



# Board of Directors Meeting

June 4, 2026

# Agenda

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | <b>Welcome &amp; Consent Agenda</b>                                                                                                                                             |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve ICCA Minutes, March 12, 2026 (Document 2)</li> </ul>                                                                             | <b>Noon</b><br><b>Breimer</b>                       |
| 02 | <b>Introduce: Local Boards Best Practices</b>                                                                                                                                   |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MidAtlantic Crop Management School</li> <li>Nicole Fiorellino, Mid-Atlantic Board</li> </ul>                                             | <b>12:02 PM</b><br><b>Fiorellino</b>                |
| 03 | <b>Update: ASA Headquarters</b>                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Director of Certification Leon Katcharian</li> <li>Certification Manager Tina Sullivan</li> <li>ASA/ICCA Relationship</li> </ul>         | <b>12:15 PM</b><br><b>Cudahy</b>                    |
| 04 | <b>Aug. 26-27 Hybrid Board Meeting, Niagara Falls</b>                                                                                                                           |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aug. 25: Optional Field Tour</li> <li>Aug. 26-27: Board meeting, 1.5 days</li> <li>RSVP: July 26 on Google Doc, Reserve Hotel</li> </ul> | <b>12:25 PM</b><br><b>Uttech, Weber, Fitzgerald</b> |
| 05 | <b>Policy Update</b>                                                                                                                                                            |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy Committee Chair Shawn Wallace, Northeast Board</li> </ul>                                                                         | <b>12:35 PM</b><br><b>Wallace</b>                   |
| 06 | <b>Action: Vote on CCA Application Requirements</b>                                                                                                                             |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations from Task Force (Document 4)</li> <li>Task Force Chair Jason Hartschuh, Ohio Board</li> </ul>                            | <b>12:40 PM</b><br><b>Hartschuh</b>                 |
| 07 | <b>Digital App Task Force</b>                                                                                                                                                   |                                                     |
|    |                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>1:10 PM</b><br><b>Wolford, May</b>               |
| 08 | <b>Updates: Exams</b>                                                                                                                                                           |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot Testing In-Person Exams</li> <li>2026 Exam Statistics</li> <li>Organic Specialty Certification</li> </ul>                          | <b>1:15 PM</b><br><b>Wu</b>                         |
| 09 | <b>Review: CCA Board Collaboration Survey</b>                                                                                                                                   |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results &amp; Next Steps</li> <li>ASA Reinvest funds approved for CCA Marketing</li> <li>Call for Marketing Committee</li> </ul>         | <b>1:35 PM</b><br><b>Cudahy</b>                     |
| 10 | <b>Awards</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICCA of the Year: Joe Nester, Nester Ag LLC, CCA-OH &amp; IN</li> <li>Admin of the Year in Voting</li> </ul>                             | <b>1:50 PM</b><br><b>Wyant</b>                      |
| 11 | <b>Next Steps</b>                                                                                                                                                               |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for Volunteers: Survey Task Force</li> <li>Upcoming Meetings (CEUs available)</li> </ul>                                         | <b>1:55 PM</b><br><b>Breimer</b>                    |
| 12 | <b>Adjourn</b>                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                     |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Announce: Adjourn</li> </ul>                                                                                                             | <b>2:00 PM</b><br><b>Breimer</b>                    |



# Welcome & Consent Agenda

|    |                                                                                                                                              |                                               |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 01 | <b>Welcome</b>                                                                                                                               | <b>12:00 PM</b><br><b>Chair Aaron Breimer</b> |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please edit your Zoom name to include your Local Board.<br/>Example: Iowa - David Simonson</li></ul> |                                               |
|    | <b>Consent Agenda: Motion, Second, Vote to Approve</b>                                                                                       |                                               |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ICCA Board Minutes, March 12, 2026 (Document 2)</li></ul>                                            |                                               |





CERTIFIED  
CROP ADVISER



# Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School

Dr. Nicole Fiorellino  
Assistant Professor &  
Extension Agronomist  
University of Maryland,  
College Park

# History

- Started in 1995 as a collaborative effort between University of Maryland and University of Delaware
- Always a multiple-day event to provide CCA CE credits to maintain certification
- “One Stop Shop”



