



Certified Crop Advisors (CCA)

 @CCAOntario

THAT'S SOUND ADVICE

13,503 CCAs in North America – 650 in Ontario

- American Society of Agronomy is the certifying body; Standards established by the International CCA (ICCA)
- Voluntary program administered locally in 38 jurisdictions throughout Canada and United States plus Mexico
- All provinces except Quebec
- Also interest from Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Australia, India, Liberia, Kenya, Nepal, and South Africa



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Requirements

- **Pass two exams** – international and Ontario
- **Experience** – 2 years crop advising with a degree, 3 years with a diploma, or 4 years post-secondary school in-field experience
 - All this must be documented with transcripts and employer/grower references
- A signed **Code of Ethics**
- Every CCA must earn **40 hours of continuing education** every 2 years once certified.



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CCA Specialty Designations

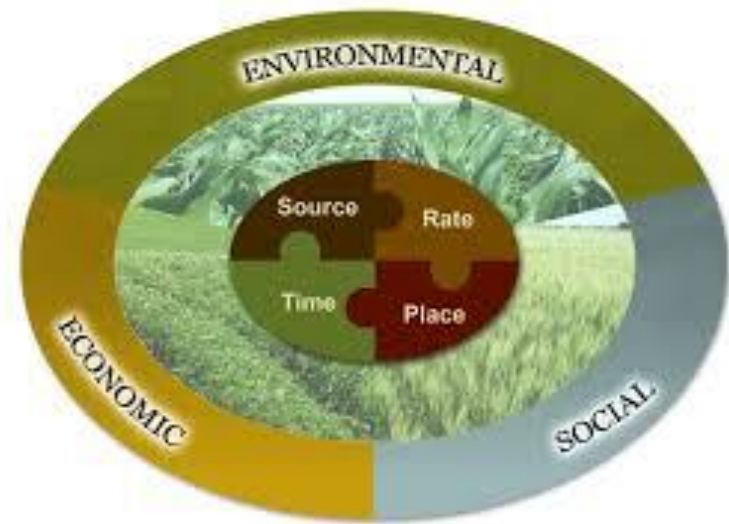
- Four new specialty designations
- All require an exam plus greater percentage of continuing education in their focus area



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CCA Specialty Designations

- **4R Nutrient Management Specialty** highlights knowledge and skills in water quality, environmental stewardship and sustainability
- Ontario first to offer in Canada, August 2016
- 127 Ontario CCAs with 4R (33% of N.A. 4R CCAs)



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CCA Specialty Designations

- **Resistance Management Specialty** is for CCAs who do Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and focus their work in crop protection.
- Ontario exam in February 2019 – first in Canada – 16 CCAs with RMS – 13% of N.A.

MANAGE
RESISTANCE *Now*
Protect your land, one field at a time



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CCA Specialty Designations

Not currently offered in Ontario:

- **Precision Agriculture Specialty** - meet the growing demand for qualified advisers with focused knowledge and skills in Precision Ag – potential launch in 2020 .
- **Sustainability Specialty** - utilize CCAs to help farmers become better acquainted with and adopt sustainability concepts and best management practices within their operations.



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Advising Growers

- CCAs play a critical role in active surveillance of new and emerging pests at the field level (whether insect, disease or weed)
- CCAs are also key influencers in working with local producers and helping them adopt more sustainable crop production practices



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Summer Positions

- **Crop scout:** checking crops for insects, disease, weeds, nutrient deficiencies, stage
- **Seed companies:** checking seed fields, signing fields, talking to growers, organizing grower field tours and meetings
- **Retail farm supply outlets:** checking fields, delivering products, warehouse work
- **Summer research positions:** government or private - looking after research plots, planting, taking notes, tours



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Specific CCA Positions

- **Farm Retail:** Advising growers on genetics/seed, fertilizer, crop protection products, rotations, tillage
- **Technical Reps:** Support for retails and growers – Seed, fertilizer, crop protection
- **Independent Crop Consultants**
- **Crop Protection Applicators**
- **Crop Researchers/Technicians:** Seed, Crop Protection, Government, Soil Sampling Labs

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Mentorship + Getting Involved

- **CCA Mentorship Program – Since 2017**
 - 2 “newer” CCAs/year
 - Interview process
 - Sit on the board, complete a project
- **Pair Up with a “Seasoned” CCA**
 - Bring mentees and mentors together
 - Less formal, but guidelines exist
- **Committees**
 - Not only board members; good way to get involved
 - Examples: Marketing Committee, Research and Technology Committee, Ethics Committee



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CERTIFIED CROP ADVISORS (CCA)

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