



PCCA News

Newsletter of the Prairie Certified Crop Advisor Board

Fall 2001

Chairman's Message

Your Prairie Region CCA Board most recently met in Saskatoon on November 14th for the semi-annual meeting. One of the more important issues dealt with related to Board re-structuring. Before the Board makes a final decision, it would like to receive some feedback from the membership. Check out the article on the "Proposed PCCA Board Structure" contained in this newsletter and get back to us with your thoughts.

The Board has decided to initiate the process that will enable the 'membership at large' to elect three representatives to the Board. Nomination forms have been included with the mailing of this newsletter. We encourage you to take action on this matter.

The Membership Survey is well underway. To date, 150 survey forms have already been completed by members who attended the PCCA General Membership meeting held at Lethbridge, and the CAAR Crop Management Forums across the Prairie Provinces. Attached to this newsletter is the announcement of the first lucky survey participant to win one of many CCA jackets. More draws will be taking place in the near future, so return your surveys in order to be eligible.

You can request a hard copy of the survey form from Jeff Kisiloski, the PCCA Program Coordinator, by calling 1-204-989-9304. This newsletter also contains information on how to get your survey electronically off of the PCCA website.

Thank you to those CCAs that have already voiced their opinion through the survey, and to those who will be completing the survey in the very near future. Only your input can help to make the PCCA Board meet the needs of today's CCA.

John Harapiak, CCA
PCCA Board Chairman



Standards & Ethics Committee

by Mitch Long

The Standards & Ethics Committee is pleased to report that during the last two meetings, 91 out of a possible 97 applications were approved and awarded CCA status. That means that the success rate for the most current group of applicants, for membership in the Prairie Region CCA program, was a very impressive 94%!!

This brings the total number of PCCA members to 634. Congratulations to the newest members to the CCA program! You, like all other CCAs, have dedicated yourself to a lifetime of learning, and to promoting ethical farming practices and environmental stewardship.



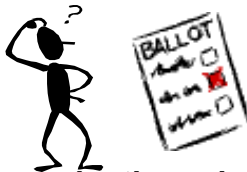
Call for Nominations to the PCCA Board of Directors!!



A motion passed at the November, 2001 PCCA Board meeting has opened the door for the general members of the Prairie Certified Crop Advisor (PCCA) program to elect Provincial representatives on the PCCA Board of Directors.

Who is eligible to be nominated? Only registered CCA's can be nominated for 1 of 3 Director positions, one each to represent the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

How do you get yourself nominated? Complete the enclosed nomination form and include a brief summary (1/2 page) of your credentials (who you are, where your from, your education, training, experience, your opinion on the CCA program and future direction you would like it to move in).



When are nominations due? Nominations for the 3 elected Board Members will be accepted up until noon on Friday, January 18, 2002. Ballots will be mailed out at the end of January, with winners being announced in the Spring 2002 newsletter.

What is involved in participating in the PCCA Board? See the summary on the back side of the nomination form for more information on what will be expected of you if you are successfully elected to the PCCA Board of Directors.



Please complete the nomination form as soon as possible and return it to the PCCA Administration office before January 18th, 2002. Get involved to help choose who will represent your Province on the PCCA Board. Nominate your best candidate today!!!!



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• **For details contact:**

• Jeff Kisiloski
• PCCA Program Administrator
• c/o CAAR
• 107-1090 Waverley Street
• Winnipeg, MB R3T 0P4
• Phone: 204.989.9304
• Fax: 204.989.9306 jeff@caar.org

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PCCA Board Byte

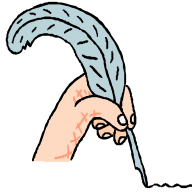
A special thanks to Aaron Baldwin for his services in accrediting events with CEU credits. However, please forward all new applications for CEU credits to Gary Martens at:

Department of Plant Science
Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2



"More than just an Exam"

Exam Committee Report by John Heard, CCA



Some 1279 western Canada agronomists have challenged the Prairie CCA exam since 1997, and 958 or 60% have passed. But the passing rate is on a decline – from 74% in earlier exams to only 50% on the February 2001 exam. As the Exam Committee strives to maintain the same level of difficulty in each exam, each year some 25% of the questions are changed, but enough remain similar to gauge how different groups respond to the same question.

