



PCCA News

Newsletter of the Prairie Certified Crop Advisor Board

Spring 2001

PCCA Board Chairman's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are happy to be bringing you the first issue of the PCCA newsletter. Our objective in preparing this written communication is to provide a link to CCAs working in the Prairie Provinces with their Regional Board. We would like to update you on some of the activities that the Prairie CCA Board is undertaking on behalf of the membership in order to ensure that the CCA program can better meet your needs. The Board meets twice a year to process the business associated with managing the CCA program in the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The following are some of the items that were initiated as a result of discussions at the last PCCA Board meeting held in Winnipeg on April 9th.

3) Self-study CEUs: We are evaluating various options for providing a *Canadianized* version of the self study CEU found in the *CCA Advantage* as a vehicle for disseminating agronomic information that is more specifically applicable to Prairie/Northern Plains agricultural conditions. In this respect, the April 2001 issue of *CCA Advantage* will carry an article on canola (Prairie Research Information) with CEU questions.

4) Membership Meeting: We are pleased to announce that the PCCA Board will hold a brief membership meeting on July 4, 2001, starting at 11:00 am in Lethbridge. This will be followed at 1:00 pm by the semi-annual *Western Agronomy Conference*, an excellent training opportunity developed with the CCA in mind.



1) Board Elections: Commence the process to enable the PCCA membership at large to nominate and elect three representatives, (ie. one from each of the three Prairie Provinces), to serve on the PCCA Board. Details and final scheduling of these elections are still being developed. It is now most likely that the preliminary nomination and election process will be held in 2002.

2) Membership Survey: A survey will be conducted of the PCCA membership to determine how effectively this organization is meeting their needs. Once posted, surveys can be completed on the web site, and will also be mailed in the fall of 2001.

5) Workshop: Finally, the PCCA Board is working at developing a short *Nutrient Management Workshop* for interested CCAs that will be held in Lethbridge on July 4, 2001 from 9:00 – 11:00 am. Given the growing concern about nutrients in the environment, and what appears to be the ever growing interest in on-farm nutrient management planning, we believe that this workshop will provide CCAs with some insight into how they can best equip themselves for the future.

We would strongly encourage you to become involved in the PCCA program by completing the survey this fall, nominating fellow CCAs for the Board of Directors and scheduling time to participate in the Western Canada Agronomy Workshop.

John Harapiak, CCA
PCCA Board Chairman

PCCA web site – have you visited the site? www.caar.org/pcca

The web site was developed as a information source for new potential CCAs as well as an on-line means of posting CEU activities and program information. Take a look at the site and please give us feedback and suggestions on how we can improve it to better serve your needs!



PCCA Biennial Membership Meeting

11:00 am July 4, 2001
Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge, AB

Here is your opportunity to hear from the PCCA Board on their activities with the CCA program in Western Canada.

- * Reports will be presented from the various Board Committees
- * This is your opportunity to bring forward questions or concerns you have about the CCA program

News and Items of Interest:

Upcoming CEU Events:

- CAAR Crop Management Forums 2001: Saskatoon, Nov. 15th; Red Deer, Nov. 16th; Winnipeg, Nov. 19th.
- Watch the web site for other CEU opportunities.

Are you requesting CEUs from educational and training events you attend? It is up to you to help expand the CEU opportunities for CCAs. This means asking organizations which host meetings, involving training in the four CCA core areas, to apply for CEU credits for the meeting. Remember, CEUs must be applied for in advance of the meeting. This is one of the best ways to expand the training opportunities for CCAs!

Contacting CCA's?

Did you know that the PCCA Administrator is at CAAR? They can supply address labels at a minimal charge for those organizations hosting a training event where CEUs have been granted. Contact Jeff at the CAAR office in Winnipeg for more details. Phone 1-800-463-9323

Canadian Society of Agronomy Membership

The CSA has opened membership in its organization to CCAs. The CSA represents agronomists working in Canada. If you are a member, you can subscribe to the Canadian Journal of Plant Science and attend the annual technical meeting. For more information see www.agronomycanada.com

Web Sites of Interest:

