CCA LOUISIANA BOARD MINUTES FOR JANUARY 13, 2005

TIME: MEETING BEGAN AT 12:45 P.M. AT HOLIDOME IN LAFAYETTE, LA

PRESENT: Fran Deville, Mike Venable, J Stevens, John Fontane, Luther Smith and Marty Pousson

ITEMS DISCUSSED WERE AS SUCH:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting with no changes.
2. All members introduced themselves to Luther Smith who attended the meeting. Luther is the National Director for the CCA program.
3. John Fontane presented to members a request to consider funding a Weed I.D. Brochure that LSU will put together. All major chemical companies that sell rice herbicides will be asked to help fund this project. In the event that extra funds are needed, the board approved to assist in the funding… up to $500.00 if needed.
4. Board was reminded of upcoming meeting for members which will qualify for CEU’s.
   A. February 1 meeting in Alexandria at LSUA given by Jay Stevens (Back to Basics Fertilizer).
   B. February 22 Rice Fertilizer Meeting at Crowley County Agents office given by Cliff Synder and Jason Bond.
5. Future potential meeting were set as such:
   A. Sugar Cane Herbicide Mode of Action Meeting given by Jim Griffin (September) and Nutrient Management. (Speaker to be determined.)
   B. Weed Identification Meeting for dealers given in June.
   C. Pasture Fertilizer Meeting in September given by Jay Stevens.
   D. Soil and Water Quality Meeting (date undetermined but maybe with Cane Meeting).
   E. Cotton Meeting in Central Louisiana (details unknown).
   F. Two (2) day session in November to discuss various topics (CEU Training).
6. Fran Deville reminded the board that our core mission is to provide education on Nutrient Management and Soil and Water Quality.
7. John Fontane informed board of the services available from Southern Agri Business on CEC Training and on potential CCA Members Training for Testing.
8. It was approved by board to set up a Web Site for the LA CCA. The national office will set up the site at a cost of $40.00 per hour. It should take about 8 hours to set up. It was agreed to have a cross link with LAIA on the web site.
9. Board was informed about benefits of being a CCA member in relation to being a technical service provider for NRCS in the Conservation Security Program. Being a CCA member makes becoming a TSP a lot easier. However, CCA members, because of LA law can not be compensated for their work.
10. Luther Smith addressed the board about the following:
    A. CCA members should inform their customers of their professional status.
B. In a survey done with farmers, being a CCA member is not the defining reason farmers select someone to conduct their business.
C. In the last farm bill, it was almost passed that a crop service company could not both sell products and give crop advice.
D. Companies should consider CCA members when hiring and encourage employees to be CCA members.
E. Discussed tie in with CCA and TSP (NRCS).
F. Some states use a sign in – sign out form to police CEU’s.
G. Not everyone is a CCA candidate.
H. Consider awarding a top CCA once a year.
I. Value of being a CCA is in the eyes of the beholder.
J. Concentrate more on quality of member rather than number of members.
K. Promote us as a Professional Organization.
L. Contact employers of companies to promote the CCA program to their employees.
M. CCA Policy & Procedures manual states we should have a minimum of seven (7) members.

BASED ON LUTHER SMITH’S COMMENTS THE FOLLOWING WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

1. Contact the membership and ask for suggestions of anyone that wants to be on the board. We need two more members.
2. Set up an awards program using National Criteria form to determine recipient (headed by Jay Stevens and John Fontane). Give award out at next LAIA Meeting in January 2006. Ask members to nominate potential people.
3. Have a premier event at least once a year (an event that everyone looks forward to attending).
4. Try to elevate our training to the highest level possible. This would help reinforce our professional status and challenge our members to be better CCA members.
5. Agreed to suggest that at all educational events that the CCA form is put out at the end of the event.
6. Try to set up an exchange program as an award to some members. We would send an undetermined number of members to another state to view their farming practices and in return we would accept their members to view our farming practices.
7. Try to get someone from Brazil to come speak to the CCA members and other potential members about Soybean Asian Rust and farm practices. We would charge a fee for attendance to offset the cost.
8. Look into sending a member or members to one of the out of State Farm Shows.
9. Promote our events in the newspapers and Farm Journals.

Fran Deville informed board of the conflict between CCA and the LA Crop Consultants. The board agreed it does not want a conflict.
Marty Pousson stated that because 13 people will be taking the CCA exam in February, that we may need to move the test site. Luther will send a list of persons testing, so we can contact them about a new test site. A possible location maybe Crowley.

John Fontane will contact Betsy at the National Office in regards to Pickup Truck Decals for members.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:00 P.M.