ICCA North American Board Meeting

Exam Update

September 12-13, 2023

Dawn Gibas, PhD, CPSS
Director of Certifications
Lacey Edwardson -
Update from Certification Staff

• Support Center
• Fillable Forms
• Reviewer Policy Manual
Consistency and Standardization Across all Exams.

Compliance with Accepted Standards for Credentialing Exams.

Operate and Maintain an Exam Program that is Legally Defensible.
Things to talk about...

- Internet Based Testing (IBT) and Remote Proctoring Update
- Continuous Testing - what happened?
- Window Testing
- Specialty Exams
- Exam Statistics
- Results reporting and Process
- FFA CCA Apprentice
- Other
IBT/Remote Proctoring

- IBT/Remote Proctoring technology is working well.
- Still have no-shows and incompletes.
- Examinee handbook, instructions are not read consistently.
- Watching videos when examinees are flagged.
  - Letters of warning and “no score” have been sent as needed.
- Have tested the new proctoring service, will be switching over in the next 6 months.
  - Examinee handbook has been updated for the new proctoring service and has been translated to Spanish.
  - Will allow Mexico to participate since the proctoring service offers Spanish speaking proctors.
Continuous Testing - What happened?

• Many different thoughts on this - not sure there is one “silver bullet”.
• Testing industry generally sees an increase in exam numbers with continuous testing.
• Our industry showed a drop - due to???
  • Pandemic?
  • Easy to put off until tomorrow?
  • Certification not important to....
    • Industry?
    • Producers?
    • Younger people in the profession?
    • Too time consuming?
• Discussions with ICCA Executive Committee and several exam committees led to moving back to Window Testing.
Window Testing - 4 times/year

- Continuous testing is concluding September 30, 2023.
- Window testing begins November 2023 with longer windows.

**NOVEMBER 2023**

Exam Registration: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 - Monday, October 23, 2023
Exam Scheduling: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 - Thursday, November 9, 2023
Exam Window: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 - Monday, November 13, 2023

- 2024 Exam Windows:
  - January 24 - February 5
  - March 27 - April 8
  - July 24 - August 5
Section Testing - coming 2024

• Starting with the March-April window in 2024, examinees will have the option of completing their ICCA and Local Board Exams one section at a time.

• This means that they can take Nutrient Management, Soil and Water Management, Pest Management, and Crop Management separately thereby being able to study for and take the test for one subject at a time.

• Examinees choosing this option will have one year to finish all four sections of the exam they choose to take this way. More than one section can be taken in any given exam window.

• Each section will have a cut score set by our psychometrician that is equal to that of taking the entire exam at one time.

• Overall proctoring fee will be more expensive sitting for one section at a time with 4-one hour sessions versus a single proctoring session.
### Specialty Exams

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Results, Reporting, and Exam Committee Work

- IBT/RP
  - Window Testing
  - Immediate Results unless need a new/equated cut score, then results reported within 2 weeks
  - Remote Proctoring update
  - Official Results Dependent Upon Proctor Report
- Official Results
  - Sent out by our office 7-10 days
- Exam Committees follow the Exam Process
- Meet every other week
- Work depends on the exam status
- Will run the item analysis when numbers make sense
- Boards can request P/F stats from our office at any time
What do the Exam Committees look at and base changes on?
| Form 2022v1 | MC | P-val | Pbis | Item Rel | P-val | Pbis | Item Rel | P-val | Pbis | Item Rel | P-val | Pbis | Item Rel |
|-------------|----|-------|------|----------|-------|------|----------|-------|------|----------|-------|------|----------|-------|------|----------|
|             |    | 0.94  | 0.19 | 0.04 Use | Marginal | 95 | Easy | Opt. B: Not Plausible |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.75  | 0.26 | 0.11 Use | Good | 35 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.70  | 0.32 | 0.15 Use | Good | 42 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.62  | 0.09 | 0.04 Use | Marginal | 47 | Low Discrimination |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.46  | 0.21 | 0.10 Use | Good | 58 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.55  | 0.24 | 0.12 Use | Good | 45 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.58  | 0.07 | 0.03 Use | Poor | 34 | Low Discrimination | Opt. C: Not Plausible |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.65  | 0.11 | 0.05 Use | Marginal | 37 | Low Discrimination |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.58  | 0.22 | 0.11 Use | Good | 34 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.13  | 0.12 | 0.04 Use | Poor | 30 | Low Discrimination, Very Hard |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.47  | 0.30 | 0.15 Use | Excellent | 36 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.75  | 0.47 | 0.20 Use | Excellent | 20 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.50  | 0.34 | 0.17 Use | Excellent | 36 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.75  | 0.35 | 0.15 Use | Excellent | 33 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.48  | 0.30 | 0.15 Use | Excellent | 37 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.82  | 0.48 | 0.19 Use | Excellent | 27 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.61  | 0.32 | 0.16 Use | Excellent | 31 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.76  | 0.42 | 0.18 Use | Excellent | 18 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.23  | 0.34 | 0.14 Use | Good | 33 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.47  | -0.06 | -0.03 Use | Don't Use | 31 | Negative Discrimination |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.76  | 0.22 | 0.09 Use | Good | 26 |
| Form 2022v1 | MC | 0.52  | 0.37 | 0.19 Use | Excellent | 278 |
## Option Analysis - A Closer Look at Item Performance

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Demographics

• What we collect:
  • Age
  • Gender
  • Years of Work Experience
  • Work Sector
  • Highest Degree
  • Major/Minor

• Question on work sector:
  • Currently have choices of:
    • Academia
    • Agribusiness - Retail
    • Agribusiness - Wholesale or Manufacturer
    • Government
    • Industry
    • Private Consulting

• Any suggested changes?
Major Area of Study Indicated by Examinee

Count by Major

- Accounting
- Ag Bus/Applied Econ
- Ag Communications and Ed
- Agriculture
- Agronomy
- Animal Science
- Applied Chemical Science
- Biology
- Business
- Diesel Technician
- Env Engineering...
- Food, Agricultural and...
- Horticulture
- Manufacturing, Engineering...
- Plant Breeding, Genetics
- Plant Pathology
- Precision Ag
- Recreation, Park and Tourism...
- Sustainable Agriculture & Plant...
- Weed Science
- Zoology
Exam Program

- Large number of exams.
- Exam Program is growing:
  - Brazil
  - Mid Atlantic NM
  - South Florida/Caribbean
  - Possible other International opportunities
- Discussion of combining local board exams with similar agriculture.
Total Certified
CCAs 12,871
CPAg 400
CCA Retired 356
CPAg Retired 29
CCA Candidates 82
4R NMS 493
SSp 151
RMS 158
PASp 174
MM 21
NSp 904
• CCA Apprentice Program
• Exam
  • Uses ICCA POs
  • 60 questions
  • First year 2022 at the Career Development Event in October in Indianapolis at the FFA Convention.
  • 24 passed from 17 different states and were offered CCA Apprentice.
• 2023 Exam is complete.
• More detailed discussion about FFA tomorrow.
Moving forward

• Software updates have allowed us more autonomy on certain exam tasks, which we can do in house.

• Exam committees are asking for increased statistical analysis - many very good suggestions on how to use our accumulating data resources.

• Proctoring - new proctoring partner coming soon.

• Marketing the profession, the certification and the benefits of being certified.

• Planning and changing for the future.
Other Questions/Discussion?

Thank you! Please feel free to contact me any time to continue the discussion.

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Director of Certifications
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