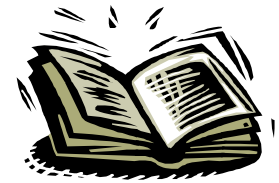
Other States and Provinces are observing a decline in passing rates as the program matures in their area. Whatever the reason, this decline in passing rate fits with the general trend.

Within the CCA program, the Prairie exam is recognized as being very rigorous. Interestingly, the Exam Committee receives more comments from present CCAs insisting that this high standard be maintained, than from unsuccessful candidates disappointed with their exam scores.

Although the exam is probably the most visible responsibility of the Exam Committee, it is perhaps secondary to another duty. A key role of the Committee is to develop Performance Objectives (POs) for the Prairie CCA program. Not only are the POs required for people challenging the exam, but they are the basis for the continuing education component of the program.

POs are established as “need to know information”, rather than “nice to know information”. Each year one of the proficiency areas (Soil Fertility, Soil & Water Management, Integrated Pest Management and Crop Production) is reviewed. Prairie CCAs are welcomed to be part of this process.

This past summer 20 randomly selected CCAs from each Prairie Province received an evaluation to rank the importance and value of the 27 Soil & Water Management POs. The comments received prompted the Exam Committee to rewrite some POs, and develop several new manure management objectives. These new POs will be part of the 2002 Prairie program.



The Exam Committee has a strong college/university and agribusiness component. Over half the Committee have earned their CCA status prior to becoming a Committee member. Additionally, each of the representatives has a particular expertise in one, or more, of the proficiency areas, allowing the development of relevant POs, establishment of appropriate exam questions, etc.

As a Prairie CCA it is also your responsibility to ensure the quality of the program. Should you wish to forward Performance Objective suggestions, or even volunteer as a proctor during the February exams – just contact the PCCA Administrator.





The Canadian Fertilizer Institute (CFI) is please to announce that they will be supporting a recognition award for an outstanding CCA practicing in western Canada. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding service by a CCA. It will help to increase the awareness that CCAs continually strive to do their best in not only making economically sound cropping decisions for their customers, but also ones that are environmentally sound.

All current CCA's certified by the PCCA Board are eligible to be nominated by other CCA's, employers, farmers or farm groups. The nomination should include the candidates name, address and phone number, current position and employer, background of training and experience, name, address and phone number of the nominator, and two examples of why the candidate's professional approach to their career as a CCA deserves recognition.

Nominations should be sent to the PCCA office, Suite 107, 1090 Waverley St., Winnipeg, MB R3T 0P4 by January 31st, 2002. A Committee of the PCCA Board of Directors will review applications. Winners will be announced in the spring PCCA newsletter and Farm Press issue in March, 2002.



PCCA Board Byte

To date, the Prairie Certified Crop Advisor Board is pleased to announce that there are 634 accredited CCAs in the Prairie Provinces.

Voice your Opinion and Maybe Sport a New Look!!

Attention all Prairie Province CCAs!! Want the opportunity to voice your opinion of how the PCCA Program is operating? Maybe you would like to comment on the value of the CCA designation? Perhaps you would like to offer advice on educational opportunities that you feel need to be offered to CCAs?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, log on to the PCCA website at www.caar.org/pcca and you will find the PCCA General Membership Survey asking you all sorts of questions about the operations of the CCA, value of your certification, and why you became a CCA. You can also get a hardcopy of the survey by calling Jeff Kisiloski, the PCCA Administrator, at 1-204-989-9304.

Not interested in filling out another survey? Check this out! The PCCA Board values your input so much that members who fill out and return their surveys are entered into a draw to win some great looking CCA jackets as prizes! When your colleagues ask why you look so sharp you can tell them that you voiced your opinion in the PCCA General Membership Survey, and won a great jacket to boot!!

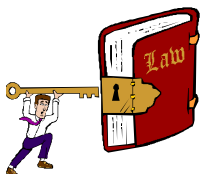
Several surveys have been distributed, and collected, at the Western Canada Agronomy Workshop and the CAAR Crop Management Forums in the Prairie Provinces. If you took a survey but did not complete it, please respond as soon as possible and send it back to the PCCA Administrator. Once again, the PCCA Board thanks you for your input. After all the only way to make the program stronger is through your input!



Proposal for PCCA Board Structure

Given the development of the CCA program in western Canada, the PCCA Board has decided to start making some changes to its structure. While the Board agreed to go ahead with the election of one CCA from each of the Prairie Provinces (see nomination form in this newsletter) they wanted some of the other recommendations regarding Board restructuring to be circulated for comment by the membership.

