2018 CCA NORTH AMERICAN BOARD MEETING

EXAMS AND PROCEDURES

Dawn R. Gibas, PhD, PSS (MN), CPSS
Assessment Specialist
ASA/SSSA
CCA EXAMS AND PROCEDURES

• What are we going to talk about today?
  ❖ Update on past year.
    • Management of exam process.
    • Progress with Local Boards.
    • Exams in progress and coming soon.
  ❖ Specialties
    • 4Rs Nutrient Management - Regions
    • Resistance Management
    • Sustainability
  ❖ Update on internet-based testing.
    • How does it work/when will we start?
    • Cost analysis.
    • Remote proctoring.
GUEST SPEAKER TODAY

- Scott Thayn, Ph.D., President and Psychometrician
- Certification Management Systems

AUTHORWise™ Item Authoring and Banking System

AUTHORWise is comprised of five modules:
- AUTHORWise™ Item Authoring Module
- AUTHORWise™ Item Banking Module
- AUTHORWise™ Blueprint Survey Module
- AUTHORWise™ Review Event Module
- AUTHORWise™ Results Management Module
CCA EXAMS - UPDATE

• ICCA Exam
  ❖ EPC working on-line.
  ❖ Exam is performing very well.

• Local Board Exams
  ❖ Need to provide exam committee – 5 members minimum
  ❖ Goals
    ❖ Consistency and Standardization Across all Exams.
    ❖ Compliance with Accepted Standards for Credentialing Exams.
    ❖ Operate and Maintain an Exam Program that is Legally Defensible.
EXAM COMMITTEE

- Exam committee
  - Confidentiality agreement
  - GoToMeeting session every other week

- Standardized exam process (every 4-5 years)
  - 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 in October.
  - Local Board and Exam Committee still involved.
  - Staff facilitates tasks being completed.

• AuthorWise
  - 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: 27 TOTAL

- AR/LA/MS
- Atlantic Provinces
- Central Plains Region
- Colorado
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Michigan
- Mid-Atlantic
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Northeast Region
- Northwest Region
- Ontario
- Pennsylvania
- Prairie Provinces
- Rocky Mountain Region
- South Dakota
- Southeast
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Tri-State Region
- Western Region
- Wisconsin
Exam committees per region and treated as separate exams.

Active Exams:
- Region 2 (Ontario)
- Region 4 (NE U.S.)
- Region 6 (SE U.S.)

Regions in process:
- Region 1 (Western Canada)
- Region 3 (NW U.S.)

Options for examinees – can choose which exam to take based on where they primarily work.
4R Nutrient Management Specialty Regions

Regions as presented and approved at the 2016 NA CCA Board meeting
## SPECIALTY EXAMS THROUGH AUGUST 2018

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Part.</th>
<th># Pass</th>
<th>% Pass</th>
<th># Fail</th>
<th>% Fail</th>
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COMING IN 2019

February Administration
• Precision Ag Specialty
• 4R NMS for Region 1

August Administration
• 4R NMS for Region 3
• South FL, Puerto Rico, Caribbean Region
COMING SOON – EXAM FOR SOUTH FLORIDA / CARIBBEAN

• Significant agricultural differences in southern Florida.

• 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 currently working on POs.
ANY QUESTIONS ON EXAMS BEFORE WE MOVE ON TO INTERNET BASED TESTING?
INTERNET-BASED TESTING (IBT)

- Facilitated through CMS, with additional vendors for actual exam delivery and proctoring.
- Costs and technology questions have been resolved.
- Options available.
  - Costs and processes associated with each option.
    - IBT at current testing centers.
    - Remote proctoring of exams.
- Each examinee will need a laptop or pad.
- There will be a transition period.
- Exams must be up to date in AuthorWise to use this option.
CURRENT WORKFLOW FOR EXAM ADMINISTRATION AND SCORING

• Export exam from AuthorWise
• Printing in Madison.
• Pack boxes to send paper exams out.
• Received at testing center and verified.
• Exams given.
• Exams packed, verified, sent back to Madison.
• Exams unpacked and verified in Madison.
• Answer key transferred to exam Scantron answer sheet.
• All exam answer sheets and keys sent to CMS.
• Answer key run through Scantron, followed by exam answer sheets. (For each exam)
• Checking of scanned data.
• Statistical analysis completed by CMS
• Statistical analysis checked by Dawn/Scott, identify issues, equating for cut scores where needed.
• Enter scores into management system in Madison.
• Release scores (system requires all scores released at same time).
WORKFLOW WITH IBT

- Export exam from AuthorWise.
- Exams given.
- Statistical analysis completed by CMS
- Statistical analysis checked by Dawn/Scott, identify issues, equating for cut scores where needed.
- Enter scores into management system in Madison.
- Release scores.

**Bottom line:**
- Paper/Pencil: 6 week turnaround
- IBT: estimated 4 week turnaround
- Increased accuracy
PROCTORS AT TEST SITES

- Proctor will need a laptop.
- Will be able to launch the exam for all examinees.
- Will have a “dashboard” to watch for and be alerted to any security issues.
- Proctors will be trained prior to the exams.
- Demo by Scott showing how the exam will look.
REMOTE PROCTORING

• What is it?
• How does it work?
• Short video from the vendor (Examity) showing the process and procedures followed.
COST

**IBT**
- Staff time savings:
  - Printing
  - Packing boxes
  - Marking answer keys
  - Mailing back and forth
- Resource savings
  - Paper
- Proctor time savings
  - Checking in/out exams
  - Mailing
- Psychometric time savings
- Examinee time savings and ease of test-taking.

**Overall Costs**
- IBT will cost about $10 per exam
  - Pilot testing in Feb.
  - Likely will not increase exam costs due to cost savings in staff time, paper, printing, mail
- Remote proctoring will cost $27 first hour-$12 per additional hour.
  - Will be a pass through cost, but may be convenient and cheaper to many examinees.
OVERALL BENEFITS OF IBT/REMOTE PROCTORING

• Benefits to the examinees
  • Faster turn-around times on scores
  • Possible testing windows if using remote proctoring
    • Also less time and money in travel to testing site

• Benefits to the exam program
  • Secure
    • More information available, i.e. time spent on each item
    • Ability to randomize question order within the exam
  • No chance for errors in marking exam answers or scanning answer sheets
  • Faster results
  • No paper storage and will have access to more information
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Contact me at any time with questions:

dgibas@sciencesocieties.org