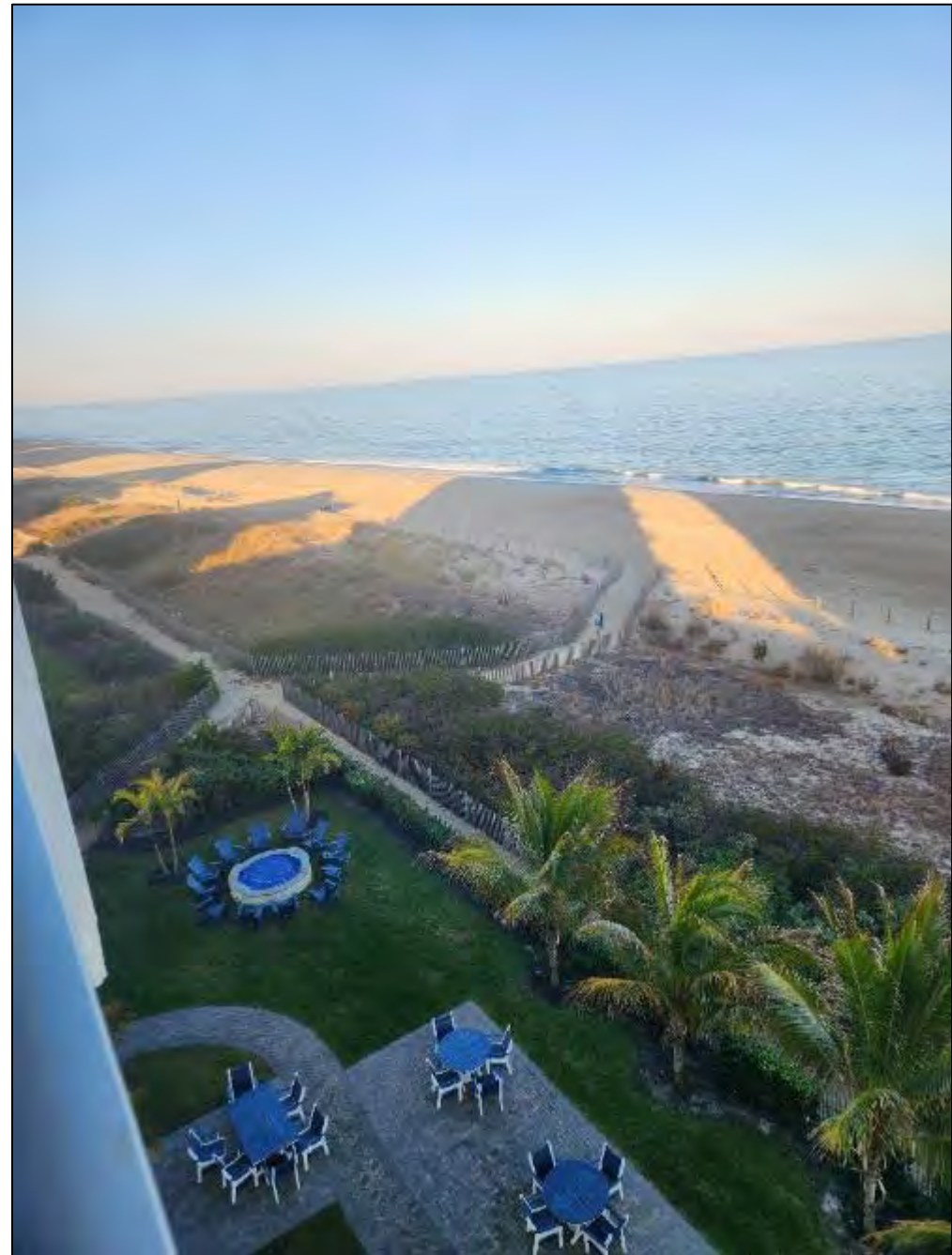
# Credits

- Always offer:
  - Nutrient Management
  - Crop Management
  - Soil and Water Management
  - Pest Management
  - Other credit types as needed:  
professional development,  
sustainability, ethics, precision ag
- State level nutrient management and pesticide credits where possible
  - MD, VA, DE, PA, WV