It is the intent to form the majority of the Board around the large demand of the Exam Committee to keep the materials current. The appointment of members from the Provincial institutes of Agrologists is to ensure we do not come into conflict with the various Agrologist Acts that exist in each Province.



According to the policy and procedures manual developed for the CCA program, a Regional CCA Board shall consist of at least seven members of which one representative from an Environmental Regulatory Agency, such as the Provincial Environmental Protection Agency or Department of Natural Resources. One representative from a Provincial Extension Service and a representative who is the President, or an officer, of an Agriculture Business Association.

The other four representatives at-large (minimum) must meet the areas of expertise needed in each of the four exam and CEU competency areas.

The current PCCA Board meets all of these requirements. We would like to build on our Board with the following membership structure:

1. Three of the Board positions are elected CCA's, one from each Province, from the membership-at-large. (3)
2. CAAR representative as per ICCA rules (Agriculture Business Assoc). (1)
3. Ag extension representative as per ICCA rules. (1)
4. Environmental regulatory agency – as per ICCA rules. (1)
5. Each Provincial Institute of Agrologists – Standards and Ethics Committee (3)
6. A representative from Crop Life Canada (IPM expertise). (1)
7. A representative from the Canadian Fertilizer Institute (Soil Fert expertise). (1)
8. A representative with soil and water expertise. (1)
9. Agriculture Faculty representative. (1)
10. Retail industry representative – employer of CCA's. (1)

The decision to accept this new PCCA Board structure will be voted on at the March 2002 meeting. Please forward any questions or concerns you have regarding this proposal to Adrian Johnston at 306-956-0619 or Email: ajohnston@ppi-ppic.org.



Continuing Education Unit Committee Report

by Aaron Baldwin, CCA

This past 6 months has seen a good number of CEU opportunities come through for approval in Western Canada. Most of the CEU opportunities that are being submitted are from private organizations, which are offering internal training for their CCA's.

The second major group of applications is coming from Manitoba and is as a result of work being done by the Provincial Government. Saskatchewan and Alberta Governments are offering a smaller number of CEU opportunities, in the form of Crop Diagnostic schools sponsored in conjunction with the post-secondary educators. An effort to have an increase in CEU sponsored training events in these two Provinces would be welcomed.

Please note that a great way to increase the number of participants that attend your meetings and courses is to apply for CEU credits. Its easy, and can be a great way for people to choose to attend your meeting over another. Application forms for CEU credits can be found on the website! Don't delay, apply today!

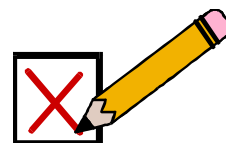


PCCA Survey Available On-Line

If you have not yet completed the survey developed for all PCCA members, you still have time to make your opinion known. The survey can be downloaded as an Adobe PDF file from the PCCA website. Unfortunately you cannot complete the survey online, but once downloaded, you can forward the completed survey by mail to the PCCA office in Winnipeg. Deadline for receipt of survey input is February 15, 2002.

Find the survey at: www.caar.org/pcca

And the Winner is....



After the poles closed and the votes were counted, John Harapiak was chosen as the successful candidate in the election to serve as the Canadian representative on the International Certified Crop Advisor (ICCA) Board of Directors. The ICCA Board of Directors is responsible for setting policy, developing procedures and suggesting guidelines for the program. The International CCA Board of Directors has twenty voting and four non-voting, ex-officio members. The PCCA Board congratulations John Harapiak on his victory and look forward to his future ICCA Board reports.



CCA Survey – Early Draw Winner

The PCCA Board is pleased to announce that Agnes Whiting, from Provost Alberta, is the lucky winner in the first draw for a CCA jacket!!! Congratulations Agnes, and a big thanks for submitting your survey early.

There will be many more jacket draws; however, to be eligible, you must fill out a survey and return it to Jeff Kisiloski, the PCCA Program Coordinator for the Prairie Provinces. To get a copy of the survey, log on to www.caar.org/pcca or call 1-204-989-9304.

Want to comment on the PCCA Board operations and maybe be lucky like Agnes? Get your survey in today!!!



