Professional liability insurance

Please take time to carefully read the article titled “Risk drives demand for professional nutrient management” found on page 12. The laws are changing around nutrient management planning along with the liability risk. If you are doing nutrient management planning for your clients, you need to remain well informed not only about the science, but also about the regulations and legal issues. The ICCA program can’t predict what will happen with insurance coverages and their related premiums or the level of coverage you will need, so it is essential that you talk with your insurance provider to make sure you have the proper coverage for the services you are providing your clients. Investigate the coverage you currently have or your employer has for you, and make sure it is appropriate.

4R NMS specialty certification

The first exam for the new CCA specialty certification—4R Nutrient Management Specialist (4R NMS)—was held in August. The fertilizer industry is strongly encouraging CCAs to add this specialty. The exam will be offered again in February 2016 in seven states—Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The 4R NMS specialty is for CCAs who do nutrient management planning and focus their work in this area. It allows CCAs to prove their knowledge, advance their skills, and draw awareness to their abilities. Once the specialty is earned, visit with your insurance provider for there is potential for an insurance premium discount as described in the article on page 12. To register and learn more, visit: www.certifiedcropadviser.org/exams.

SSp specialty certification

New!

The CCA–Sustainability Specialist (SSp) certification just launched with the exam being offered for the first time in the USA in February 2016. Only CCAs can add it. You need to pass a scenario-based exam to receive it and earn five CEUs in sustainability as part of the 40 total CEUs every two years.

The purpose of a sustainability specialty certification is to help growers implement more sustainable production practices within their operations. Farmers and certified crop advisers are the single best influencers to work with local producers and help them adopt practices that will satisfy the future demands of the food industry while protecting the environment.

The ICCA program partnered with and received funding from the United Soybean Board to develop the specialty certification. This is a great opportunity for CCAs who want to focus their work on sustainable production practices and help their farm clients implement those practices. The specialty centers on advanced knowledge and skills beyond the ICCA performance standards and will help build awareness and recognition for those CCAs with the knowledge and skills. To learn more and register for the exams, go to: www.certifiedcropadviser.org/exams.

CEUs—more economical, more available

Is your two-year CEU cycle ending in December 2015? Do you still need CEUs to meet all of the minimum requirements? Then check out the online offerings from ASA and SSSA. A larger selection of webinars (www.agronomy.org/education and www.soils.org/education) and self-study articles (www.certifiedcropadviser.org/certifications/self-study) are now available so you can earn your CEUs from the comforts of your office or home. There is also an online searchable calendar (www.certifiedcropadviser.org/meetings/calendar) that includes both in-person and virtual events.