**CPAg and ICCA combined programs**

Currently ASA has two certification programs – CCA and CPAg. It was supported by both Boards and the ASA executive committee to develop a proposal that would add CPAg to the ICCA infrastructure.

The ICCA Board task force on restructuring met and discussed the CCA/CPAg option. The Task Force agreed that there could be mutual and long term benefits to bring the two certifications into one infrastructure. The Task Force also agreed that the ICCA Program should develop a specialty certification that recognizes a CCA with at least a BS degree in Agronomy or closely related field.

Their recommendation is to develop the Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) specialty certification within the ICCA Program that the current CPAg certification could become. In order for the current CPAg certification to become the new CPAg specialty within ICCA, the CPAg Board would need to approve the proposal followed by the ICCA Board before anything would change. The CPAg Board has approved the proposal and now the ICCA Board needs to do the same before it can move forward for implementation. The recommendation to the CPAg and ICCA Boards follows:

**One Agronomy Certification Process**

ICCA Program with a specialty area called:

Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg)

1. Implemented as of January 1, 2012

2. **All current** CPAs are grandfathered into the new structure, meaning, anyone that is already a CPAg does not have to do anything different to re-qualify but CEU requirements and fees would change. Currently there are 650 individuals certified as a CPAg and about half of them also have the CCA certification.

3. **New** applicants to CPAg would need to first meet the entire CCA requirements before or at the same time as applying for CPAg.
   a. Exams – current CPAg only requires the ICCA exam, the local exam would be added
   b. Other CPAg requirements would be the same as those of the current CPAg – 5 years of experience with at least a BS degree in agronomy or closely related field; appropriate course work as described; and 5 references. More details please see the web site: [https://www.agronomy.org/certifications](https://www.agronomy.org/certifications)
c. Fees - a $30 specialty area fee would be added to the base CCA fee (the current, average CCA fee is $70 annually depending on state or province residence) The new $30 specialty fee would be split with the local board, $20 to ICCA and $10 to the local board.

Example: CCA pays $70, CCA-CPAg pays $100.

4. Credential Review would be done by the local CCA boards. They would become agronomy certifying boards reviewing both CCA and CPAg applicants.
   a. Board members would be trained in how to review the new CCA-CPAg applications and local CPAs would be encouraged to serve on the local Board with the expectation that at least one or two CPAg(s) would serve on the local CCA board.
   b. CCA-CPAg would be national in scope like CPAg is today.
   c. CCA would remain state/province/regionally focused but with international acceptance.

5. CEU requirements –
   a. For CCAs, no change:
      i. 40 total CEUs at least 20 are board approved,
      ii. 5 minimum in each of the 4 technical categories of nutrient management; soil and water management; integrated pest management; and crop management,
      iii. Professional Development is the fifth category but it does not have a max or min so it is not required
   b. For CCA-CPAg:
      i. 50 total CEUs at least 20 are board approved,
      ii. 5 minimum in each of the 4 technical categories of nutrient management; soil and water management; integrated pest management; and crop management,
      iii. Professional Development minimum of 10 CEUs,
      iv. Professional Service minimum of 5 CEUs – activities that advance the profession and development of agronomy and crop advising with students, peers and the general public.
      v. More details and refinement would be done by the ICCA continuing education committee (CPAg members already exists on this committee).
6. **Budgets/Financials:** Current CPAg budget would fold into ICCA. Currently breakeven at about $33,000 annually.

7. **Marketing /Promotions:** Future marketing programs would focus on the agronomy certifications listing both and explaining the process.