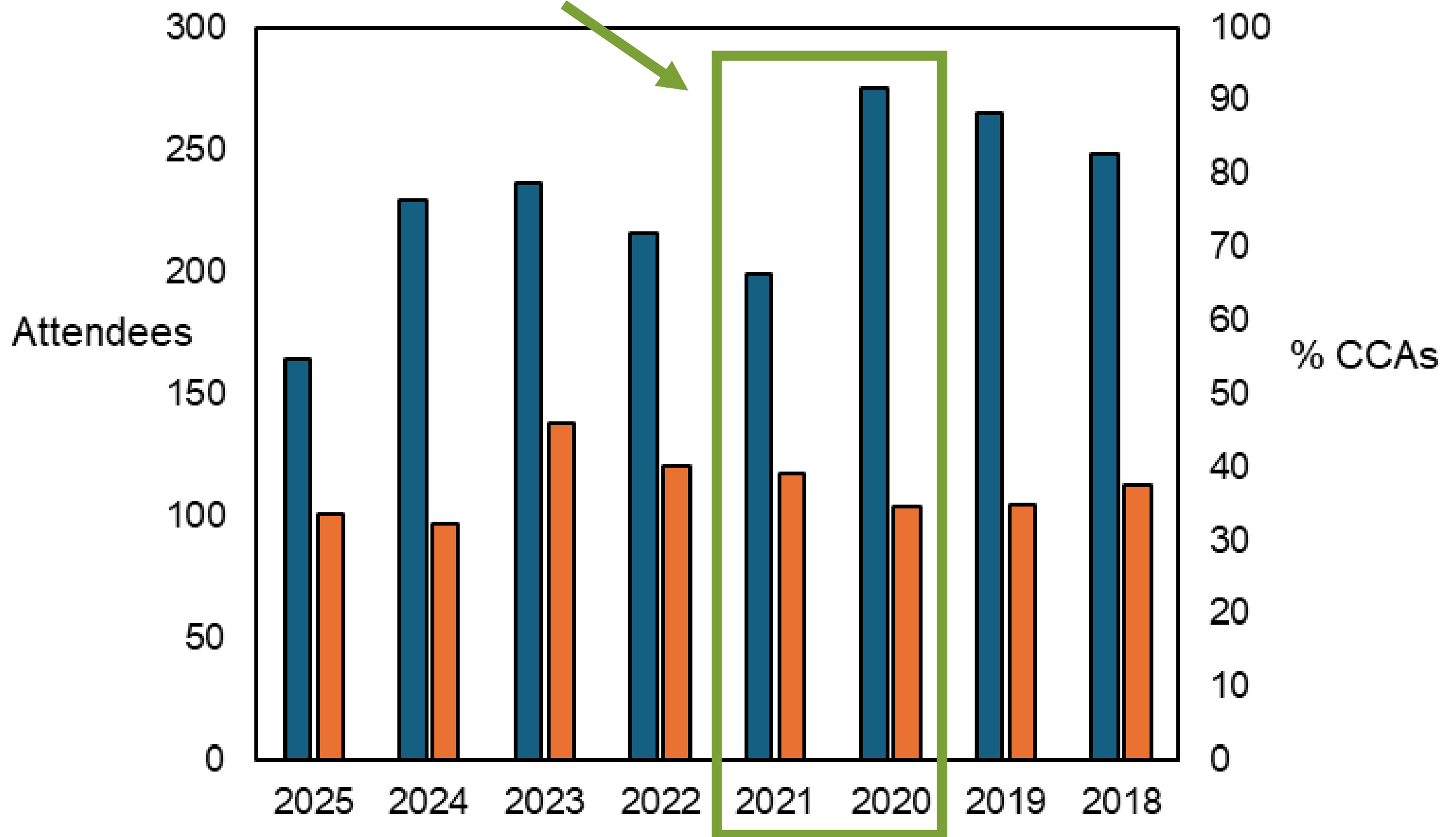


# Attendance

- Generally, we reach our maximum capacity (250 capacity, attendees plus speakers) each year
- Location probably helps
  - Ocean City, MD in November



# Crop School held virtually due to COVID-19



# Social Events



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

**FEARLESSLY  
FORWARD**



A wide-angle photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, a large green lawn is dotted with many people walking. A paved path runs across the middle of the lawn. In the background, a large, classical-style building with white columns and a pediment is visible, surrounded by trees. The sky is clear and blue.

**FEARLESSLY  
FORWARD**

Nicole Fiorellino, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, Agronomy  
301.405.6241 | [nfiorell@umd.edu](mailto:nfiorell@umd.edu)



