
Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Recognition Policy and Procedure

Policy Statement

The policy confirms the Institutes will recognize the CCA Program and provides details regarding how the policy will be applied under *The Agrologists Act of Manitoba*, *The Agrologists Act of Saskatchewan*, and *the Agrology Profession Act* in Alberta. By explaining how the CCA Program is related to the practice and regulation of agrology, the policy clarifies professional development and practice issues for agrologists and is in the public interest.

The Policy and Procedures should be read in the context of applicable jurisprudence that applies in each province (The Act, regulations, bylaws, policies). The new policy takes into account Labor Mobility requirements of the Agreement on Internal Trade, and, feedback from practicing Agrologists. Since the policy is new, provincial authorities will closely monitor implementation and adjust as necessary.

Summary

The Certified Crop Adviser Program (CCA) may complement but is not a replacement for the entry to practice requirements for registration as a Professional Agrologist, or any other Agrology professional designation specified under Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta legislation.

The Certified Crop Adviser Program will be recognized by the three prairie province agrology institutes as follows:

A) New Applicants who also hold a current CCA designation

Up to 6 agrology credits (2 – 3 credit course equivalent value) will be allowed to count toward meeting the education entrance standard of 60 agrology credits (required to gain the Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.) title and registration permit to practice.

B) Request to Changing/Add to Area of Practice

Members registered to practice who do not have the formal education to support practice in crop management or related areas and who hold a current CCA designation and wish to practice in the area of Crop Science/Development/Agronomy will be granted recognition as follows:

A maximum of 6 agrology credits (2 – 3 credit course equivalent value) will be allowed to count toward meeting the practice area requirements. Each institute will manage their oversight of practice areas and registration as guided by their respective institute registration protocols.

C) Continuing Competency

Members who also hold a current CCA designation may also use all related training toward meeting their continuing competency requirements in their respective province.

Rationale

- Pro-active, positive response option for applicants and members (right touch regulation)
- Helps to resolve unnecessary tension associated with the perception of “value” of the CCA program versus value of professional regulation
- Communication opportunity - with members and industry to improve understanding of how the program adds value to the regulation of agrology professionals working in the Prairie Provinces
- Opportunity to lead operational policy in agrology standards and regulation in Canada
- Members who have acquired an agrology professional designation have met foundation science requirements for admission, and, most if not all bachelor degree applicants completed junior (introductory) agronomy science coursework

Background

The new policy framework evolved from a number of steps including an independent review of the CCA Program as it is interpreted and applied in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, independent review by the 3 provincial admission and standards authorities for Agrology, and collaboration among the operating leads in the 3 institutes. The value, objectives and separate roles and accountabilities of the CCA program, and professional registration requirements of provincial legislation, have frequently been misunderstood.

- The Certified Crop Advisor program is a voluntary, well-recognized, and industry supported opportunity to supplement other education in the agronomy sciences. The program, developed in the United States by the American Society of Agronomy, was introduced to the Canadian marketplace to encourage more uniform training of individuals involved in the distribution of information and advice in the crop inputs sector.
- The CCA program requires applicants to pass two exams, an international exam and a regional exam. The Prairie CCA Board develops performance objectives (knowledge and skill) intended to localize content to the western Canadian crop production region.
- The CCA program requires designation holders to actively continue to support the designation by achieving and reporting continuing education credits (units/CEU’s).

The objectives of the CCA program are mainly aimed at supporting commercial outcomes and interests. In contrast, the regulation and practice of agrology is controlled by a designated organization in each province (similar to most if not all other regulated professions) whose purpose is protecting the “public” – people affected by the actions of a practicing Agrologist. This is similar to the framework for all other regulated professional in Manitoba.

Who the Policy will Benefit:

Individuals who have successfully completed and are active participants in the CCA Program. The CCA Program is an alternative method of demonstrating technical competence in a specific practice area (agronomy).

- i.) New Applicants – Institutes will include successful completion of the CCA Program in the credential assessment process. A maximum of 6 agrology credits can be credited.
- ii.) Changing or expanding Area of Practice – when education credits in agronomy science were not a significant part of a member's degree the CCA Program will be recognized. CCA Recognition is an important aspect in assessing qualifications to practice in the new area.
- iii.) Continuing Competency – Continuing education credits (CEU's) earned in connection with the CCA program evidence activity aimed at demonstrating continuing competence. The Institutes require registrants and practice permit holders to demonstrate their commitment to remaining competent in their area(s) of practice.

Procedure

Each Provincial Institute will incorporate the new policy into existing operating procedures. The following general procedures will apply:

A) New Applicants

A maximum of 6 agrology credits (2 – 3 credit course equivalent value) will be allowed to count toward meeting the academic assessment standard of 60 agrology credits.

B. Request to Changing/Add to Area of Practice

Members registered or permitted in other practice areas who wish to practice in the area of Crop Science/Development/Agronomy may request addition of the new practice area.

*A maximum of 6 agrology credits (2 – 3 credit course equivalent value) will be allowed to count toward meeting the area of practice requirements.

C. Changing Professional Designation (title) (only applies in Alberta and Manitoba)

Members who were granted the RT.Ag or Technical Agrologist (Tech.Ag.)¹ designation **and** who hold an active CCA designation may request a designation review and change of title to Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.)

Continuing Competency Requirement

As a condition of registration members must conform to Institute continuing competency requirements. Continuing education credits (CEU's) from the CCA Program may be submitted as evidence of an agrologist's commitment to lifelong learning.

¹Tech.Ag: who qualified for registration with a 4-year science degree; that was not assessed as meeting the agrology credit standard of 60 agrology credits Diploma graduates (who have not completed a 4-year science degree) are not eligible to apply for change of professional designation.