

Nebraska CCA Board, CCA Self Reported CEUs, July 2010

The Nebraska CCA Board requested and evaluated Nebraska CCAs who had self reported CEUs during the most recently completed two-year CEU cycle. The majority of reports were from 2009 with some being from 2008.

There were 96 courses reported representing 226 CEUs by 25 Nebraska CCAs.

The self reporting CEU form asks the CCA for the following information:

Name and CCA number

Amount of CEUs, Category of CEUs, instructor's name

Title, date and location of the event

Description of the event is optional and they may submit supporting documentation but it is not required at this time.

Nebraska CCA received the Summary Report from Madison which includes: name and number of the CCA, title and date of the event, and number of CEUs. That's a limited amount of information to audit a CCA but it starts the process. The full report was requested by Nebraska and that includes a full copy of what the CCA submitted to Madison adding to the summary report: city and state where the meeting was held; instructor's name; sponsoring organization; description of the meeting; and any supporting materials. Both the description and the supporting materials are optional items and are not included by many CCAs.

From the data, it was determined that 30 courses (13%) were reported that were duplicates of courses submitted by Nebraska Agri-Business Association, meaning they ended up being duplicates of Nebraska Board approved courses. Five of the 25 (20%) CCAs were duplicative of the Nebraska Agri-Business courses meaning the CCA was on a sign in sheet for a board approved event. These events that are viewed as "duplicates" are events that were self reported by a CCA and later the Nebraska CCA board approved the same event as board approved CEUs. This typically occurs in December and January the most when CCAs are in the process of completing their CEU cycle and are not willing to wait until the courses are approved or reported to Madison. If the time frame can be shortened between when an event is held and reported to Madison, that would help but probably not completely eliminate the issue.

Nebraska believes the duplicate and erroneous courses would have been much higher if we could have been able to verify the other courses. It is not the matter of allowing errors, but upholding the credibility of the program.

Nebraska would like the ICCA Board to consider the following:

Local boards should be allowed to audit the self reported courses, as they are currently and need the required information to do so. We recommend that all fields on the reporting form be mandatory including the instructor's name and contact information, description and asking that the CCA include a copy of the course agenda, outline or syllabus when reporting the CEUs or the program will be requested when Nebraska audits all self reported CEUs. Nebraska will report back to the ICCA board with their findings. Also, Nebraska recommends all local boards do the same.