Raised on a small-grain farm in the prairies of west-central Saskatchewan, Thom Weir spent his childhood immersed in the production and sale of cereal crops like wheat and barley.

Weir’s early introduction to agriculture on the family farm grew into a hobby when he joined the local 4-H chapter, and eventually Weir pursued formal training at the University of Saskatchewan, where graduated in 1976 with a degree in agriculture with a plant science major.

Following more than 35 years of experience in various positions requiring expertise in nutrient management and crop production, Weir has been elected as vice chair of the North American CCA Board. Weir’s background informs his priorities for the ICCA board.

After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan, he spent more than a decade working for American Cyanamid, a crop chemical company, in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. While at American Cyanamid, Weir became product manager for the development and introduction of the IMI (imidazolinone) herbicides group in Canada. Weir followed that with a short stint as the western Canadian sales manager for an American-based sprayer equipment distributor.

He then worked seven years as an agronomist with Westco Fertilizer. While at Westco, Weir helped develop new technologies to enable farmers to no-till direct seed their fields while simultaneously spraying anhydrous ammonia.

“It’s basically combining crop management and fertility practices to get a process that works,” Weir explains, adding that more than a third of western Canadian growers now use the technique.

Following his time at Westco, Weir became affiliated with the Saskatchewan provincial government as an extension agrologist while managing his own crop consulting company, called Production Ag., Inc.

In recent years, Weir’s interests have led him to precision agriculture techniques like variable-rate fertilizer applications. He is currently a senior agronomist at Farmers Edge, a precision agriculture company, where he develops individual variable-rate technology (VRT) plans for growers. He also spends much of his time mentoring other agronomists and training them to write the CCA exam.

“My real passion is working with farmers to solve their problems,” Weir says.

A unique voice on the board

Though he’s been an ICCA board member for several years, Weir’s new position as vice chair brings with it opportunities to emphasize personal priorities.

“I’m going to bring a little different perspective on a couple things,” Weir says. “I think I can bring a unique voice to the board not being from the U.S."

First, Weir is interested in exploring more international opportunities for the program.

“I’d like to see us expanding the program outside of North America,” Weir says, adding that other agricultural regions around the world could benefit from the program and the expertise it provides growers.

In addition to building its presence in new places, Weir would like to see the program improve its delivery of services and expertise.

“I’d like to improve how we deliver some of the expertise that the ICCA program has developed. ICCA already