CERTIFIED  
CROP ADVISER



# Headquarters Update

4 June 2026

# Personnel Update



**Leon Katcharian**  
**Director of**  
**Certification**



**Tina Sullivan, CCA**  
**Certification**  
**Manager**





# The ASA/ICCA Relationship

4 June 2026



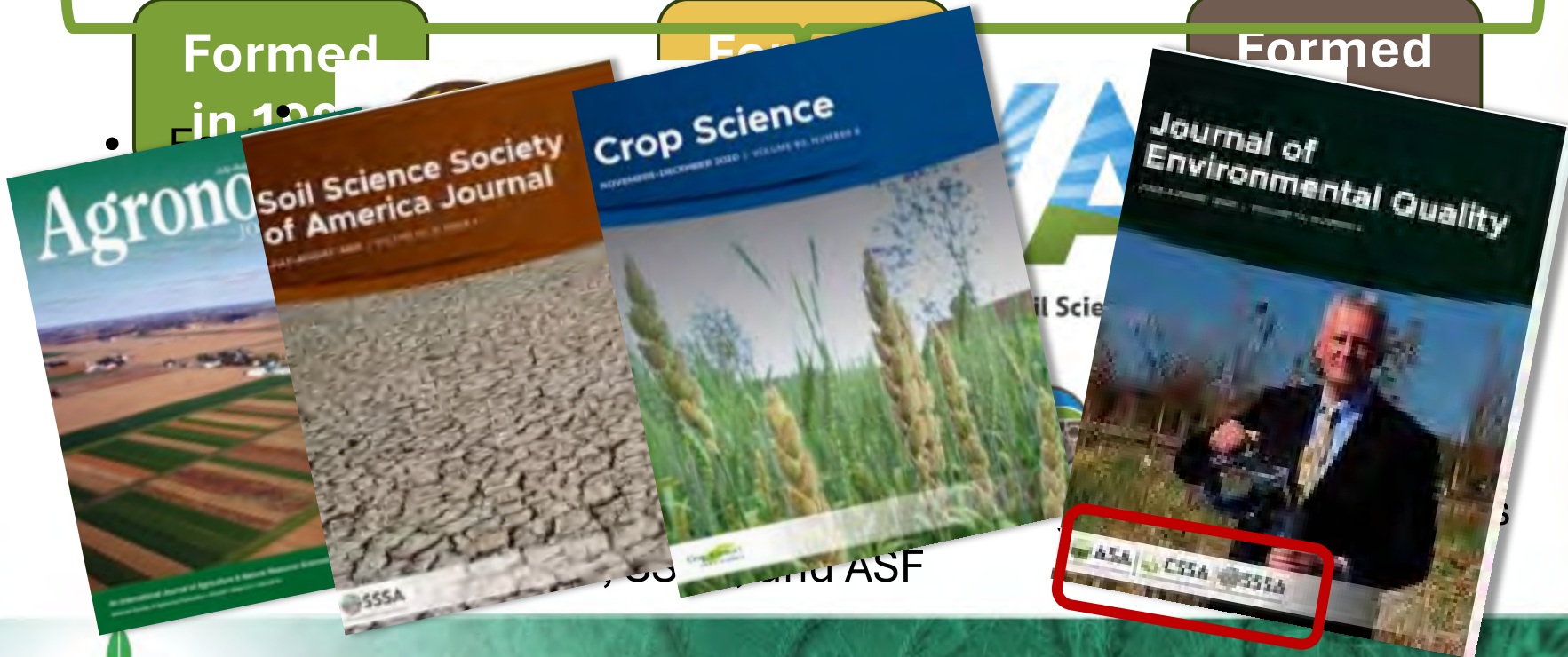
Formed

in 1909

Formed

Formed

Formed  
in 1968



# What do the Societies do?

- Publish 13 journals, two magazines & books
- Host a large annual meeting (CANVAS)
- Represent our members' and stakeholders' interest in DC (and, as necessary, at the state level)
- Online & regional educational programming
- Programs for grad students & undergraduates (SASES)
- Manage special projects & initiatives (i.e. workforce development)
- Last but not least: Manage certification programs





ASA Board of Directors

ICCA Executive Committee

ICCA Board



Mike Mulvaney, CCA  
ICCA Board Rep

Mid-Atlantic Region

Brazil

Western Region

Ohio

Ontario

Iowa

Illinois

Michigan

South Dakota

Etc.



# ing Documents



ASA Articles of Incorporation

ASA Bylaws

CCA Program Policies & Procedures



# Local CCA Boards...

- Volunteers indemnified under ASA Bylaws
- Covered by ASA's Directors' & Officers' Insurance policy
- Are components of ASA (not independent)
- Are part of ASA's non-profit status and, so...
- Subject to the same rules & laws applicable to non-profit organizations
- Are part of overall independent financial audit of the Societies annually

# ASA & ICCA by the Numbers

Includes Strategic  
Investment (ASA Reinvest)

\$1,641,540

ASA Operating  
Revenue, 2025

\$2,650,928

ASA Operating  
Expenses, 2025

(\$1,009,387)

ASA Operating Loss,  
2025

(\$25,992)

ICCA Operating  
Revenue, 2025

\$194,902

ICCA Operating  
Expenses, 2025

(\$220,894)

ICCA Operating  
Loss, 2025

# Investment Reserves

ASA Investment Portfolio  
(as of 31 Dec 2025)



\$23,613,77



Allocated Portion to ICCA Program  
(as of 31 Dec 2025)



\$3,584,15  
(\$1,739,540 = local board allocation)

Follows ASA Investment Policy Statement & Asset Allocation  
60% equities (stocks), 40% fixed-income (bonds)

## 2025 Investment Income

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Tennessee                | 445.32    |
| Texas                    | 538.63    |
| Western Region           | 7236.98   |
| Wisconsin                | 916.64    |
| Total CCA Board Interest | 32,841.44 |
| CCA Northwest Region     | 1742.57   |
| CCA Ohio                 | 980.04    |
| CCA Oklahoma             | 413.26    |
| CCA Ontario Province     | 213.48    |
| CCA Pennsylvania         | 839.67    |
| CCA Prairie Province     | 2390.8    |
| CCA Rocky Mountain       | 448.43    |
| CCA South Carolina       | 473.76    |
| CCA South Dakota         | 1262.83   |
| CCA Southeast CCA        | 950.9     |



