
Reciprocal Credit Agreement between WSDA and Private Entities

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

December 2015



PREPARED BY:

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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(As required by RCW 15.58.233(3)(c))

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Background

As of Aug 31, 2015 Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Organization had 179 individuals that held CCA certification and that also hold pesticide licenses through the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). Both the pesticide license and CCA certification require recertification every few years to remain valid. Many licensees accomplish this through continuing education credits. Sponsors of these courses are required to submit a request to both WSDA and CCA for their credits to be approved for each organization. As this doubled the sponsors' workload, they often only request credits from one entity or the other. This created difficulty for WSDA/CCA certification holders to keep up their credits for both, even though most were attending more than enough hours of pesticide specific education to satisfy each organization's requirements. In 2014, a student in an Ag Forestry program who was a dual license holder saw a need for better accommodation of private entities that have continuing education credits, which led to the passing of SB 1527. This bill added subsection (c) to RCW 15.58.233(3), which requires the department to confer with the private entity to develop an effective and efficient system to coordinate pest management credit accounting and reciprocity.

WSDA requires a total of 40 continuing education credits in a period of 5 years for certified applicators to recertify their license, with no more than 15 credits in a year. All of these credits must be approved through our recertification program to ensure that they cover topics directly related to pesticide usage. While the CCA program requires 40 credits in 2 years, only 10 of those credits are required to be related to pesticides and pest management. As CCA requires a lower number of pesticide credits than WSDA, the agency is not able to recertify a pesticide license based on a valid CCA license as would occur with reciprocal licensing from other states or federal departments' pesticide licenses.

Collaborative Efforts

Though WSDA cannot reciprocate licenses due to the discrepancy in the number of credits required for WSDA/CCA certifications, CCA could accredit based on WSDA credits or License validation. In addition, there are other steps that can be taken to allow easier recertification in

both organizations. On August 31, 2015, WSDA Pesticide Licensing Program Manager Robin Schoen-Nessa and Licensing Specialist Lindsey Moses met with Director of CCA Luther Smith, Jim Fitzgerald and Denise Spanbauer of Far West Agribusiness, and CCA/WSDA certification holders Ben Moehrle and John Rylaarsdam in Spokane, WA to discuss potential solutions. The following possibilities were discussed:

- CCA member sends a copy of their current WSDA license to the CCA Program for automatic update of Pesticide (Pest Mgt.) credits in the CCA databank
- CCA National verifies each member via WSDA's database – if current active licensee – CCA grants credits
- NWCCA Board approves 8 pesticide credits per year based on current WSDA license
- WSDA currently issues list of credits/courses completed to each licensee every Nov. – Member could submit this list to National CCA office for credit update
- All WSDA approved programs, approved by CCA board (Denise, NW region) - CCA can add a field to their database that shows if credit approved by WSDA Recertification Program – this way update to CCA member credits can be automatic electronically.
- When WSDA updates Recertification Database (within next 3-5 years), we can consider feasibility of adding a field for CCA courses.

On November 23 2015, Robin Schoen-Nessa, Irene Beckman and Lindsey Moses from WSDA had a call-in meeting with Denise Spanbauer of Far West Agribusiness, who reviews and approves courses submitted for CCA credit. It was determined that course topics that qualify for credit are equivalent for both programs, so reciprocating individual credits/courses should be feasible. This possibility has the potential to cut down on the workload for both organizations and course sponsors, as sponsors only need to submit their course to one or the other. Luther Smith of CCA has let WSDA know that the CCA board will still need to vote to approve automatic adding of credits to a CCA license based on a WSDA license's credits, but he is hopeful that they will move on it in the near future so that implementation may begin in 2016. Recent conversations with CCA indicate that they plan on adding a field in their database to indicate whether a course had received credit from WSDA as well. The mechanics for how credit/course reciprocation will ultimately be done to maximize efficiency is still under review by both WSDA and CCA.

Moving Forward

WSDA will continue to work with CCA or other private entities, if requested, to develop reciprocal agreements or make reasonable accommodations as possible, to ease the burden on pesticide licensees that hold concurrent licenses from other organizations. Future meetings will be held with CCA to finalize the process of reciprocation by both CCA and WSDA.