



Certified Crop Adviser Program

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What is the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Program?

Several thousand men and women serve farm clients as crop advisers, providing information and expertise on crop production, crop protection and natural resource management. This group of commercial, public and independent advisers plays an important role in modern agriculture. Crop advisers provide advice and council producers in their decision making process. This responsibility requires a good understanding of science, food safety, technology, economics and environment. Crop advisers combine knowledge in these disciplines with their local experience to render sound recommendations.

In 1991, under the leadership of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), leaders from agribusiness, government and university organizations began discussions that led to the creation of the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) program. The aim of this group was to develop a voluntary program for crop advisers that would: establish standards for knowledge, experience, ethical conduct and continuing education; enhance professionalism; and promote dialogue among those involved in agriculture and natural resource management.

The CCA program is coordinated by the American Society of Agronomy and administered at the local level by state, provincial, or regional boards. These boards are staffed by volunteers with agricultural and natural resource backgrounds representing universities, agribusiness, and government agencies.

Any public, commercial or independent adviser who councils farmers and can meet the rigorous standards of the program, is encouraged to participate. To become a Certified Crop Adviser, a person must:

- have up to four years crop advising experience depending on educational background (university degree and two years' experience, college diploma plus three years' experience, high school and four years' experience)
- at least 50% of the experience must be in North America
- document their education and crop advising experience with supporting references and transcripts
- pass a comprehensive national exam and a provincial exam that evaluate four competency areas: soil fertility (nutrient management), integrated pest management, crop production, and soil and water management
- sign and agree to uphold the CCA Code of Ethics.

Once certified, the registrant must complete 40 hours of quality continuing education every two years.

This program is designed to recognize a level of expertise or achievement attained by the crop consultant versus training someone to be a crop consultant. The program was first introduced in Ontario in 1996.

Ontario Certified Crop Adviser Steps Involved in Becoming Certified

1. Request Ontario Certified Crop Adviser Performance Objectives and National Performance Objectives from the Ontario CCA Board of Directors (address listed below). No charge for these booklets.
2. You may wish to purchase the reference material cited in the Ontario CCA Objectives from CCA or gather the information on your own from the various sources. **Note: Purchasing study material does not register you for the exams.**
3. When you wish to register for the exam, request a registration form from the CCA office. One exam sitting is held each year; the first Friday in February. Deadline for registration is mid-December.
4. When you receive the registration form, complete, sign, attach a cheque or money order in US funds for the registration fee and forward directly to CCA/ASA in Madison, Wisconsin by the deadline date. Current registration fees are \$100.00 US for the provincial and \$175.00 US for the international exam. Both exams must be written and passed before certification however they do not have to be written in the same year.
5. Once you have passed both exams, CCA in Madison will send you a Certified Crop Adviser Certification booklet which outlines the certification steps and contains the complete credentials package of forms. Work experience and education will be reviewed by the Ontario CCA Standards & Ethics Committee after successful completion of the exam. Requirements are degree plus two years' experience, diploma and three years' experience, or high school plus four years' experience.

For more information contact:

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