1. Soil Variability Analysis to Enhance Crop Production (SVAECP) – a web site designed to help the agriculture industry better manage soils in Alberta: (www.infoharvest.ca/SVAECP/)
2. Website dedicated to plant environmental stress in agriculture and biology: (www.plantstress.com)
3. The US National Farmers Organization created a website for marketing crops. While marketing may not be of interest, it does also contain global weather, ag news and market developments: www.grainmarketingplus.com
4. Plant Health Progress is an online journal in the plant sciences, intended as a online resource for plant health practitioners and crop advisors: www.planthealthprogress.org
5. Soil landscape maps of Canada – select an area and get soil inventory information <http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/nsdb/slc/webmap.html>

Are you aware of web sites that provide a good source of information that can be used by CCAs? If so, let us know and we will post it in the fall newsletter!





As early as 1994-1995 the Canadian Fertilizer Institute (CFI) and the Potash and Phosphate Institute of Canada (PPIC) saw the need for a Certified Crop Advisors program in Canada similar to the one developed in the U.S.A. by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA). Dr. Terry Roberts of PPIC was the lead player on the Prairies. Failure to gather support from Canadian professional agronomic organizations led the group to seek the support of the ASA in 1995. The ASA-CCA organization welcomed the group and encouraged them to proceed. They were told that if they could meet the CCA requirements (organizational structure and functions) they would be given CCA status similar to that enjoyed by the State organizations in the USA. The task of reviewing the ASA information and building a PCCA organization – Board of Directors, Exam Committee and Performance Objectives, required resources that were provided by CFI, PPIC, and some, out of the groups pockets. ASA provided professional support and guidance through John Hall and Luther Smith.



On July 17, 1996, a group of agricultural professionals representing: the Federal and the three Prairie Provincial Governments, the Universities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba Institutes of Agrologists, agribusiness dealers, cooperatives and manufacturers, Provincial and National trade associations and independent consultants, met in Saskatoon under the auspices of the ASA to form a Board to develop the PCCA program.

They were given guidelines on how to constitute the Board to qualify for inclusion into the ASA-CCA Program. The composition for the first Board in 1996 was:

- Federal Govt. Research - at least one rep (1)
- Provincial Govt. Extension Service - at least 2 Provinces represented (2)
- Agri-trade association – one representative (1)
- Provincial Institutes - one rep from each Institute (3)
- Universities Ag Faculty - at least 2
- Prairie Universities represented (2)
- PFRA - one rep (1)
- Ag Industry - PPI and 3 other reps one from each Province (4)
- Pesticide Institute - one rep (1)
- Federal or Provincial Environmental Agency - one rep (1)

Note: The Board will ensure that the Provincial Extension Service and the University representatives are rotated on a regular years basis so that all Provinces and the Agricultural Universities are given opportunity to be represented on the Board.



Loraine Bailey was elected Chairman of the first Board. The first CCA exam was scheduled for August 1997. Much work had to be done and all volunteer Board members contributed, but the greatest praise was reserved for the Exam Committee headed by Terry Roberts - they prepared the Regional Performance Objectives and the Regional Exam, which were very demanding tasks. A total of 99 persons registered for the first CCA exams (Regional and National) on the Prairies – 38 in Alberta, 45 in Saskatchewan, and 16 in Manitoba. Since then, the number of persons writing the Regional and National exams have continued to increase, exceeding 400 in February 2000 and 300 in February 2001.

The relationship of PCCA and ASA has grown in strength over the past 5 years. Initially, PCCA was a unit of the ASA-CCA program and had status similar to a state organization. In 1998, the ASA-CCA restructured to form the International CCA Board (ICCA) that acts as an Executive for all CCA organizations. The various States and Provincial CCA organizations were grouped into regions, the PCCA and Ontario CCA forming the Canadian region. Each region elects a representative to sit on the ICCA Board; the Board meets twice annually (March and November). Each CCA unit (State and Provincial) elects one person, generally the Chair, to serve on a Representative Board that meets at the time the ICCA Board meets. Issues and or motions from the Representative Board are sent to the ICCA Board for action.



Today there is a healthy PCCA Board with dynamic leadership from recognized leaders in the agricultural community. As they look to the future, it is important to remember the Goal of the CCA program – To help agriculture as an industry meet its environmental stewardship challenges.

