Louisiana CCA Board Meeting
March 10, 2015

Place: Norman Efferson Hall, Room 212, LSU Campus, Baton Rouge, La.
Board Members Present: Chris Coreil, Marty Pousson, John Fontane, Rustin Gilder, Mike Venable
Guest Present: Luther Smith, ICCA coordinator

The board meeting was held following a meeting with Dr. Rogers Leonard, Vice Chancellor, LSU Ag Center. Here is a brief summary of that meeting.

Dr. Leonard had invited CCA Board Members, and Luther Smith to meet with three Louisiana County Agents to discuss having the agents become CCA's. Luther Smith gave the agents an overview of the program and the requirements to become a CCA. Rogers stated that there were a lot of young agents coming into the LSU Ag Center with little experience in production agriculture. By using the CCA, these agent could receive Continuing Education thru the CCA and LSU would not necessarily have to train them as a separate group. The agents present said that they were already receiving the CEU's but were not getting credit for them. Dr. Leonard stated that if the agents agree to become CCA's, he would be in the initial group. The County Agents will present the proposal to a County Agent Board which will meet this month. If the board approves the proposal, the agents would present the proposal to a full group of county agents that will meet in June 2015 in Monroe, Louisiana.

Dr. Leonard also presented a few webinar educational videos that were produced by the LSU Ag Center. The webinars would be utilized as a supplement to train agents coming into production agriculture and to assist veteran agents in updating their education. Dr. Leonard also stated that the webinars would be available to CCA's for CEU's. The webinars could be set up for CCA's to review and submit with their CCA number and the CEU's would automatically show up on the CCA database. Currently they are producing a full array of webinars on soybean production but intend to start production on all the major crops grown in Louisiana. The webinars would also include sessions on Nutrient Management and Soil and Water.

CCA Board Meeting commenced at 3:00pm.
Items discussed were as such:

1) A financial statement for 2014 was presented to the board showing an ending balance of $13811.77. A discussion was held by the board on how to best use these funds to promote and assist the Louisiana CCA Program. It was suggested that we could again run ads in the Louisiana Farm and Ranch Magazine utilizing promotional material provided by ICCA. Also discussed was utilizing some of the funds to assist the LSU Ag Center in production of the webinars and the use of the webinars by CCA's for CEU's. A motion was made by Rustin Gilder and seconded by Mike Venable to give the LSU Ag Center $2000.00 to assist with the webinars. The motion was approved.

2) John noted that the ICCA renewal income of $1225. Luther stated this should just be for renewal income for 2014. John noted that La. renewal fees are $15 and if you divide that out it become 81.67 La. CCA’s. Luther would try to get an explanation. John stated that his records indicate the in 2014 there were 78 Louisiana CCA's.
3) John informed the board that the Louisiana CCA web site would have a place under continuing education where several links to webinar’s could be easily accessed for CEU’s. Such links would include access to NRCS webinars, ICCA webinars, the LSU Ag Center webinars and any others as they become available. Luther Smith stated that this was an up and coming way in which CCA’s want to get CEU’s.

4) Luther discussed that he has proposed to the ICCA board that CEU sessions should be reduced to shorter that half hour sessions. The ICCA board rejected the proposal. Luther told the La. CCA Board that if he could get access to some of the LSU Ag Center webinars, which are as short as 10 minutes, he could demonstrate to the ICCA board that shorter sessions can provide be very effective.

5) Dr. Leonard informed the Board that there were about 60 County Agents that could become CCA’s. It was discussed by the board as to how many may be viable candidates. The board agreed that number would be around 10 to 15. (Note: Dr. Leonard later informed the Board that he expects 20 County Agents and specialist would become CCA’s)

6) John briefed the Board on the ICCA’ requirement that all local Board exams and Performance Objectives be updated. A new person was hired by ICCA to assist with this issue. A exam committee consisting of John Fontane, Johnny Saichuk, Nathan Slaton (Arkansas) and Dennis Reginelli (Mississippi) was set up to rewrite the performance objectives, become trained in new software to assist with the exam updates and begin rewriting the exam. It was noted that September 2015 was set as a goal to complete the updates.

7) Luther asked the Board about combining with Arkansas and Mississippi to have a regional board. Most members present were not receptive to the idea because of logistics of meeting.

8) Marty discussed issues with the laws governing the Louisiana Crop Consultants. These laws were currently under review. One of the changes being considered was not requiring a person to have training under a current Crop Consultant before being allowed to be a Crop Consultant. Marty also discussed his experience with updating many of the exams that he monitors for different state organizations.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm