



www.certifiedcropadviser.org

The Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) certification was established as a program of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) in 1992, with the first certifications awarded in 1993. The CCA program was established to provide a benchmark for practicing agronomy professionals in the United States and Canada.

The program is administered locally by 37 state/regional/provincial boards called "Local Boards" throughout the United States and Canada and is overseen by the International Certified Crop Advisor Board – which is independent from the American Society of Agronomy Board of Directors. The board composition includes one representative from each local CCA board, an ASA Board Representative, the executive committee and various federal agency ex-officio members.

The CCA program is voluntary, providing a base level of standards through testing and raising that standard through continuing education. Each CCA had to pass two exams (international and local) and submit credentials detailing their education, crop advising experience plus two references. The exams cover four major competency areas: nutrient management, soil and water management, integrated pest management and crop management. Continuing education must also fall into one of these four areas to be valid for CCA Continuing Education Units (CEUs). They must also sign and adhere to a code of ethics.

Typically, CCAs are field agronomists or salespeople working in public, private or commercial sectors; consultants and farm managers; natural resource conservation personnel; educators and extension specialists; government and academic scientists and agronomy researchers; and technical support personnel.

Of note,

- The program estimates that greater than 70% of crop acreage in the US is directly or indirectly impacted by a CCA.
- CCAs are recognized by the USDA-RMA as Agricultural Experts for crop insurance claims.
- The number of CCAs with at least a Bachelor of Science Degree is greater than 70%.
- To maintain the certification, the CCA must earn 40 hours of continuing education every two years. The program has averaged a 94% renewal rate.
- Average passing percentage over all testing opportunities is 60%.
- There were 12,871 CCAs as of December 31, 2010.
- The CCA program currently operates in the US, Canada, and India. Additional programs are currently in development for Mexico and Argentina.
- A staff of five manages the program from the CCA office in Madison, WI.