ICCA North American Board Meeting

Exam Update

SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2023
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DIRECTOR OF CERTIFICATIONS

Lacey Edwardson - Update from Certification Staff

- Support Center
- Fillable Forms
- Reviewer Policy Manual

ASA/SSSA Certification Program Goals

Consistency and Standardization Across all Exams.

Compliance with Accepted Standards for Credentialing Exams.

Operate and Maintain an Exam Program that is Legally Defensible.

9/22/2023 Add a footer

Things to talk about…

Internet Based Testing (IBT) and Remote Proctoring Update	Continuous Testing - what happened?	Window Testing
Specialty Exams	Exam Statistics	Results reporting and Process
FFA CCA Apprentice	Other	

IBT/Remote Proctoring

- IBT/Remote Proctoring technology is working well.
- Still have no-shows and incompletes.
- Examinee handbook, instructions are not read consistently.
- Watching videos when examinees are flagged.
  - **Letters of warning and "no score" have been sent as needed.**
- Have tested the new proctoring service, will be switching over in the next 6 months.
  - Examinee handbook has been updated for the new proctoring service and has been translated to Spanish.
  - Will allow Mexico to participate since the proctoring service offers Spanish speaking proctors.

Continuous Testing - What happened?

- Many different thoughts on this – **not sure there is one "silver bullet".**
- Testing industry generally sees an increase in exam numbers with continuous testing.
- Our industry showed a drop – due to???
  - Pandemic?
  - Easy to put off until tomorrow?
  - **Certification not important to….**
    - Industry?
    - Producers?
    - Younger people in the profession?
    - Too time consuming?
- Discussions with ICCA Executive Committee and several exam committees led to moving back to Window Testing.

Window Testing – 4 times/year

- Continuous testing is concluding September 30, 2023.

- Window testing begins November 2023 with longer windows.

- <u>NOVEMBER 2023</u>
Exam Registration: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 – Monday, October 23, 2023
Exam Scheduling: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – Thursday, November 9, 2023
Exam Window: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – Monday, November 13, 2023

- 2024 Exam Windows:
  - January 24 - February 5
  - March 27 - April 8
  - July 24 - August 5

Section Testing – coming 2024

- Starting with the March-April window in 2024, examinees will have the option of completing their ICCA and Local Board Exams one section at a time.

- This means that they can take Nutrient Management, Soil and Water Management, Pest Management, and Crop Management <u>separately</u> thereby being able to study for and take the test for one subject at a time.

- Examinees choosing this option will have <u>one year to finish all four sections</u> of the exam they choose to take this way. More than one section can be taken in any given exam window.

- Each section will have a cut score set by our psychometrician that is equal to that of taking the entire exam at one time.

- Overall proctoring fee will be more expensive sitting for one section at a time with 4-one hour sessions versus a single proctoring session.

Specialty Exams

Certification	Number Currently Certified	Total Number Certified
4R NMS	463	515
Region 1 (W. Canada)	42	43
Region 2 (Ontario)	139	154
Region 3 (NW U.S.)	7	7
Region 4 (Mid/NE U.S.)	255	289
Region 6 (SE U.S.)	20	22
Precision Ag	161	177
RMS	140	157
U.S.	120	136
Ontario	20	21
SSp	155	175

Results, Reporting, and Exam Committee Work

- IBT/RP
  - Window Testing
  - Immediate Results unless need a new/equated cut score, then results reported within 2 weeks
  - Remote Proctoring update
  - Official Results Dependent Upon Proctor Report
- Official Results
  - Sent out by our office 7-10 days

- Exam Committees follow the Exam Process
- Meet every other week
- Work depends on the exam status
- Will run the item analysis when numbers make sense
- Boards can request P/F stats from our office at any time

Item Analysis

What do the Exam Committees look at and base changes on?

