



Illinois CCA Adviser

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Thank You for Making a Difference

Dear Illinois Certified Crop Advisers,

As we finish out this crazy 2020 year, I want to thank you all for being such great representatives for our organization. It is all of you that truly make the Illinois CCA program successful! Just last week I was sharing my enthusiasm for our program with a prospective CCA and my passion must have been apparent because he told me he would like to become a CCA. For me that is very exciting. I know that many of you are sharing your passion for the importance of certification with prospective CCA's as well. CCAs in Illinois now span many generations and interests and as we attend meetings around the state (all too often by Zoom recently), I am always proud of how other organizations look to us as the leaders and influencers in Agriculture. There have been studies done by Purdue and by groups promoting sustainability and responsible decision making in agriculture that show Certified Crop Advisers are respected and can make a difference as we focus on challenges like the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy and compliance with the many other issues - new and old - growers are facing during this pandemic and beyond.

I encourage you to continue to be proud of your certification, those tests are very difficult and the fact that you are taking time to earn continuing education, even in a year where so much has had to be virtual, says a lot about your dedication and passion for Illinois agriculture! If you are a CCA and you have not told your story and mentored a prospective CCA this year, I would like to ask you to consider doing so. New membership in any organization is very important to keep the organization strong and ours is no different.

Speaking of virtual CEUs, I am looking forward to our annual CCA conference. Through the great guidance of our Illinois CCA Board members, we have decided to make it an option for you to attend the CCA conference from your home or office on December 9. We have pulled together some interesting topics and speakers and decided to start early at 7 am and end at 12:30 pm so you all could still work the rest of the day. I wish we could meet in person as I feel networking is a valuable part of our organization, but safety is important too. Even though we can't be in person, I encourage you to continue reaching out to others and share why you are a CCA if you get the opportunity. Again, I would like to thank you all for being such good representatives of our IL CCA program and for all you do for your grower customers!!

Sincerely,
Eric Ifft,
IL CCA Board Chairman

CEUs in the time of Social Distancing

may be a little more of a challenge for those who are used to getting all of their CEUs in person but there are still many opportunities out there and we have listed some on the opposite page.

We know virtual is not ideal and are here to help you get as many CEUs as you can before the end of the year. Please call Lisa or a board member if you are struggling to keep your certification. We are here to help you and we look forward to the day we can meet face to face again as much as you do.

**Stay Healthy and
Have a Merry
Christmas and a
Blessed 2021!**



Congratulations Todd Steinacher

2020 Illinois CCA of the Year

Todd Steinacher of Carrollton has been chosen as the 2020 Illinois CCA of the Year. Todd is an agronomist with AgriGold and works with farmers, students and salesmen in West Central and Southwest Illinois. He also helps coordinate the CCA Soy Envoys and works with the Illinois Soybean Association on Agronomy issues and the ilsoyadviser website. Todd is a current member of the CCA board and represented Illinois CCA in Washington DC in March as part of a Congressional Visit Day to promote Agriculture and Research. Todd was up against some great candidates, thank you to everyone who submitted nominations!

CCA Soy Envoys

Thank you to 2020 CCA Soy Envoys: Ashley McEwen, Cody Pettit, Jason Boehler, Jason Carr, Jason Haegele and Randy Niver. The Soy Envoy blog is available at www.ilsoyadvisor.com. Talk to Lisa if you are interested in being a future Soy Envoy.

2021 Soybean Master Adviser

ISA is now accepting nominees for the 2021 Soybean Master Adviser. If you know an experienced Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) with a passion for soybean management, nominate them at [ilsoyadvisor](http://ilsoyadvisor.com) today.

CCA Exam Registration Open thru December 11th!

Exam registration for the February 2021 exam is open now. Please share with anyone interested in becoming CCA certified or becoming certified in one of the specialty certifications (4R Nutrient Management Specialty, Resistance Management Specialist and Precision Agriculture Specialty). The Sustainability exam is being reviewed and will not be held again until August 2021.

Online CEU Subscription makes it EASY, convenient and cheaper to get those last minute CEUs

Over 200 online CEUs and webinars are now available with a \$100 Classroom Subscription at the American Society of Agronomy Website. Instead of paying for each individual CEU, you can now purchase the annual subscription for \$100 and have access to unlimited content!

Twitter and Facebook

Are you following @IL_CCA on Twitter? Have you liked us on FaceBook? These social media sites are a great way to learn about upcoming CEU opportunities.

Do you need lots of CEUs?

There are many online (see right column) and virtual conference options! The virtual Illinois CCA Conference Dec. 9 offers 5.0 CEUs. If you need more than that, some other options include the Indiana CCA Conference Dec. 15-16 (up to 40 CEUs) or the American Seed Trade Association Conference Dec. 7-9 (up to 16 CEUs). There are also many other states with virtual conferences such as the Kentuckiana Conference Dec. 1-20 (5 CEUs) and the Northwest Region Dec. 1-3 (up to 24 CEUs). You can earn CEUs from any state. IFCA will also offer some virtual CEUs in 2021 to replace their annual conference.

Do you need 1 SW CEU??

There are actually MANY of you who do, so there is a free option offered by the Soil Health Institute through the Soil Science Society of America. Registration for the Dec. 8 webinar is FREE and you can view the video for up to 30 days after the webinar is held (but do it before 12/31) and earn your missing SW CEU.

<https://www.soils.org/education/classroom/classes/900>

Self Reported CEUs: Self-reported CEUs can be reported for meetings that have not been approved by a CCA Board *OR* they were approved when they were held live and you are now watching the recorded version. You can receive credit for watching any videos or events that are related to the Continuing Education Standards. Activities that are eligible for credit are classroom training, workshops and field days. The link to self-reported CEUs is on the right side of the [certifiedcropadviser](http://certifiedcropadviser.com) website. **Reminder:** you need to have 20 approved CEUs before the 20 self-reported count.

Webinars are a great way to earn Approved CEUs from the convenience of your home or office. You can watch the webinar and the meeting provider will either post a QR code you can scan and have your CEU reported automatically or they will ask you for your CCA number and they will report the CEU for you. When you watch these LIVE, and an application for pre-approved CEUs has been granted, you will receive approved CEUs. Many companies are also posting webinars online for those who cannot attend LIVE to watch later. You can do this and then go online and report the webinar as a self-reported CEU. Some great examples of webinars you can self-report are at:

www.ilsoyadvisor.org – view past webinars and register for future ones

www.farmdoc.org – there are multiple webinars held regularly ILFB.org/FieldDays. (Nine field day events, hosted in part by Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), are available for viewing online. Each county event includes a long-form video sharing the work of farmers and partners involved in the IFB Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program or Woodchip Bioreactor Partnership. There are many SW and NM CEUs in these videos and CCA's can self-report these CEUs after watching the videos.

There are also many **online modules** that have been pre-approved for you to watch or read. Many CCAs have accessed these in December when they are short CEUs. University of IL Extension is creating and adding modules regularly to their website and the American Society of Agronomy also created an option where you pay a flat fee of \$100 and can access all of their online modules at your convenience. Both of these offer APPROVED online CEUs as does the Crop Protection Network.

<https://ceu.cropprotectionnetwork.org>

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/cca/>

<https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/education/classroom/subscribe>

Lisa is always available by phone at (815) 674-6644 or email lisa@illinoiscca.org if you have any other certification questions.