



Illinois CCA Adviser

1402 Ann St., Pontiac, IL 61764

www.illinoiscca.org



**CERTIFIED
CROP ADVISER**

Illinois CCA Adviser - November 2008

Certification is standard of excellence

By Duane Frederking
CCA Board Chairman

The year 2008 was full of surprises. Some were good, like the higher than expected corn and soybean yields in many areas (despite planting delays), record high commodity prices, and the recent drop in fuel prices. Others were not as good, most notably the rapid decline in grain prices.

Volatility in the agricultural economy matches the volatility in the world financial markets. Questions abound from farmers as they try to navigate through the changes in their market opportunities. Certified Crop Advisers have

an opportunity to provide producers with solid recommendations based on reliable research. They are often the most important sources of information for farmers. They are experienced, they understand growers' local conditions and needs, and they provide practical solutions based on research and science. Producers want to work with advisers who are ethical, honest and well-informed, and the CCA program can help give growers confidence in the people they work with regularly.

Certification is a standard of excellence used in many professions, including account-

ing, engineering, medicine and law. Be sure you and the farmers you advise are realizing the full value of your certification as a Crop Adviser. Take advantage of educational opportunities that will be beneficial to you and your clientele.

If you have ideas to make our certification program stronger, please suggest them to the Illinois CCA Board at the address listed above. We encourage you to take an active role in your CCA program and look forward to working with you to continue offering outstanding opportunities for continuing education.

New CCA Board Members

Please welcome Doug Gellerman and Rich Grever to the Illinois CCA Board. Doug farms in the Petersburg area and Rich is employed as a Farm Manager for Hertz Farm Management in DeKalb.

Krieg Chosen CCA of the Year

Phillip Krieg of Freeburg, IL has been chosen as the 2008 IL CCA of the year.

Krieg is a Technical Service Agronomist for Golden Harvest Seed Company and provides plot study coordination, grower meetings and direct customer assistance in six districts in the Southern half of Illinois and in Indiana. He has been advising growers for 30 years.

In the nomination form and letters of reference, he was repeatedly recognized as someone who works hard to

communicate well with his farmer customers regularly. "Phil has an excellent grasp of modern agronomic practices as well as a conversational way of conveying technical information in layman's terms," wrote Kent Brinkman. "His advice is practical, understandable and produces results."

Krieg was also recognized by those who nominated him for promoting environmental stewardship and volunteering to help with corn grower, farm bureau and FFA plots.

He was repeatedly recognized for being available to help with planning before and any problems during the growing season.

Applications for CCA of the Year are available annually in May and the award winner is selected in July. Please consider nominating someone you know for this honor.

The CCA of the Year is awarded in partnership with the Illinois Farm Bureau. The Illinois winner is also submitted for the International CCA of the Year.

Remember: You are required to obtain 40 CEUS with a minimum requirement of 5 CEUS in each of the first four CEU categories if your cycle ends December 31.

You must have at least 35 CEUs (and no prior deficient cycles) by 12/31/08 or your certification will be revoked.



Brown elected ICCA Board Chairman

Howard Brown took over as chairman of the International CCA Board in October. Howard is a past chair of the Illinois CCA Board and has served as a regional representative to the ICCA Board. Congratulations Howard, we are proud you are from Illinois and grateful for all the time and dedication you spend serving the CCA program!

Successful Farming Partnership

Do you ever visit Agriculture Online (www.agriculture.com) or read Successful Farming Magazine? Many Illinois growers do (more than any other state in the nation) and they are learning more about CCA through an advertising partnership with the International CCA Board. CCA has been visible through magazine advertising, links on the agriculture.com homepage and the Crop Tech Tour. There are also spotlight CCA's featured on the website. Many growers responding to a survey said they felt having a crop consultant who is certified is important.

CCA Website

Illinois CCA will offer registration to the 2008 Convention on our own website (www.illinoiscca.org). The Illinois CCA website has previously been located as part of the IFCA website (and a link to and from there will still be provided). Thank you to IFCA for furnishing this service to the CCAs. Please let Lisa know (lisam.martin@verizon.net) if you have any requests for information you would like to see available on the new website (other than a link to the list of upcoming meetings—it will be there).

