

Certified Crop Advisers (CCA)

Partnering with the NPDN

*Harold Watters, CCA & CPAg
NC Regional Rep. International CCA Board
Extension Agent,
Ohio State University - Champaign County*

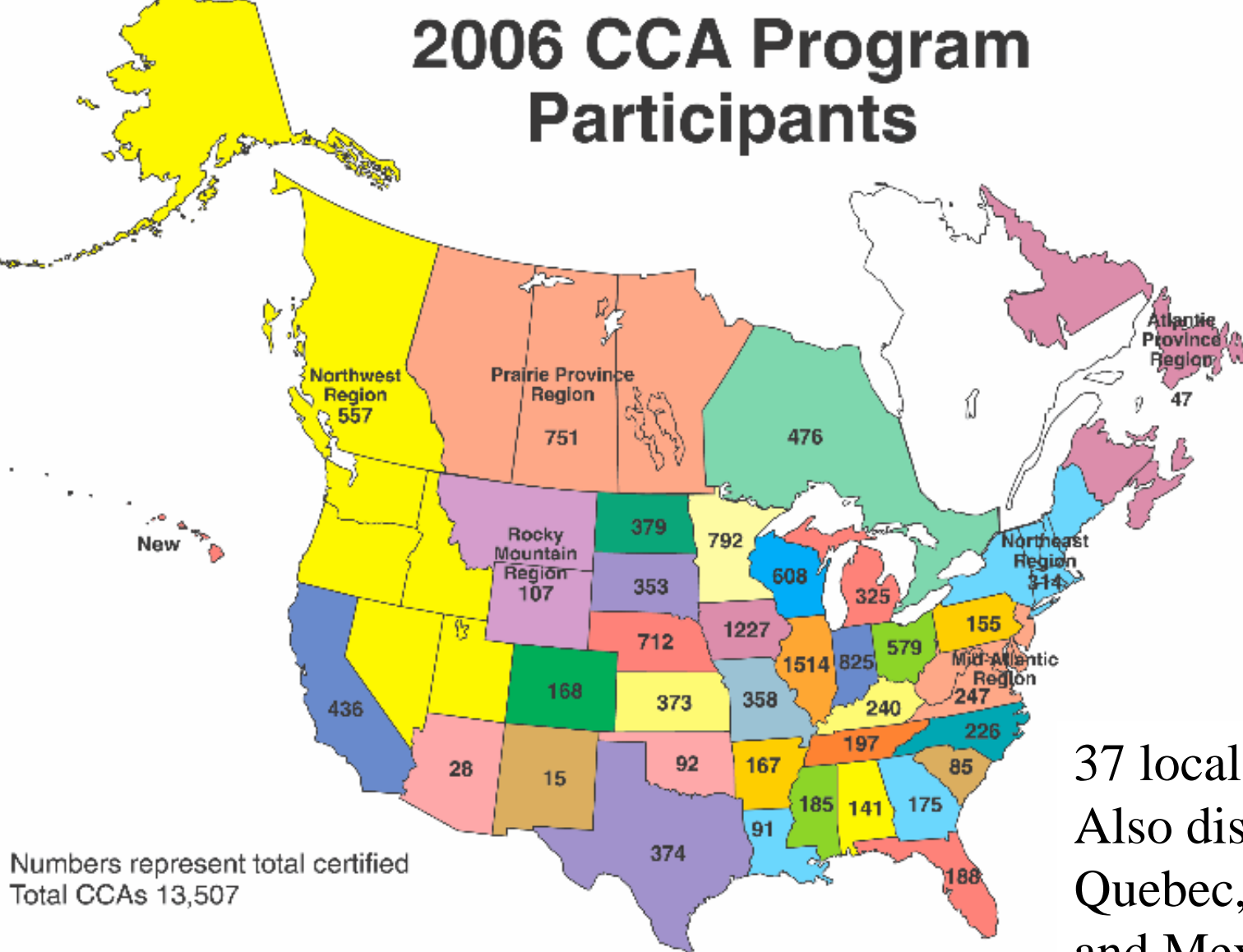


The CCA program is part of the American Society of Agronomy

- The American Society of Agronomy has 100 years of history and plays an important role in the certification and tracking of continuing education for the Certified Crop Adviser Program.
- CCA connection to ASA
 - Through adviser
 - University specialists
 - Extension



2006 CCA Program Participants



37 local boards
Also discussing with
Quebec, Puerto Rico
and Mexico





CCA Standards

These standards include.....

- Exams to demonstrate command of the science, principles involved in crop production
- Experience minimums to demonstrate the ability to apply the knowledge they possess
- Continuing Education to insure continued excellence!

Exams



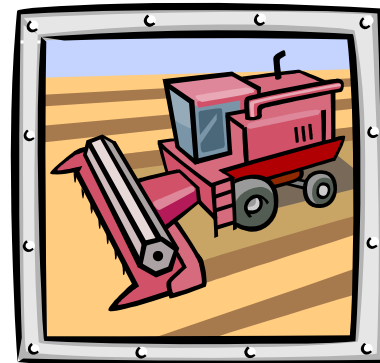
- *A CCA must pass two comprehensive exams:*
 - International Exam – covering agronomic practices and principles

And.....

Local Exam– covering specific agronomic practices and conditions for the state, province, or region where the CCA works

CCA's must have Experience too!