# Hybrid Board Meeting Aug. 26-27 Niagara Falls

 **Aug. 24:** Travel day if on tour (*passport required for international travel*)

 **Aug. 25:** Optional Tour with CEUs (*thank you, Ontario CCA Board*)

 **Aug. 26-27:** Board Meeting | 1.5 days

 **By July 26**

- Complete RSVP in Google Doc, enter flight info for potential carpooling
- Reserve Hotel: **Hilton Niagara Falls/Fallsvue**

*Find links to Google Doc, Hotel in today's agenda or August calendar invite*

# ICCA Meeting August 25 to 27, 2026 Niagara Falls, Ontario

Education and Tour Component



# August 25<sup>th</sup>

- Custom tour of two wineries and a brewery
- Presentations on vineyard growing practices including ice wine
- Brewing and selecting hops and location ingredients
- Agronomic presentations on ginseng and commercial cannabis



# Between the Lines Winery

Award-winning, family-owned winery  
Niagara-on-the-Lake





# Oast House Brewery

First brewery in Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Ales, Seasonals and Farmhouse Ales  
Guided Craft Beer Tasting  
Use of locally sourced ingredients





# Presentations

# Cannabis Production

- Gillian Limebeer, Master Grower, Redecan Pharm, Tilray Brands
- Agronomic talk on the unique growing challenges of commercial cannabis



# GinsengOntario



- The ginseng industry in Canada is not only the largest field-grown horticultural export crop, but it is deeply “rooted” in Canadian heritage and history.
- We will hear a presentation from Sean Westerveld, Ontario Ginseng and Herbs Specialist, on growing and marketing Ontario-grown ginseng



# Lunch at Oast House

Pizza and Wings

Locally made Beechwood Doughnuts





# Peller Estates

Niagara's ONLY igloo-like lounge

Sparkling, red/white and ice wine

Tour and tasting including ice wine

Discussion with agronomist/staff regarding ice wine production



# Tour Concludes

- Transportation back to hotel





# Policy Update

Shawn Wallace, Northeast Board  
Chair, ICCA Policy Committee

# Vote on CCA Application Requirements (Document 4)

- Zoom Polls: one poll for each motion, one vote per local board, proxy voting allowed only if requested via email in advance
- To help us see who is voting, edit your Zoom name to include your Local Board.  
Example: Iowa - David Simonson

## Purpose

Modernize application requirements to reflect trends in higher education and workforce

## Task Force Members

Aaron Breimer, Chair, co-lead; Sterling Clifton, Arkansas Admin, CCA; Karen Corrigan, Vice-Chair, co-lead; Noah Goza, Kansas Chair; Mary Hartney, Florida Board Admin; Jason Hartschuh, Ohio Chair; DJ May, HQ

# Context: Changing Pathways into Crop Advising

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Agricultural careers increasingly draw from interdisciplinary degree programs

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Students are entering advising roles through biology, environmental science, economics, and related fields

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Workforce pipeline is broader than traditional agronomy-only pathways

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Certification policies should reflect current educational trends while maintaining standards



# Future of the ICCA Program

- Qualified candidates may not hold traditional agronomy degrees
- Rigid course requirements exclude capable professionals
- We can modernize without lowering standards
  - Exams and experience requirements set the bar!



# 1. Candidate Status

Motion: As soon as an individual passes all their exams and signs the Code of Ethics, they will become a CCA Candidate.

- a) **Reduce Friction/Improve User Experience:** They will no longer have to apply to be a candidate and will have the same 5 years to complete their application including necessary experience
- b) **More Supportive Pathway:** This will allow better tracking and engagement of individuals who have passed the exam to support them in completing their certification (e.g. a new CCA Candidate could immediately be assigned to their local board, allowing better outreach and connection from the time they pass their exams until they become a certified CCA).



## 2. References

Motion: Replace the requirement for two letters of reference with contact information for two references

- a) **Consistency and Defensibility:** These contacts could be contacted by evaluators OR a percentage of candidates are audited, with evaluators contacted by ASA Headquarters or the local board. Within a digital application system, both ASA Headquarters and local boards could audit in a system to ensure the same reference is not contacted by both.
- b) **Reduce Friction/Improve User Experience:** One of the goals of this task force was to make the process of completing the certification process easier. Instead of requiring the candidate to provide reference letters, supplying contact information for employers will make the process much easier.
- c) **Digitization:** Makes it easier to digitize the application process



### 3. Experience

Motion: Farm experience will be limited to making or recommending agronomic decisions on a farm.

