

# CCA Qualifications

**A** CCA must be knowledgeable and proficient in all aspects of crop production and management in California. They must pass both an International Exam on Nutrient Management, Soil and Water Management, Crop Management, and Pest Management and a California Exam on Nutrients, Soil, and Water, and Crop Management.

Education and crop advising experience must be documented. Four years of crop advising experience is required for individuals without a degree, three years with an associates degree in agriculture and those holding a bachelors degree in agriculture are required to have two years experience. Two references must be submitted regarding the providing of crop input advice.

A code of ethics must be signed. The code outlines public, employer, and client standards of behavior.

Once certified an individual must complete 40 hours of continuing education every two years. Most Pest Control Advisor hours can be applied to the California CCA continuing education requirements.



## CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER

More Information on the  
**California Certified  
Crop Adviser Program**  
is available at:

**California Certified Crop Advisers**  
2300 River Plaza Drive, Ste. 120  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
**(916) 928-1625**  
[www.cacca.org](http://www.cacca.org)

**International Certified Crop Advisers**  
5585 Guilford Road  
Madison, WI 53711-5801  
**(608) 273-8085**  
[www.certifiedcropadviser.org](http://www.certifiedcropadviser.org)  
[lkarr@sciencesocieties.org](mailto:lkarr@sciencesocieties.org)

# CALIFORNIA CERTIFIED CROP ADVISERS



Advancing Crop Production and  
Protecting the Environment

# CALIFORNIA Certified Crop Adviser Program

**T**he California CCA program is a voluntary certification program for individuals that provide advice to growers on crop management and inputs. California CCAs meet standards set by the International CCA program, administered by the American Society of Agronomy, and the California CCA program, administered by the California CCA board.

In California, there are over 400 CCAs providing advice to growers. This group of commercial, public and independent advisers plays a crucial role in helping growers meet the profitability and environmental challenges of California agriculture. The California CCA program emphasizes fertilizer and plant nutrient management issues. 🌱

# BECOMING A Certified Crop Adviser

**F**irst a person applies to take the exam which is held in February and August of each year. A two month sign up period is held prior to the exam dates and a fee is charged. The exams are held in various locations throughout California. Prior to the exam, training sessions are usually held and study materials are made available. The exams are based on international and state performance objectives which are made available to the candidates.

Upon passing the exam, an adviser has 6 months to complete and submit a CCA Credential Packet to the program, the California board reviews the packet and following approval a certification certificate is sent to the new CCA. 🌱

# WHY USE A Certified Crop Adviser

**A** CCA offers a grower assurance that they are competent in all aspects of crop production and through continuing education they are up to date on the latest in crop management and government mandates. They provide a higher level of expertise, advice and counsel to growers

and producers of both agricultural and horticultural products. CCA's play a vital role in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and both federal and state water quality programs. CCAs are best suited to advise producers on fertilizer issues and use. 🌱

# GOVERNMENT Programs and the CCA

**T**he CCA program is an industry certification program, not a government licensing program. The CCA provides a vital link between the production agricultural businesses, and academic/research institutions and governmental agencies.

Many CCAs are USDA recognized Technical Service Providers (TSP). They may be able to assist producers with preparing plans acceptable to NRCS for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and other USDA programs. 🌱

