

ICCA Code of Ethics

Edits from call

All individuals certified under the ICCA program must subscribe to the ICCA Code of Ethics. The ICCA Standards & Ethics Committee periodically reviews the current Code of Ethics.

Article I. Preamble

1. The privilege of professional practice imposes obligations of responsibility as well as professional knowledge. The ICCA program certifies the credentials of individuals through state/provincial certification boards.
2. **A CCA shall use professional conduct in all communications including but not limited to emails, blogs, and social media.**
3. The ICCA program will award the title of Certified to individuals who meet the experience, testing requirements and the continuing education requirements of the International Certified Crop Adviser (ICCA) program. The ICCA program does not require college level education. A college education will substitute for part of the ICCA work experience requirement as provided for in the ICCA guidelines.
4. Certified Crop Advisers (hereafter called CCAs), at the request of a client or employer, must disclose the information used to gain certification. CCAs who knowingly misrepresent their credentials will face disciplinary action.

Article II. Relation of Professional to the Public

1. **A CCA** shall avoid and discourage sensational, exaggerated, or unwarranted statements that might induce participation in unsound enterprises.
2. **A CCA** shall not give professional opinion, or make a recommendation, without being as thoroughly informed as might reasonably be expected considering the purpose for which the opinion or recommendation is desired; and the degree of completeness of information upon which it is based should be clear.
3. **A CCA** shall not issue a false statement or false information even if directed to do so by employer or client.

Article III. Relation of Professional to Employer and Client

1. **A CCA** shall protect, to the fullest extent possible, the interest of the employer or client insofar as such interest is consistent with the law and professional obligations and ethics.
2. **A CCA** who finds that obligations to the employer or client conflict with their professional obligation or ethics should work to have such objectionable conditions corrected.

3. **A CCA** shall not use, directly or indirectly, employer or client's information in any way that would violate their confidentiality.
4. **A CCA** shall not divulge information given in confidence.
5. **A CCA** retained by one client shall not accept without the client's written consent, an engagement by another if the interests of the two are in any manner conflicting.
6. **A CCA** who has made an investigation for any employer or client shall not seek to profit economically from the information gained, unless written permission to do so is granted, or until it is clear that there can no longer be a conflict of interest with the original employer or client.
7. **A CCA** shall engage, or advise employer or client to engage and cooperate with other experts, specialists **and government agency staff**.
8. **A CCA** protects the interest of a client by recommending only products and services that are in the best interest of the client and public.
9. **A CCA** protects his/her credibility by disclosing to clients how he/she will be compensated for providing recommendations to the client.

Article IV. Relation of Professionals to Each Other

1. **A CCA** shall not falsely or maliciously attempt to injure the reputation of another.
2. **A CCA** shall freely give credit for work done by others, to whom the credit is due, and shall refrain from plagiarism of oral and written communications and shall not knowingly accept credit rightfully due another person.
3. **A CCA** shall not use the advantage of public employment (e.g. university, government) to compete unfairly with other certified professions.
4. **A CCA** shall endeavor to cooperate with others in the profession and encourage the ethical dissemination of technical knowledge.

Article V. Duty to the Profession

1. **A CCA** shall aid in exclusion from certification, those who have not followed this Code of Ethics or who do not have the required education and experience.
2. **A CCA** shall uphold this Code of Ethics by precept and example and encourage, by counsel and advice, other CCAs to do the same.
3. **A CCA** having positive knowledge of deviation from this Code by another CCA shall bring such deviation to the attention of the CCA's Local Board.

Approved by

International CCA Board of Directors
07/97

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