Form	Type		P-val		Pbis		Item Rel	Use			Comments	
Form 2022v1	MC	↘	0.94	↗	0.19	↗	0.04	Use	Marginal	95	Easy	Opt. B: Not Plausible
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.75	↑	0.26	↑	0.11	Use	Good	35		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.70	↑	0.32	↑	0.15	Use	Good	42		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.62	↘	0.09	↗	0.04	Use	Marginal	47	Low Discrimination	
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.46	↑	0.21	↑	0.10	Use	Good	58		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.55	↑	0.24	↑	0.12	Use	Good	45		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.58	↘	0.07	↘	0.03	Use	Poor	34	Low Discrimination	Opt. C: Not Plausible
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.65	↗	0.11	↗	0.05	Use	Marginal	37	Low Discrimination	
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.58	↑	0.22	↑	0.11	Use	Good	34		
Form 2022v1	MC	↓	0.13	↗	0.12	↘	0.04	Use	Poor	30	Low Discrimination, Very Hard	
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.47	↑	0.30	↑	0.15	Use	Excellent	36		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.75	↑	0.47	↑	0.20	Use	Excellent	20		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.50	↑	0.34	↑	0.17	Use	Excellent	36		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.75	↑	0.35	↑	0.15	Use	Excellent	33		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.48	↑	0.30	↑	0.15	Use	Excellent	37		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.82	↑	0.48	↑	0.19	Use	Excellent	27		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.61	↑	0.32	↑	0.16	Use	Excellent	31		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.76	↑	0.42	↑	0.18	Use	Excellent	18		
Form 2022v1	MC	↘	0.23	↑	0.34	↑	0.14	Use	Good	33		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.47	↓	-0.06	↓	-0.03	Use	Don't Use	31	Negative Discrimination	
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.76	↑	0.22	↑	0.09	Use	Good	26		
Form 2022v1	MC	↑	0.52	↑	0.37	↑	0.19	Use	Excellent	278		

Option Analysis - A Closer Look at Item Performance

P-value	Rpbs	Avg Sec	Option	Count	%	Rpbs	[28,45]	(45,56]	(56,61]	(61,69]	(69,91]	Avg Sec
0.47	0.3	36	A	9	8%	-0.22	4	5	0	0	0	31
0.47	0.3	36	B	22	20%	-0.19	7	5	5	4	1	31
0.47	0.3	36	* C	51	47%	0.3	6	12	7	10	16	35
0.47	0.3	36	D	27	25%	-0.03	6	5	4	8	4	42

P-value	Rpbs	Avg Sec	Option	Count	%	Rpbs	[28,45]	(45,56]	(56,61]	(61,69]	(69,91]	Avg Sec
0.47	-0.06	31	A	4	4%	-0.1	2	1	0	1	0	32
0.47	-0.06	31	B	7	6%	0.05	1	3	0	1	2	36
0.47	-0.06	31	C	47	43%	0.08	9	12	4	11	11	29
0.47	-0.06	31	* D	51	47%	-0.06	11	11	12	9	8	32