PCCA
Standards and Ethics Committee

When an applicant has successfully passed the CCA exam they can apply for certification. Their application goes to the Standards and Ethics Committee of the PCCA Board. The decision to grant full certification is based on a number of items that are listed below. This may be useful when talking to potential candidates about the program.

Review of Education and Work Experience

The three areas reviewed include educational background, work experience and references. No one can be certified without satisfying all three areas.

Education – Determine the education level of the candidate either as non-degree, associate degree (2yr diploma) or BSc and higher.

If the applicant does not have a post-secondary training, they require four years of crop advising experience.



If the applicant has an associate degree, a 2yr diploma, with a minimum of 15 semester hours in agricultural production related subjects, they require three years of crop advising experience. If the applicant has a BSc or higher degree, the course work is reviewed for two components.

The first component is course work in biology, chemistry, math and physical sciences. The second component is course work in soils, crops, pest management and farm management. If the applicant has both components, then two years of crop advising experience is required. If one component is missing, the applicant will need three years of experience.

If the applicant's degree is not related to agriculture in any way, no credit is given and the applicant requires four years of crop advising experience.



Experience – A year of experience is credited if the applicant indicates that approximately one-third (ie. at least 30% to 35%) of their time is engaged in one or more of the following activities:

- a. Advising farmers on crop production;
- b. Teaching or educating crop advisors about topics that are described in the Performance Objectives;
- c. Advising or working with farmers to install soil conservation practices, or to meet Provincial or Federal regulations that are related to crop production.



If an applicant spends less than 30% of their time engaged in the activities described above, partial credit may be assigned as follows:

<i>Experience</i>	<i>CCA Credit</i>
30%	1.00 year
25%	0.83 year
20%	0.66 year
15%	0.50 year

If the applicant has supervised summer work experience or internship, they may be granted one month of CCA work experience for each month of supervised experience. A maximum of one year of work experience credit can be accumulated in this manner.

References – Two completed reference forms are needed. One should be from the employer and one from a client or an individual who is familiar with the applicant's work experience in crop production. Both reference letters must be signed and witnessed or notarized.

All application credential forms must be sent to the ASA Headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin. After all credentials are received and logged into the computer, they are sent to the Local Board for approval by the regional Standards and Ethics Committee.





Are you interested in being part of the PCCA Board of Directors?

In the near future nominations will be accepted for CCAs to be elected by the membership to the PCCA Board.

- Who is eligible to be nominated? Only registered CCAs can be nominated, and nominations will be accepted for 3 Directors, one each to represent the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

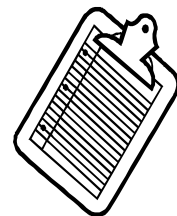
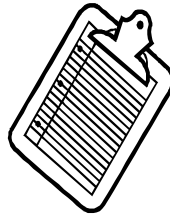
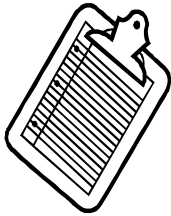
- How do you get yourself nominated? Prepare a brief summary (1/2 page) of your credentials (who you are, where you are from, your education, training and experience), sign it yourself and have it signed by 3 fellow CCAs who reside in the same Province as you. (Be sure that everyone includes their CCA registration number so we can certify eligibility of candidates and nominators).

For details contact:

Jeff Kisiloski
Research Coordinator

CAAR
107-1090 Waverley Street
Winnipeg, MB
R3T 0P4

Phone: 204-989-9300
Fax: 204-989-9306
jeff@caar.org



Duties of the Prairie Certified Crop Advisor Board Member

The Board's Main Functions Are:

The PCCA Board has been established to administer the CCA program in the three Prairie Provinces of Western Canada. The Certified Crop Adviser Program (CCA) is one of the professional certification programs offered by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA). It is a voluntary program providing a base level of standards through testing and raising those standards through continuing education. The program is administered locally by 36 State/Regional/Provincial Boards called Local Boards throughout the United States and Canada.

