

2017 CCA North American Board Meeting

Exams and Procedures

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CCA Exams and Procedures

- What are we going to talk about today?
 - ❖ Update on past year.
 - ❖ Staff management of exam process
 - ❖ Progress with Local Boards
 - ❖ *Coming soon* - South Florida and Caribbean Exam
 - ❖ Specialties
 - 4Rs Nutrient Management - Regions
 - 4Rs Nutrient Management (Ontario)
 - Resistance Management
 - Sustainability
 - ❖ New Specialty
 - Precision Agriculture
 - ❖ Update on computer-based testing.

CCA Exams - Update

- ICCA Exam
 - ❖ EPC working on-line; updating POs 2017 for 2018 exam
 - ❖ Exam is performing very well.
- Local Board Exams
 - ❖ Need to provide exam committee – 5 members
 - ❖ Goals
 - ❖ Consistency and Standardization Across all Exams.
 - ❖ Compliance with Accepted Standards for Credentialing Exams.
 - ❖ Operate and Maintain an Exam Program that is Legally Defensible.
 - ❖ Standardized exam process
 - ❖ Update Performance Objectives
 - ❖ Perform a Job Task Analysis (JTA)
 - ❖ Determine exam partitioning from JTA
 - ❖ Update exam (includes working with and learning item statistics)
 - ❖ Perform an Angoff analysis to set a cut score

Staff Management of Exam Process

- Options for Local Boards
 - ❖ Fee based option to have staff maintain exams.
 - ❖ Fee based on number of exams given/year
 - ❖ ≤ 30 exams, \$500 flat fee
 - ❖ > 30 exams, \$17 per exam
 - ❖ Fee is charged to Board after the August exam.
 - ❖ Local Board and Exam Committee still involved.
 - ❖ Staff facilitates tasks being completed.
- AuthorWise
 - ❖ Major software update in 2016 added functionality.
 - ❖ All exam committee members have access to the software – now web-based and functional on both PC and Mac.
 - ❖ Limited to writing new questions/viewing completed questions.

Local Board Exams: 28 total, 21 in process

- AR/LA/MS*
- Atlantic Provinces
- CA/AZ
- Central Plains (KS&OK)
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Mid-Atlantic*
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- North Carolina
- Northeast Region
- Northwest Region
- Ontario
- Pennsylvania
- Prairie Provinces
- Rocky Mountain Region
- South Dakota
- Southeast
- Tennessee
- Tri-State Region*
- Wisconsin

*fee based option

Coming soon – Exam for South Florida / Caribbean

- Significant agricultural differences in southern Florida from the rest of the U.S.
- Will include Puerto Rico and the Caribbean
 - Will provide an opportunity to focus more on sub-tropical agriculture.
 - Allows testing on a unique knowledge base a CCA would use in this area that isn't covered in other exams.
 - Opens the exam program to additional professionals.
- Exam committee being organized.

4Rs Nutrient Management Specialty exam - Regions

- Exams treated as separate exams
- Exam committees per region
- Region 2 (Ontario) and Region 4 (NE U.S.) active
- Region 6 (SE U.S.) will be ready February 2018
- Other regions –
 - Region 3 (NW U.S.) getting organized
 - Other exam committees to follow for Regions 1 and 5
- Options for examinees – can choose which exam to take based on where they primarily work.
- Areas with no regional exam can take the original exam.

Specialty Exams through August 2017

	<i>Total Part.</i>	<i># Pass</i>	<i>% Pass</i>	<i># Fail</i>	<i>% Fail</i>
4R NM – U.S.	330	196	59	134	41
4R NM - Ontario	115	89	77	26	23
Resistance Management	83	78	94	5	6
Sustainability	115	90	78	25	22

Precision Agriculture Specialty



Photo credit: University of MN

- Exam committee started in June 2017
- Presentation and discussion at InfoAg July 2017
- POs being drafted
- Will be available for August 2018

Computer-based Testing

- Working on details with our psychometrician.
- May be possible to do some pilot testing in 2018, but need costs and technology issues resolved first.
- Several options available.
 - ❖ Working on the costs and processes associated with each option.
- There will be a transition period.
- Those exams that are up to date will be considered first for any pilot testing.

Questions?



*Contact me at any time
with questions:*

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