Time to Complete Exam

— Form 2022v1
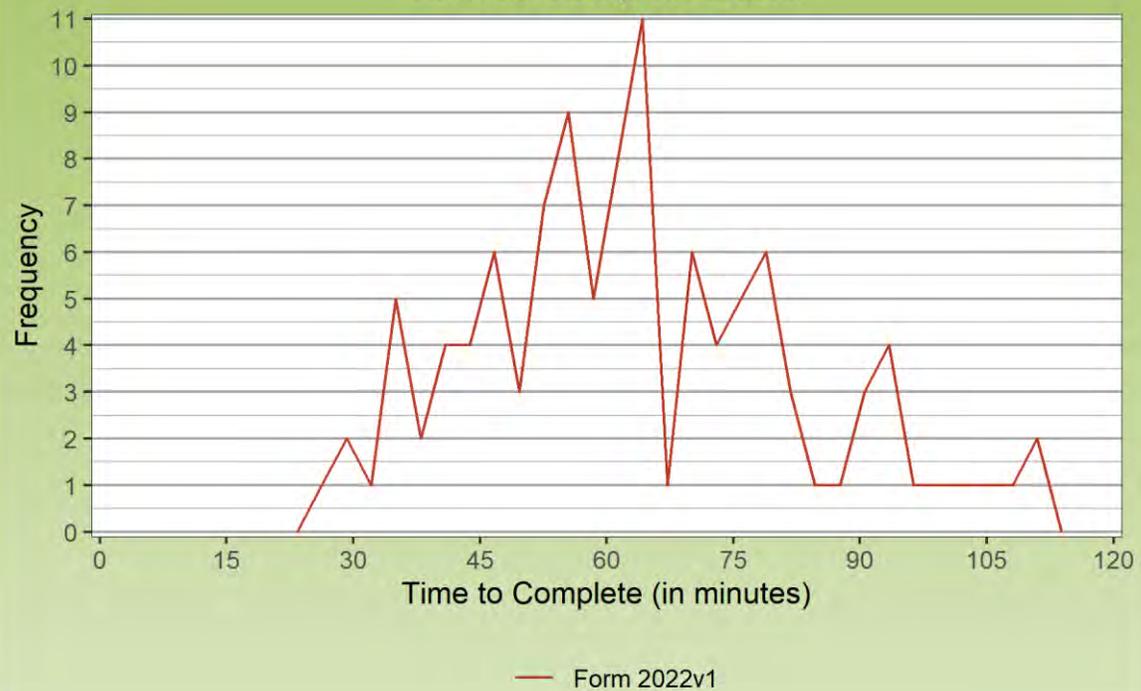
Time to Complete Exam by Exam Score
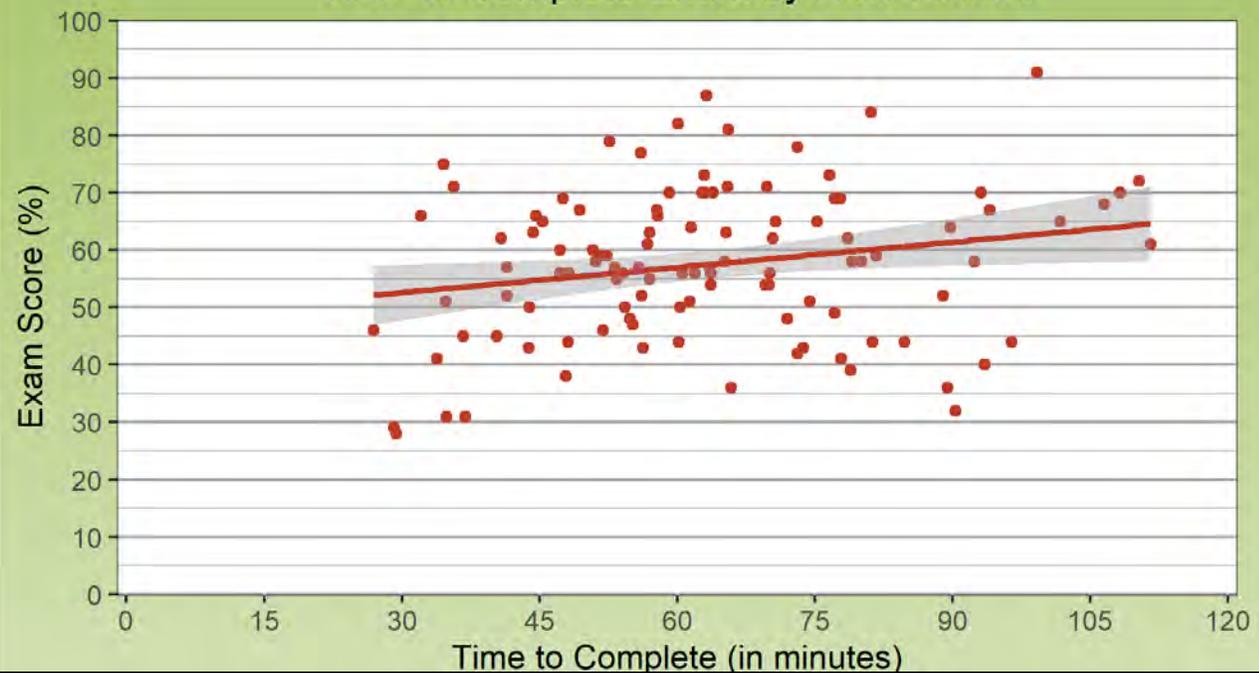
Demographics