- a) **Defensibility:** The current policy in the CCA Policy Manual related to on-farm experience reads, “If an applicant has farm experience, this experience may count up to one year of CCA work experience regardless of experience duration.” This policy does not specify that any agronomic decision-making is required for farm experience to count. Motions 3 and 4 seek to clarify this.
- b) **Maintain Rigor:** Growing up on a farm should not count, by default, as farm experience. The applicant must demonstrate that they have made production agronomic decisions, such as disease and insect scouting, replanting, fertility, precision ag application map creation, yield data analysis, and planting timing, for example.
- c) **Decrease Friction:** Along with motion 5, requiring a detailed explanation of agronomic decisions made on-farm — whether it’s a family farm or through work experience — could count toward the applicant’s experience requirement.



## 4. Farm Experience

Motion: Farm experience may count for up to 50% of a candidate's experience requirement provided that this farm experience included making or recommending agronomic decisions on a farm.

- a) **Current Policy:** “If an applicant has farm experience, this experience may count up to one year of CCA work experience regardless of experience duration.”
- b) **Defensibility:** The current phrasing is not clear and has been interpreted differently by boards. Growing up on a farm, for example, has been counted in the past for up to one year of experience. This motion seeks to clarify that all experience requirements must include on-farm advising, regardless of source or the applicant's background.
- c) **Maintain Rigor:** This will also help maintain the rigor of the experience requirement. Since this is an adviser position, they need to have not only the knowledge and experience of making agronomic decisions, but also advising a client on those decisions, which would not come from personal farm experience.

## 5. Experience Statement

Motion: Replace experience calculation worksheets with a detailed statement on the amount of on-farm advising experience they have obtained

- a) **Reduce Friction/Improve User Experience:** Purpose is to streamline the approach so a digital application portal can be created. There would also be an outline of what must be included in the candidate's experience statement and an example answer for candidates to reference.



## 6. CEUs and Experience

Motion: CCA Candidates requiring more than two years of experience may earn Board Approved CEUs to reduce their experience requirement to a minimum of two years.

- a) **More supportive pathway:** For candidates requiring three or more years of advising experience, Board Approved CEUs may be applied as experience to their certification, with 40 CEUs counting toward one year of experience. The Task Force recommended counting 40 CEUs for one year of experience to align with the FFA CCA Apprentice program, while full CCAs will still need just 20 CEUs/year to maintain their certification. The goal of this change is to allow a more supportive pathway for candidates from non-agronomic backgrounds to become a CCA, while rewarding motivation and interest in learning more about the agronomic sciences through continuing education.
- b) **Maintain rigor:** Feedback from the board in March 2026 heavily favoured the importance of demonstrating actual agronomic knowledge to reduce the amount of experience required – this addresses the actual agronomic knowledge as this is the same sessions that fully certified CCA's are required to attend to maintain their knowledge and certification.
- c) **Consistency and Defensibility:** This would mirror the FFA CCA Apprentice program where 6 months of experience is given for completion of the Foundations of Agronomy course, which counts for 20 CEUs upon completion.

...continued



## 6. CEUs and Experience, continued

Motion: CCA Candidates requiring more than two years of experience may earn Board Approved CEUs to reduce their experience requirement to a minimum of two years.

- d) **Maintain rigor:** All candidates will still be required to demonstrate at least two years of advising experience before becoming a fully certified CCA. The table outlines how CEUs could be applied to experience required.

| Degree Earned                                                           | Base Advising Experience Requirement | Advising Experience Required with 40 CEUs Earned | Advising Experience Required with 80 CEUs Earned |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| HS Diploma                                                              | 4 years                              | 3 years                                          | 2 years                                          |
| Associate's or Baccalaureate - non-agronomic science or unrelated field | 4 years                              | 3 years                                          | 2 years                                          |
| Associate's Degree - Agronomic Science                                  | 3 years                              | 2 years                                          | 2 years                                          |
| Baccalaureate - Agronomic science                                       | 2 years                              | 2 years                                          | 2 years                                          |



## 7. Degree Type

Motion: All four-year science degrees or higher will require two years of advising experience. All four-year degrees in non-science disciplines (e.g. Bachelor of Arts) will require three years of advising experience.

- a) **More Supportive Pathway:** This change would create a clearer pathway for those who did not receive an agronomy degree to become CCA Candidates.
- b) **Consistency and Defensibility:** The Task Force found that few applicants list “Agronomy” as their degree. With the current paper application system, tracking the degrees listed is difficult. Anecdotally, one Task Force member reported that of the six applicants they just reviewed, only two were agronomy or plant science degree earners. The others included sustainable agriculture, agribusiness, animal science, and sustainable plant systems. One candidate did not have a science degree, earning their baccalaureate in business administration. There are also examples of potential CCAs deciding not to continue the process when they learn of the degree requirements, though they may have been excellent CCAs.