Login and check your CEUs

New meeting rosters are added as they are received so you should check your CEUs regularly as the totals are fluid numbers. Your login name is the email address that is on your record and the password is your certification number and the first initial of your first name (as it appears on your statement). If you do not have an email in the system at ASA, you will need to submit one to Michele (mlovejoy@agronomy.org), preferably by email or you can also call her at (608) 268-4953. Once you login, you can change your password, but you will always need an email account as your login name.

Sign Up to write a Prairie Farmer Column

Many of the previous columnists received great feedback from their customers about having a column in Prairie Farmer. This is a great partnership and one we are lucky to have in Illinois. Please consider sending Lisa an email or calling her to volunteer. It really isn't that hard to reply to questions you already know the answer to as a CCA. You will also get all the writing assistance you need (it can even be a phone interview).

Upcoming CEUs

<u>Title, Date, Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>CEUs</u>
<u>Pesticide Safety Education Clinics</u>		
Mt. Vernon 12/1-2/2008	Michele Wiesbrook (217) 244-9646	1.5 PM/ 3.5 PM
Champaign 12/4-5/2008		
Springfield 12/18-19/2008		
Rochelle 12/15-16/2008		
Jacksonville 1/15/2009		
Peoria 2/20/2009		
<u>American Seed Trade Assn. Annual Meeting</u>		
Chicago 12/10-12/08	Jennifer Lord (703) 837-8140	\$250 member/ \$600 non-mem
Various credits available		
<u>NW IL Grazing Conference and Exhibitor Fair</u>		
Freeport 12/8/08	Jim Morrison (815) 395-5710	2.0 CM
\$30 by 12/1, then \$50		
<u>Northern IL Post Harvest Agronomy Update</u>		
Oregon 12/9/08	Bill Lindenmier (815) 732-2191	\$30 1.5 IPM, 1.5 CM
<u>Iowa Integrated Crop Management Conference</u>		
Ames, IA 12/10-11/08	Brent or Jerolynne (515) 294-6429	\$185 up to 13 CEUs applied for
http://www.aep.iastate.edu/icm/homepage.html		
<u>IN CCA Convention</u>		
Indianapolis 12/16-17/08	(800) 387-1283	up to 16 CEUs 4.0 each area
\$195 by Dec. 9, 2008 then \$25 more	www.indianacca.org	
<u>IL CCA Convention</u>		
Springfield 12/18/08	Lisa Martin (815) 844-6677	1.0 NM, 2.0 SW 2.5 PM, 2.0 CM
\$60 by Dec. 15, 2008 then \$75	www.illinoiscca.org	
**** Reminder **** There will not be an IL Crop Protection Technology Conference in 2009. Please watch for information about a new meeting in December 2009 hosted by the University of IL at the iconference center.		
<u>2009 Corn and Soybean Classics</u>		
Mt. Vernon 1/6/09	Sandy Osterbur (217) 333-4424	0.5 NM, 3.5 IPM, 0.5 CM, 1.0 PD
Champaign 1/7/09		\$50 pre-reg /\$65 at door
Bloomington 1/12/09		
Springfield 1/13/09		
Moline 1/14/09		
Malta 1/15/09		
Register online at: http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/conferences/		
<u>IFCA Convention</u>		
Peoria 1/20-22/09	Jean, Leslie or Kevin (309) 827-2774	TBA www.ifca.com
<u>Soil and Water Management Workshops</u>		
Teleconference—locations statewide 2/18/09	\$30	4.5 SW applied for
contact your local extension office or Duane Friend (217) 782-6515		
<u>2009 Regional Tillage Seminars</u>		
Bloomington 1/27/09	Bob Frazee (309) 694-7501 x 226	3.5 SW, 1.5 IPM 0.5 CM
Princeton 1/28/09	\$20	
Malta 1/29/09		