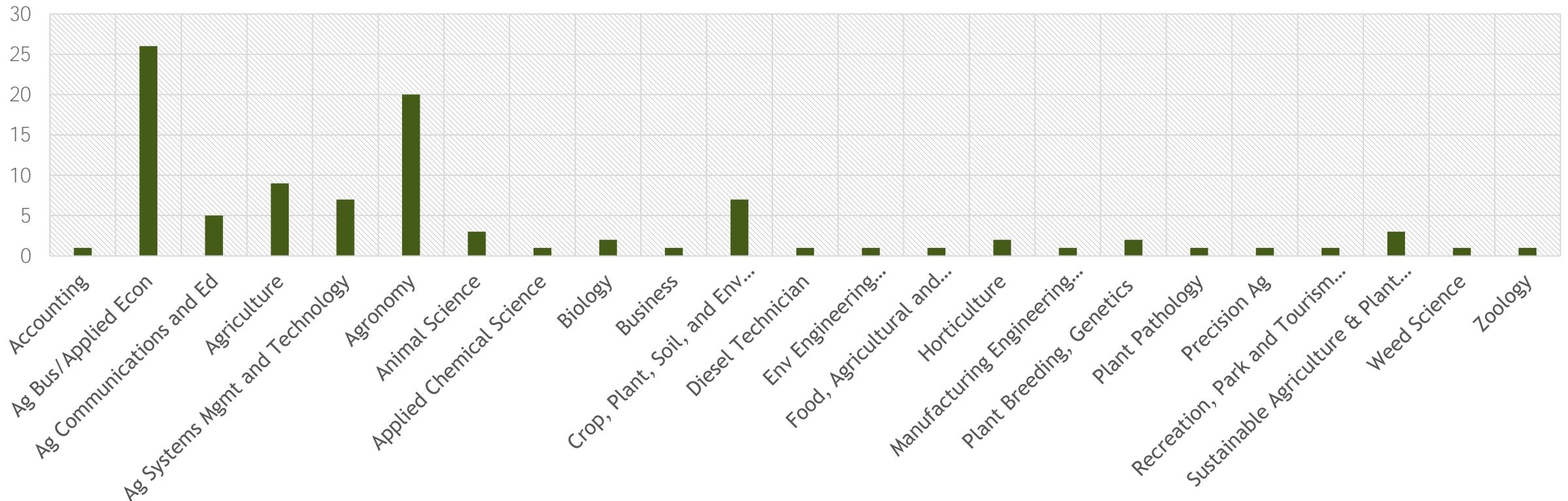- What we collect:
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Years of Work Experience
  - Work Sector
  - Highest Degree
  - Major/Minor

- Question on work sector:
- Currently have choices of:
  - Academia
  - Agribusiness - Retail
  - Agribusiness - Wholesale or Manufacturer
  - Government
  - Industry
  - Private Consulting
- Any suggested changes?

Major Area of Study Indicated by Examinee

Count by Major

Exam Program

- Large number of exams.
- Exam Program is growing:
  - Brazil
  - Mid Atlantic NM
  - South Florida/Caribbean
  - Possible other International opportunities
- Discussion of combining local board exams with similar agriculture.

2023 CCA & CPAg Program Participants

Northwest Region
CCA 479
CPAg 14

Prairie Province Region
CCA 1356

Ontario Province Region
CCA 669
CPAg 1

Atlantic Province Region
CCA 64

Rocky Mountain Region
CCA 95
CPAg 5

CCA 320
CPAg 3

CCA 525
CPAg 19

CCA 639
CPAg 27

Northeast Region
CCA 318
CPAg 9

CCA 268
CPAg 4

CCA 293
CPAg 6

CCA 140
CPAg 10

CCA 1095
CPAg 33

CCA 671
CPAg 28

CCA 530
CPAg 17

Mid-Atlantic Region
CCA 224
CPAg 14

CCA 465
CPAg 16

CCA 1035
CPAg 32

CCA 3
CPAg 2

CCA 145
CPAg 5

CCA 324
CPAg 11

CCA 243
CPAg 5

CCA 198
CPAg 5

CCA147
CPAg 10

Western Region
CCA 1387
CPAg 50

CCA 7

CCA 76
CPAg 3

CCA 196
CPAg 12

CCA 114
CPAg 5

CCA 76
CPAg 2

CCA 82
CPAg 1

CCA 54
CPAg 5

CCA 233
CPAg 13

Southeast Region
CCA 197
CPAg 5

CCA 14?
CPAg 16

Mexico
CCA 60

International
CCA 2

Total Certified
CCAs 12,871
CPAgs 400

CCA Retired 356
CPAg Retired 29

CCA Candidates 82
4R NMS 493
SSp 151
RMS 158
PASp 174
MM 21
NSp 904

FFA Project

- CCA Apprentice Program
- Exam
  - Uses ICCA POs
  - 60 questions
  - First year 2022 at the Career Development Event in October in Indianapolis at the FFA Convention.
  - 24 passed from 17 different states and were offered CCA Apprentice.
- 2023 Exam is complete.
- More detailed discussion about FFA tomorrow.

Moving forward

- Software updates have allowed us more autonomy on certain exam tasks, which we can do in house.

- Exam committees are asking for increased statistical analysis - many very good suggestions on how to use our accumulating data resources.

- Proctoring -new proctoring partner coming soon.

- Marketing the profession, the certification and the benefits of being certified.

- Planning and changing for the future.

Other Questions/Discussion?

Thank you! Please feel free to contact me any time to continue the discussion.

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Director of Certifications

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