

September 2017

NEWS REGARDING: Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Award  
**Nominations due November 10, 2017**

FROM: Justin Schneider - Indiana Farm Bureau Inc.  
Quentin Rund - Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Program Coordinator

We would like your help in nominating a qualified CCA you work with for the "Indiana Certified Crop Adviser of the Year Award" for 2017. This award will recognize an individual who has performed superior service for you in nutrient management, soil and water management, pest management and crop production.

The award will be presented to the winner at the Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Conference on December 12-13, 2017, in Indianapolis. The county Farm Bureau that submits the winning application will receive **\$250** and the CCA winner will receive **\$1,500**. In addition, the winner will be eligible for the National CCA Award of **\$1,000**. The Indiana winner will be submitted to the International CCA Board for consideration for the International CCA of the Year Award.

The purpose of our Indiana award program is to increase awareness that farmers and their service people strive to do their best, not only in making economically sound cropping decisions, but also ones that are environmentally sound. With increasing farm size, complexity of management options, and increasingly complex regulations, we foresee farmers relying more and more on the advice of specialists who are CCAs.

To be considered for the Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Award, a CCA must be certified in Indiana and nominated by a county Farm Bureau, an active Farm Bureau member, or by the employer of the CCA who knows of the qualifications.

Additionally, other agricultural groups may suggest nominations. These other agricultural groups should work with their county Farm Bureau on the nomination since the nomination form must be signed by the county Farm Bureau president.

A nomination form, letter of recommendation form, and tips for completing the nomination are included. Please feel free to copy and distribute to those who might be using services of a CCA.

The nomination should include the nomination form, three letters of recommendation - one from the CCA's employer and two from customers. Three letters of recommendation may come from customers if the CCA is self-employed.

Indiana Farm Bureau must receive the nomination by **November 10, 2017**. If you have any questions, please contact Justin Schneider at 317.692.7835 or Quentin Rund at 1.800.387.1283.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TIPS FOR COMPLETING CCA AWARD NOMINATION

**Purpose:** The Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Award is designed to recognize a certified crop adviser who delivers exceptional customer service, is highly innovative, has shown that they are a leader in their field, and has contributed substantially to the exchange of ideas and the transfer of agronomic knowledge within the agriculture industry.

**Minimum Standards:** Nominees must be a Certified Crop Adviser, certified in Indiana and in good standing. The CCA must be nominated by a current Farm Bureau member, county Farm Bureau or employer with first-hand knowledge of the quality of work the CCA has performed. The nomination should include the nomination form (signed by the county Farm Bureau president) and three recommendation forms. (Two recommendation forms should be from customers and one from the employer. If the CCA is self-employed, three letters are needed from customers).

**Selection Committee:** The Selection Committee will be comprised of three representatives of the Indiana CCA Board, plus two members of the Indiana Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

### *Tips:*

1. Typed forms are preferred.
2. The main question to answer is: What is this CCA doing that is over and above what others are doing, unique, or cutting-edge? We are looking for specific examples.
3. Here are some suggestions for the nomination form:
  - **For question number 2**, try to include situations where the CCA is involved in daily field decisions and crop production advice. For example, state the number of customers, type of crops, number of acres on which the CCA is advising, number of locations for which they are responsible, running plot trials, etc.
  - **In question number 3**, try to include activities like writing a customer newsletter, organizing a meeting of customers to review the past year's successes and failures, holding field days to highlight new technologies and emerging issues, etc. These activities should be things that other CCAs are not routinely doing.
  - **Question number 4** asks for a list of the CCA's program involvement. This could be serving on a CCA committee, writing articles for publication, ensuring CCA decals are on all company vehicles and office windows, distributing CCA brochures to producers, etc.
  - **Question number 5** is an opportunity to highlight some of the other community activities in which the CCA may be involved. For example, sports teams/coaching, local Soil & Crop Improvement Association, Ag in the Classroom, local hospital boards, involvement in charities, etc.

### **Deadline:**

Nomination forms must be received by **November 10, 2017**, and sent to:

Justin Schneider - Indiana Farm Bureau Inc.  
P. O. Box 1290  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1290  
Phone: 317.692.7835  
E-Mail: [jschneider@infb.org](mailto:jschneider@infb.org)

**NOMINATION FORM**  
**INDIANA CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2017**

*Please complete this nomination form and submit with three letters of recommendation.*

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CCA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Employer (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Additional pages may be added if needed.*

1. How many years of crop consulting experience? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Scale and scope of crop advising work being done i.e. type of clientele, acres responsible for crops, particular areas of focus or specialty. *20 points*

3. What skills or initiatives has this CCA displayed in his/her crop advising career that sets him/her apart from their colleagues? *50 points*
  4. List CCA program involvement, i.e. serving on committees, Board, organizing CCA events, promoting continuing education, promoting own designation or company involvement, etc. *20 points*
  5. Other volunteer service within and outside the agriculture industry. *10 points*

Signature of county Farm Bureau president: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return by November 10, 2017, to:**

Justin Schneider  
Indiana Farm Bureau Inc.  
225 South East Street  
P. O. Box 1290  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1290  
[jschneider@infb.org](mailto:jschneider@infb.org)

**Letter of Recommendation  
Indiana Certified Crop Adviser of the Year Award 2017**

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Person completing reference (customer or employer): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Additional pages may be added if needed.*

1. How many years has the CCA been assisting you with crop advice? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What type of services and advice has the CCA provided? Were the CCA's activities unique or exceptional? (i.e. plot work such as corn hi-bred trials or variable rate nitrogen, new product demonstration, yield map interpretation, etc.)
3. What specific crop production objectives/goals were met and how have these resulted in a net benefit to your operation?
4. Has the nominee been instrumental in identifying, reducing, solving, or avoiding any environmental problem?
5. Were the CCA's activities a proactive approach to a particular agronomic problem or challenge facing farming, rural communities or the agri-food industry? Describe:
6. Please make any other comments which you feel best describes the candidate.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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