## 8. Course Work

Motion: CCA Candidates must submit an official or unofficial transcript.

- a) **Reduce Friction/Improve User Experience:** Applications will no longer have to fill out a list of courses for reviewers to read through and guess what was really taught in that course. For those who do not have a readily available list of courses they took, this will decrease the challenges they face completing the application.
- b) **More Supportive Pathway:** This change will create a clearer pathway for both applications and reviewers, eliminating challenges caused by different university naming conventions for every class.

# Update: Digital & App Task Force

Task force will  
continue to  
explore

- Return on Investment for an App
- What problems is the app meant to solve?
- Are there other improvements to our systems that could be made in lieu of a brand-new app? Are there upgrades we can make to our existing app?

Task Force  
Members

- Sandy Endicott (lead), Isaac Wolford, Sterling Clifton, Miranda Driver, Lacey Edwardson, Jason Hartschuh, Lisa Martin, DJ May, Wendy McDonald, Madeline Schenken, Dave Simonson

# Pilot Testing for In-Person Exams

## August 2026 Exam Window

Iowa | Ohio | Prairie Province | Western Region | Mexico

- Quick Updates
- Other upcoming deadlines

June 1: Finalize testing site

June 8: Finalize in-person testing schedule

June 17: Finalize proctor arrangements

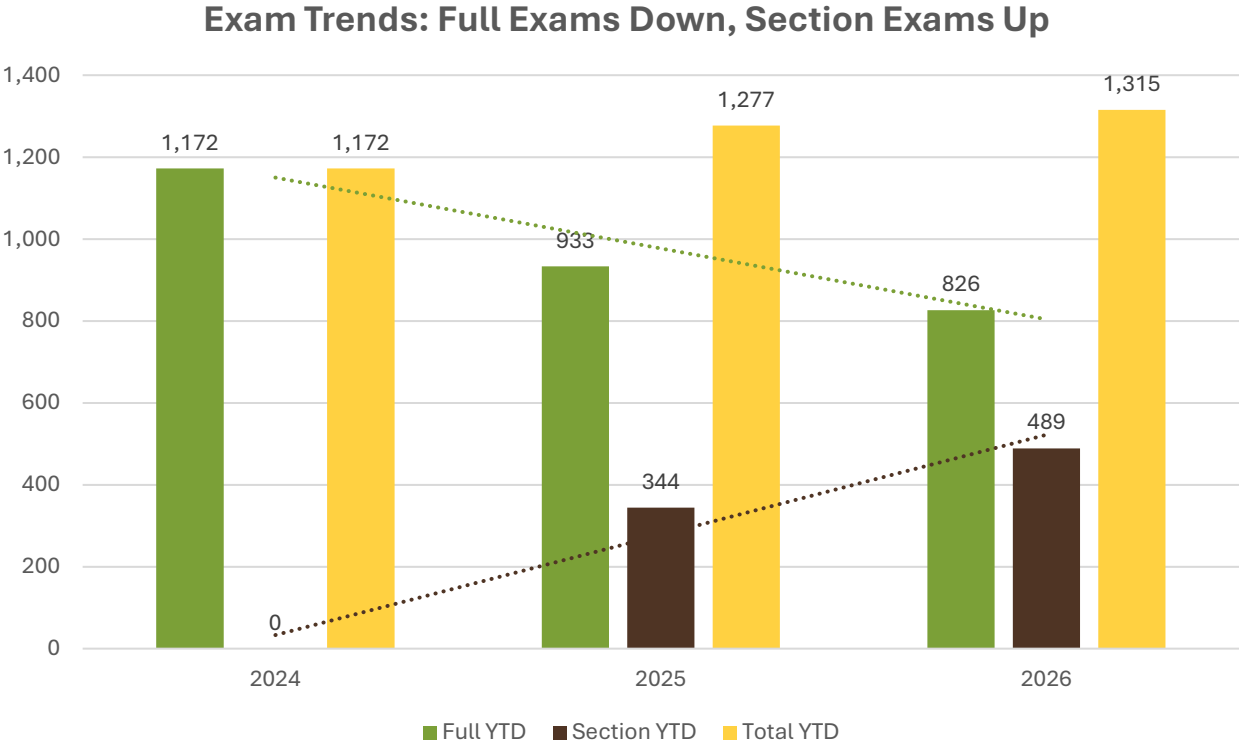
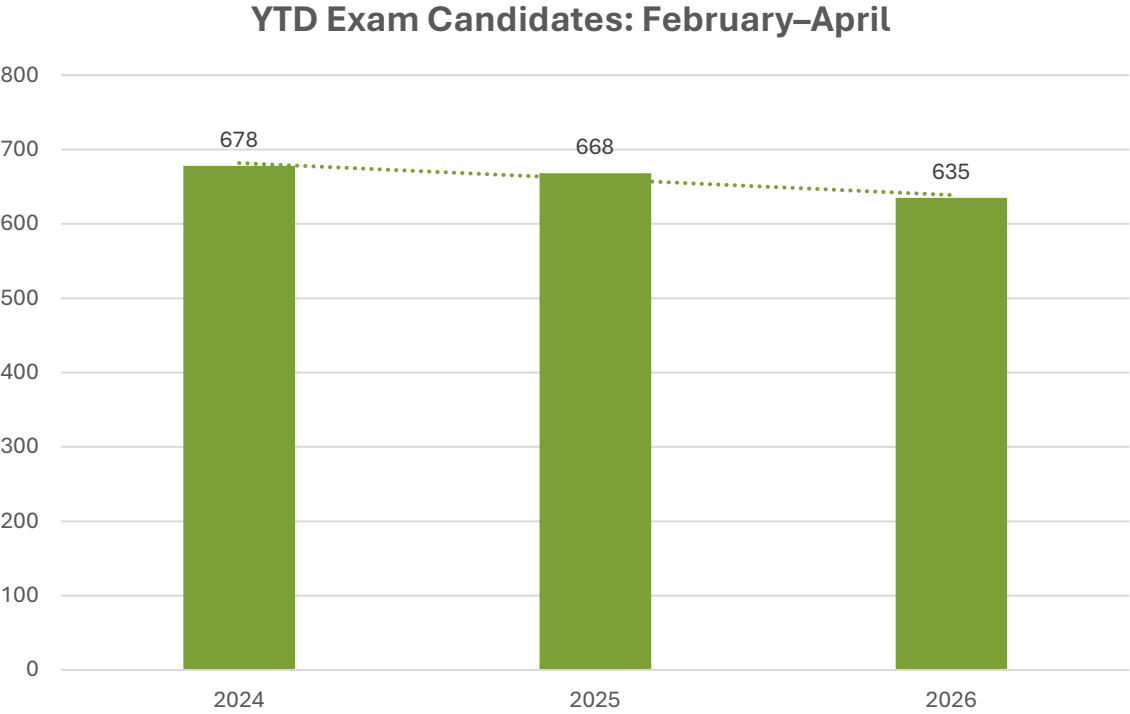
July 29: Proctor Training Session