- 2 years crop advising with a minimum of a BS Degree in Agriculture or.....
- 4 years post high school in-field experience and....
- All this must be documented with transcripts and references



Continuing Education

- Every CCA must earn 40 hours of continuing education every 2 years once certified, in order to continue to maintain CCA certification!
- In four areas:
 - Nutrient Management, Soil & Water
 - Integrated Pest Management, Crop Management



Description of a CCA

- Field oriented
 - See many fields in weeks work - SCOUTING
- Work across 65% acres
- University trained
 - Maintain contact, rely on information
- Service crop producer
 - Profit motivated
 - Value to client
 - Time value too



Work at retailer, seed company
crop insurance, Extension
co-op.



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CCA's as Technical Service Providers

- CCA has worked closely with NRCS, FSA, EPA, Extension and other agencies
- CCA has an MOU as Technical Service Providers (TSP)
 - Nutrient management
 - Pest management
 - Residue management (tillage practices)

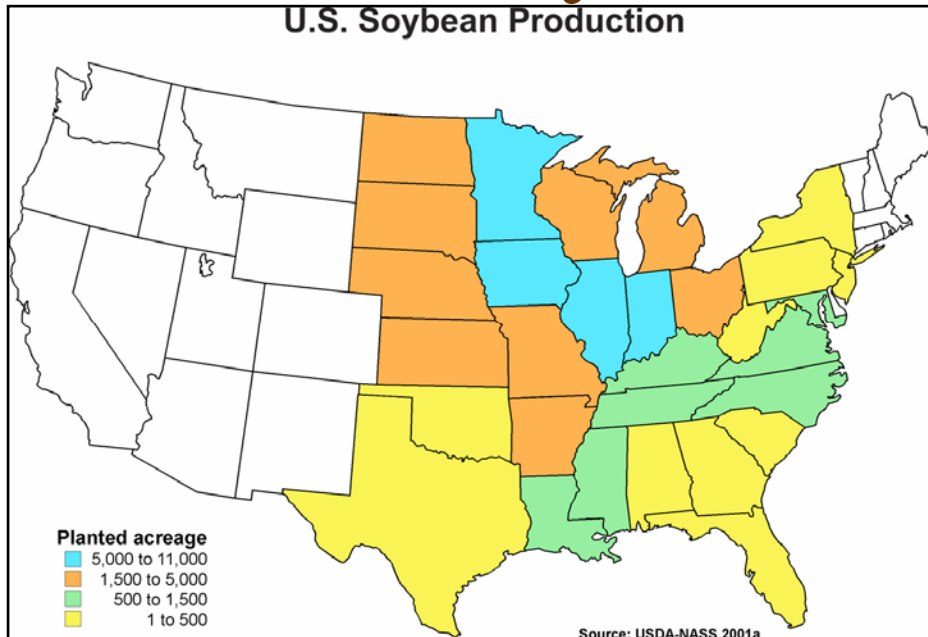


Soybean Rust

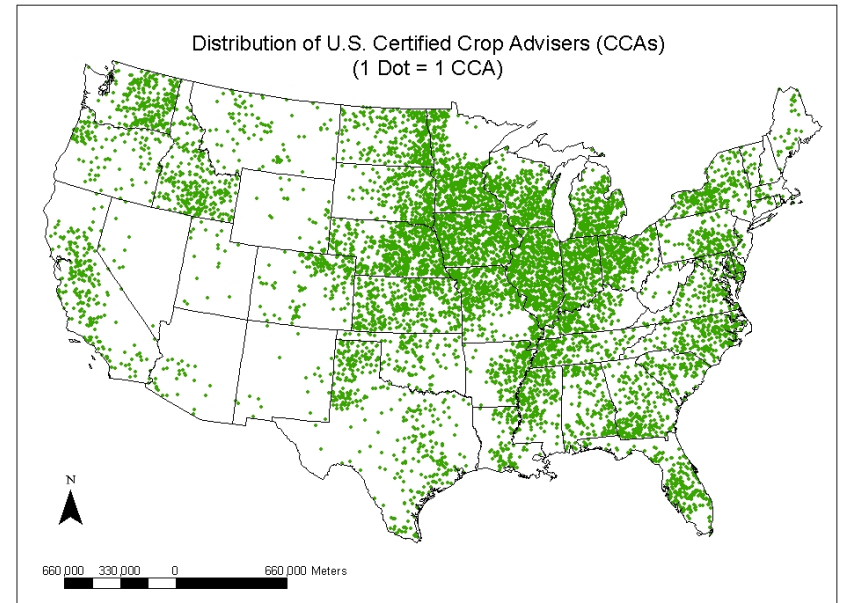
- Brand new disease
 - Little experience treating it in US
- Wide range of information out in the field
 - Some is “more correct” than others
- Valuable training
 - Communication with State Pathologist
 - And Diagnostic Clinic

Soybeans and CCA's

U.S. Soybean Production



Distribution of U.S. Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs)
(1 Dot = 1 CCA)



NPDN

- Is the National Plant Diagnostic Network
 - Within state and regional diagnostic labs
 - Train First Responders
 - Connect to one another for rapid sharing of information in the event of bio-terrorism
 - Asian soybean rust - event trainer
- CCA considers valuable - have increased communication
 - Used training material for co-workers



CCA involvement with NPDPN

- Education activities
 - Manual development
 - Reviewing new changes to modules
 - 2005 discussion sessions in FL & CA
 - Conference calls with Education sub-committee
- Continuing Education
 - With next revision will incorporate under PM education area
 - Awareness
 - “advanced training”



Future needs & value

- Communication at state level
- Value to further training
 - Awareness to increase
- Incorporate material into Continuing Education Performance objectives
- Specific to business of CCA
 - Crop losses
 - Diagnostics
 - Technology and value to grower
- Communication across to livestock areas, too





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