



Illinois CCA Adviser

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2022, Back to the Basics, An Eye on the Future

First, I want to begin this column with a huge “WELCOME BACK” to an in-person Illinois CCA Conference in 2022! I can’t wait to see my fellow CCA’s in Champaign on December 15th. A year ago, we were talking about supply chain disruptions, high input prices and labor challenges. At this time, we can add low rivers and hurricane disruptions to our litany of woes. But one thing stays constant, the need for good, sound advice to help farmers navigate these tough times. While the past 3 years have been tough for the industry, Illinois Certified Crop Advisers have managed to get their training in, serve their customer base and help to produce some great crops. We have moved from our ritual of exams in Springfield to on-demand testing available in our own locations. This is much more convenient for exam takers and allows for a more relaxed exam taking process.

As we approach the end of 2022 many of us, me included, are looking for some CEU opportunities. The Illinois CCA Conference is one source and this year we are meeting at the iHotel on the campus at U of I. This brings a fresh feel to the conference with an updated conference center and gives many of you a chance to hear speakers not only from U of I but from all over the Midwest. My suggestion of moving to West Lafayette was shot down pretty quickly. There will be dynamic speakers on several important topics that will get you some needed CEU’s and we can visit and catch up on what’s been happening since we last met in 2019.

If you need additional hours, don’t forget the ASA library offers unlimited access to CEU opportunities for \$100 for those needed hours. This is a great value just go to the ASA website for information. I would also suggest you check out offering CEU’s for your company internal meetings as well as field days and public meetings you may offer. If you meet the criteria in the performance objective sections, you can get some convenient hours approved. This really beats traveling all over the Midwest in December to try to get enough hours in. I know CEU’s can seem a drudgery, but they are very important to maintain our knowledge of the most current practices and products. Many of you with Specialty Certifications need extra hours, these are some ways to fill those that don’t keep you out of the field excessively.

Lastly, I want to promote Illinois Certified Crop Advisers, I know I’m preaching to the choir, so to speak, but we need **YOU** to be involved! Are you recruiting new CCA’s in your area? Are you nominating a deserving CCA for one of the many awards available? We all need to be putting the best face on our organization as possible. With the Agronomic, Economic and Environmental issues facing us here in Illinois and across the Midwest, it is my belief, that the CCA organization is best situated to help our customers and clients navigate these complex issues. Get involved on a local, state or national level and help us support CCA “That’s Good Advice!”

Mike Wilson ASA, CCA 4R NMS/ RMS/ PASp.
Chair, Illinois Certified Crop Adviser Program

CCA Exams are now on demand!!

**If you know a good
CCA Candidate,
please encourage
them to consider tak-
ing a study course!**

Two different study courses will be offered in Illinois in 2023. Information will be posted to the CCA website when available. Many companies are also planning internal trainings. The exams are difficult because as YOU know, CCAs are expected to be able to demonstrate a baseline of applied knowledge before they can be certified. Online exams make it possible for people to take the International Exam and Tri-State Exam on different days at a time they are most comfortable with testing. It is important that all directions are followed to make sure the exam goes smoothly. Specialty certifications (4R Nutrient Management, Resistance Management, Precision Agriculture and Sustainability) are all offered on demand now too!



Congratulations Jay Tharp

2022 Illinois CCA of the Year

Jay Tharp of Yale is the 2022 Illinois CCA of the Year. Jay is an agronomist with Wabash Valley Service Company and oversees their demonstration research plot showcasing different trials ranging from herbicides, fungicides, biologicals, seed treatments, high management, population, along with many other new practices. Jay utilizes this information to advise the sales team, growers, CCA's, along with other people in the ag industry. He has been a CCA for 26 years and was nominated by one of his customers. He received a trip to the Illinois Farm Bureau Convention where he will be recognized and a gift card from the Illinois CCA Board. CCA of the Year nominations are usually open in August and are a great way to recognize CCAs for the great job they do for Illinois Agriculture every day!

DO YOU ENJOY INTERACTING WITH STUDENTS?

We need CCAs to help with a pizza project at Illinois Community Colleges and Universities - contact Lisa or Todd Steinacher for more information.

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.org website. **Reminder:** you need to have 20 approved CEUs before the 20 self-reported count.

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! You can get all 40 CEUs for the \$100 subscription fee

Life Changes Policy

CCAs who do not have enough CEUs for their cycle can [appeal](#) or they can also [request inactive status](#), if they want to put their certification on hold due to illness, injury, maternal/parental leave, military service, or death in the immediate family. Contact ASA or Lisa for more information.

Congressional Visits Day

Every spring, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA bring Society members to Washington D.C. to meet with Congress and advocate for agricultural research funding. Consider joining the Illinois CCA Board if an activity like this interests you. We are always looking for enthusiastic CCAs to join the board. Speak to Lisa or a current board member.

DO YOU HAVE CCA ON YOUR BUSINESS CARD? BE PROUD OF YOUR CERTIFICATION AND TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO LET THOSE YOU WORK WITH KNOW YOU GO ABOVE AND BEYOND TO PROVIDE VALUABLE ADVICE!

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54th Annual Fertilizer and Pesticide Conference

Mt. Vernon Nov. 22, 2022 Jackie Welsh
(618) 453-5672

American Seed Trade Assn. Annual Meeting

Chicago Dec. 5, 2022 Jennifer Crouse
(703) 837-8140

IL CCA Conference

iHotel Champaign Dec. 15, 2022 (815) 674-6644

IN CCA Convention

Indianapolis Dec. 13-14, 2022 (217) 762-7995
up to 16.0 CEUs
www.indianacca.org

IFCA Conference

Peoria Civic Center Jan. 17-19, 2023 www.ifca.com

NREC Investment Insights

iHotel, Champaign Feb. 9, 2023 www.illinoisnrec.org

Soybean Summit

Feb. 2, 2023 www.ilsoyadviser.org
iHotel, Champaign

Better Beans Series

January 11 in Bloomington www.ilsoyadviser.org
January 25 in Quincy
February 23 in Carbondale

New meetings are approved and posted regularly. Go to the ASA website and click Illinois under the state for meetings approved here or scroll through the list of all meetings to find something of interest. As a CCA, you can earn CEUs anywhere, they do not have to be from Illinois. If you live closer to IN, IA, MO or KY you can click those states and look up CEUs in your area.

<https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/meetings/calendar/>

The CEU Application Process is also simple if you host a meeting. If you have an agenda and speaker info it will take less than 10 minutes to get an application submitted.

Webinars are a great way to earn Approved CEUs from the convenience of your home or office. When you watch these LIVE, and an application for pre-approved CEUs has been granted, you will receive approved CEUs. There are many pre-recorded FREE 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. There is a list on the www.illinoiscca.org website. Some great examples of webinars you can self-report are at:

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

www.farmdoc.org – webinars held regularly

ILFB.org/FieldDays. Multiple field day events, hosted by Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), are available for viewing online.

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 also creating and adding modules regularly to their website (<https://extension.illinois.edu/global/crop-management-demand>).