1. Administer the CCA program in its jurisdiction
2. Rule on work experience and educational summaries from applicants
3. Enforce the Code of Ethics
4. Develop performance objectives, exam questions and exams
5. Administer International and Regional Board exams in the jurisdiction
6. Grant certification to qualified candidates
7. Ensure that adequate CEU opportunities are available
8. Approve Provincial Board expenses consistent with ASA bylaws
9. Local Board Chairs are required to keep ASA Headquarters staff informed of Board changes



Duties of a PCCA Board Member

1. Representation of specific interest groups with a position on the PCCA Board. Examples include fellow CCAs, CPIC, Provincial Institutes of Agrologists, CAAR, etc. While the initial development of the PCCA Board involved a number of participants that are not CCAs, this will be a priority in all future Board appointments.
2. Participating in the Committee structure of the Board, such as:

- * Exam Committee: This large Committee maintains the credibility of the PCCA exam through the continuous review of performance objectives and development of questions for the exam bank related to each performance objective. This Committee meets once a year to work on the exam review, and by conference call to establish the passing score of the regional exam.
- * Standards and Ethics Committee: This Committee is made up of Board members from each of the three Prairie Institutes of Agrologists. They must review the credentials of all individuals applying for certification. This Committee meets by conference call several times a year.



- * Promotions Committee: This group is responsible for ensuring that information on the CCA program is prepared and circulated on request. Examples of this groups activities include publication of a membership newsletter, maintenance and circulation of the CCA table-top display, and related communications issues. This Committee works by Email and conference call when required.

- * Continuing Education Unit Committee: This group must review all requests for CEU designation of training events. Once received the CEU request must be judged based on the topics and presenters. This Committee reviews and processes CEU requests on an on-going basis.

3. Participation at both of the annual Board meetings, generally scheduled for fall (late November) and spring (early April), with the meeting location rotating between the three Prairie Provinces. The PCCA Board covers all costs of travel, accommodations and meals. No honorariums are paid to any Board members for any Board work.
4. Members must be interested in providing input, and willing to respond to requests for comment, on issues from the Board Chairperson on an ongoing basis throughout the year (communication via Email, fax and phone).



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PCCA Board Byte

Board terms are for 3 years, with 1/3 of Board members being replaced each year. This 3-year term also applies to the Board Chair. Board members can run for additional terms once they have completed a 3-year term of office.

Who is currently on the PCCA Board

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

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

Adrian Johnston
Exam Committee and Newsletter
CFI Rep.
Saskatoon, SK

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

Beata Lees, P.Ag., CCA
Standards and Ethics Committee
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.
Standards and Ethics Committee
SK Institute of Agrologists Rep.
Swift Current, SK

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

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

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

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

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

Ken Plews
MB Conservation Rep.
Winnipeg, MB

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

Jeff Kisiloski
PCCA Administrator
CAAR
Winnipeg, MB



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Quick Fact Stat:

CCA Statistics

Do you know how many CCAs are certified and working in Western Canada?

Alberta – 213, Saskatchewan – 212, Manitoba – 126

On average, about 60% of those who challenge the International and Regional CCA exams pass. So if you're a CCA, CONGRATULATIONS!

Up Coming Events

Western Canada Agronomy Workshop July 4-6, 2001 Lethbridge, AB

Features include:

- > Invited papers from researchers and agronomists looking for solutions to production problems;
- > Evening bear pit sessions are planned, including how to work with pest thresholds and "myth vs fact" – Challenging field questions;
- > An opportunity to accumulate significant CEU credits; and
- > Published proceedings that will provide answers to commonly asked questions.

Registration costs are \$135 per person (including some meals, field tour and Workshop proceedings)

Registration materials will be mailed early in the spring of 2001 from the CFI.

For more information contact:

David Finlayson
Canadian Fertilizer Institute
Ottawa (613) 230-2597
dfinlayson@cfi.ca

Adrian Johnston
PPIC
Saskatoon
(306) 652-3535
ajohnston@ppi-ppic.org



Nutrient Management Planning Workshop July 4th, 2001 9:00 – 11:00 am Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge, AB

Speakers include:

Dr. Tom Bruulsema, PPIC, Guelph, ON -
Nutrient Management Accounting

Representatives from the 3 Prairie Provinces
to discuss regulations and proposed NMP
programs for farmers.

Come and learn more about future
opportunities for CCAs. 4 Soil and Water
CEUs.

Sponsored by the Canadian Fertilizer
Institute and the Prairie CCA Board.

