

Why Certify?

What is the difference between a trade group and a profession? A lot has been written on the subject. One of the acknowledged hallmarks of a true profession is a group's willingness and ability to set standards for its members.

Physicians, attorneys, and accountants approach certification in different ways, but all have established a process for assuring the public that the members of their profession are competent. The National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants has done the same for those who are providing crop management recommendations and research services to agricultural clients. These may include crop consultants, ag researchers, farm managers, Extension personnel, retailers, and others.

Do I Qualify to Certify?

The Certified Professional Crop Consultant (CPCC), CPCC-I (Independent) and CPCC-R (Researcher) programs are open to any individual who:

- Has a BS or a BA degree in an agricultural discipline. Candidates with a bachelor's degree in a non-agricultural discipline and/or 10 years of experience as a crop consultant or advisor may petition the NAICC Certification Board for a qualification review.
- Has a minimum of three years experience providing crop management recommendations with a bachelor's degree, master's, or a doctorate. Two years of farming, scouting, or other agricultural experience may be substituted for one year of consulting.

- Passes one of the following examinations: the licensing examination for the state where he or she practices, the state or regional CCA exam, or, if neither of the first two are available, the national CCA exam. A category 10 license is acceptable for researchers.
- Submits an acceptable written case study to demonstrate an ability to integrate various types of technology to solve a problem faced by a client.
- Submits names of five clients for which he or she performed services, three of whom must respond in writing.
- Maintains 36 continuing education units (CEUs) each year.
- Confirms in writing acceptance of the NAICC Code of Ethics.
- Documents Pesticide Safety Training.

In addition, those who wish to attain the CPCC-I designation must answer a series of questions concerning source of income, and have the answers to those questions reviewed by the NAICC Certification Board.

How to Apply

Candidates for the CPCC, CPCC-I and CPCC-R certification should contact NAICC headquarters or go the NAICC web site for applications. The application must be submitted in its entirety, including the written essay, and the candidate must contact all institutions of higher education where degrees were granted and request that original or notarized copies of his or her transcripts be sent to NAICC headquarters.

Processing of the application will begin within 48 hours of receipt of the completed application.

Annual Renewal

To remain certified, individuals must renew their certification annually. All certified individuals will be invoiced by NAICC in November, with the renewal fee and documentation of CEU credits due by February 1. Updated certifications will be issued by March 1.

Continuing Education Units

The CPCC CEU program was designed to meet the needs of those who are providing crop management recommendations and research services to agricultural clients. Attendance at state and national consultants association meetings, Extension training sessions, and university short courses all qualify for CEU credit, with units usually tied to hours of attendance. For example, a one-day university short course would net the certified individual six CEUs. In addition, credit is available for professional service such as holding office in professional societies and organizations, guest lecturing at universities, etc. Each certified individual is responsible for acquiring documentation for all CEU activities. NAICC provides forms and information sheets that make the process as simple as possible, and accepts forms from other certification programs. Documentation is due at time of renewal, and CEU information is kept on file at NAICC headquarters. Verification of CEUs will be made on a random basis.