA CEUs

A Noxious Weed Seminar will be held Tuesday, November 13, 2001 in Fort Collins, CO. 3.0 CEUs in PM are available. For more information contact Kristi Gay at (719) 765-4676.

Other meetings for continuing education credits will be announced in future CCA newsletters or can be found on the ASA CCA website at <http://www.agronomy.org/cca/cal/calendar.html>.

**Promote the CCA Program!**  
**Share this newsletter with your friends and colleagues.**

## 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) 491-6027.

# Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Newsletter

Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Program  
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## Web Sites Worth A Look

### International CCA website

<http://www.agronomy.org/cca/>

Check your CEU's by entering your certification number, look at upcoming events on the CEU calendar, take self-study exams, and much more!

### Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/wwcb.html>

Download maps of U.S. crop moisture, precipitation, growing degree days, and more.

### National IPM Network

<http://www.reeusda.gov/nipmn/>

Get current IPM news and events. Search for IPM information by commodity, pest, tactics, or by state/region.

### Ag Center Web Site—EPA

<http://es.epa.gov/oeca/ag/sitehelp.html>

Information to help agricultural producers and others in the agricultural community comply with the environmental requirements that apply to their businesses and general information about pollution prevention, including voluntary measures that make good sense for both agricultural establishments and the environment.

### Pesticide Security

<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/SoilCrop/extension/CEPEP/factsheets/120.pdf>

Information on the security of pesticides for private and commercial applicators as well as pesticide dealers.