# Exam Performance YTD

Year-to-date view through the February and April exam windows

- ICCA Exam Pass Rate: 63%



# Organic Specialty Exam Development

- Most recently the exam committee went through standard setting process to set a cut score
- Exam will be ready for August launch
- People that pass the exam will be designated as OSp
- CEUs will follow the same pattern as other specialties (5 CEUs will be needed in Organic Production)



# CCA Board Survey Results

- Due to time constraints, the survey results will be presented at the next Board meeting.



# Awards

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                       |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | <b>ICCA of the Year: Joe Nester, Nester Ag LLC, CCA-OH &amp; IN</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                       |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Article in <i>Crops &amp; Soils</i> magazine</li><li>Amplify posts by liking/commenting/sharing:<br/><b><a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/certified-crop-adviser">linkedin.com/company/certified-crop-adviser</a></b><br/><b><a href="https://twitter.com/CCASoundAdvice">x.com/CCASoundAdvice</a></b></li></ul> |  <p><b>1:50 PM</b><br/><b>Past Chair</b><br/><b>Karl Wyant</b></p> |
|    | <b>ICCA Administrative Excellence Award: <i>in voting</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                       |
|    | <b><i>Award presentations at ICCA Board Meeting in Niagara Falls (invited)</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                       |

# Next Steps & Adjourn

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                        |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 11 | <div data-bbox="336 268 606 321"><b>Next Steps</b></div> <div data-bbox="336 368 1712 742"><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Request for Volunteers: Survey Task Force</li><li>• Registration Open - Upcoming Meetings (CEUs available):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o <a href="#">Sustainable Agronomy</a>, Wednesdays in July – DJ May</li><li>o <a href="#">CANVAS in the Field</a>, July 20-22, Penn State – DJ May</li><li>o <a href="#">CANVAS</a>, Nov. 1-4, Portland, OR – Jim Cudahy</li></ul></li></ul></div> <div data-bbox="879 773 1337 896"><p>CANVAS<br/>Where Crop, Agronomic, Environmental, and Soil Sciences Connect</p></div> | <b>1:55 PM</b><br><b>Aaron Breimer</b> |
| 12 | <div data-bbox="336 959 535 1012"><b>Adjourn</b></div> <div data-bbox="336 1045 963 1098"><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Announce: Adjournment</li></ul></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>2:00 PM</b><br><b>Aaron Breimer</b> |