



## Certified Crop Adviser Program

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Senator Ben Albritton  
Florida Senate  
314 Senate Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Albritton:

The American Society of Agronomy's (ASA) International Certified Crop Adviser (ICCA) Program along with our Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Florida Board would like to thank you and express our support for Senate Bill 1000.

The Bill defines a "certified professional" as a CCA with the CCA – 4R Nutrient Management Specialty (4RNMS). This is very appropriate to meet the needs of Florida growers for nutrient management and to protect the natural resources of the state.

CCAs are recognized by USDA – NRCS as technical service providers for nutrient management, pest management and tillage practices and have a working MOU with the agency. They are also listed as agricultural experts with the Risk Management Agency (RMA). Certification provides a system for farmers and the public to identify professionals with the technical expertise that they need while protecting consumers and enhancing public safety.

Each CCA must pass two comprehensive exams covering four competency areas of nutrient management; soil and water management; integrated pest management and crop management along with meeting education, experience and ethics standards for certification. Once someone is certified, they must continue to gain knowledge through the continuing education requirements that includes at least five hours every two years in each of the four competency areas with a total of 40 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) every two-years. The CCA - 4R NMS requires passing a third exam focused on a deeper level of knowledge and comprehension of nutrient management practices and principles. A CCA with the 4R NMS must also earn additional CEUs in nutrient management and soil and water management to maintain the specialty.

The ICCA Program consists of 13,440 certified professionals throughout North America with 151 in the state of Florida. These professionals are represented by "local" or state certifying boards. The CCA – Florida Board is comprised of Florida based professionals and technical, subject matter experts who implement the certification program to meet Florida conditions within the ASA's ICCA Program's policies and procedures. This structure allows the collaboration of national expertise and standards with Florida expertise and conditions resulting in a very strong, science-based certification process.

We fully support Senate Bill 1000 and the recognition of CCAs with the 4R NMS as "certified professionals" who will work with Florida farmers to meet nutrient management requirements while protecting Florida's natural resources.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance on this or other agricultural related topics. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luther B. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "L" and a long, sweeping tail.

Luther B. Smith, CAE  
Interim CEO, Director Professional  
Development

Mary Hartney