Upcoming Meetings and CEU Opportunities

2001

December 11-12 **Winnipeg, MB**
Manitoba Agronomists Conference
U of M Campus
see: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/conferences.html>

December 11-12 **Edmonton, AB**
Site-specific management...Keys to the future
see: www.agric.gov.ab.ca/conference/ssm

2002

January 29-30 **Minot, ND**
ManDak Direct Seeding Workshop
see: www.mandakzerotill.org

January 30-1 **Red Deer, AB**
FarmTech 2002: Global Perspectives....Local Knowledge
see: www.farmtechconference.com

February 12-13 **Regina, SK**
Sask. Soil Conservation Assn Direct Seeding Conference
see: <http://ssca.usask.ca/>

February 15 **Winnipeg, MB**
CAAR Crop Management Forum
see: www.caar.org

February 19-20 **Saskatoon, SK**
Agronomy Training Workshop
see: <http://www.extension.usask.ca/ExtensionDivision/conferences/index.html>

February 21-22 **Saskatoon, SK**
Saskatchewan Soils and Crops Workshop
U of S Campus
see: <http://www.extension.usask.ca/ExtensionDivision/conferences/index.html>

PCCA Board Byte

The Potash and Phosphate Institute has placed their popular kids program, promoting the understanding of nutrient management called "Its Elementary", on the web. See: www.ppi-ppic.org/Elementary/homepage.html



Publicity Committee Report

by Adrian Johnston, CCA

The main function of the Publicity Committee is to keep CCA's informed of the activities of the program in western Canada and the actions of the PCCA Board.

Display posters are being developed that will be available for use by CCA's and their employers. There will be three posters developed, with the themes:

1. For those interested in becoming CCA's – for use at career days, etc.
2. For potential employers of CCA's – for agri-retailers
3. To promote services of CCA's – for your place of work.

A window decal for CCA's is being developed and will be forwarded to all members with the spring 2002 newsletter. Each member will receive a free decal, with extra ones available for \$2 each from the CCA office in Winnipeg. Now that you are a certified CCA let the world know your great accomplishment and the expertise that you bring to the table.



Websites of Interest

Tired of the same old information on the web?
Look to these web sites for good information
for CCAs!!

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural
Development
See: www.agric.gov.ab.ca/index

Prairie Agricultural Research Initiative
Decision Support System
See: <http://paridss.usask.ca/index.html>

Farmer Organizations:
Manitoba-North Dakota Zero Tillage Farmers
Association
See: www.mandakzerotill.org

Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association
See: <http://ssca.usask.ca/sscahome/htm>

The nutrient loss with straw removal or
burning in Manitoba
See: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/topics/daa31d01.html>

Winter wheat variety results
See: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/topics/daa31d03.html>

CCA ADVANTAGE
www.cropdecisions.ca

Agronomy Notes – Montana State University
Cooperative Extension
See: <http://scarab.msu.montana.edu/agnotes/index.htm>

Dakota Lakes Research Farm, South Dakota
State University – No-till farming information.
See: www.dakotalakes.com



Ladies and Gentlemen, Your PCCA Board!!

John Harapiak, P.Ag.,
CCA
Board Chair
Ag Industry Rep.
Calgary, AB

John Heard, P.Ag.,
CCA
Chair, Exam
Committee
Ag Extension Rep.
Carmen, MB

Adrian Johnston, P. Ag
CCA
Publicity Committee
CFI Rep.
Saskatoon, SK

Lorraine Bailey, P.Ag.,
CCA
Past-Chairperson of
Board
Ag Canada Rep.
Brandon, MB

Beata Lees, P.Ag.,
CCA
AB Institute of
Agrologists Rep.
Lethbridge, AB

Mitchell Long, P.Ag.
Chair, Standards and
Ethics Committee
MB Institute of
Agrologists Rep.
Winnipeg, MB

Barry Peterson, P.Ag.
SK Institute of
Agrologists Rep.
Swift Current, SK

Ray Redfern, P. Ag.
Retail Industry Rep.
Rivers, MB

Gary Martens, P.Ag.,
CCA
Agriculture Faculty
Rep.
Winnipeg, MB

Aaron Baldwin P.Ag.,
CCA
CEU Chairperson
Ag. Industry Rep.
Saskatoon, SK

Ed Howell, P.Ag.
CPIC Rep.
Calgary, AB

Brook Harker, P.Ag.
PFRA Rep.
Regina, SK

Ken Plews
MB Conservation
Rep.
Winnipeg, MB

Reg Helwer, P. Ag
Ag Business Rep.
Brandon, MB

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