

Walt Sandbeck Earns CCA Status

Walt Sandbeck, fertilizer specialist at AGGRAND, has recently been certified by the American Society of Agronomy as a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA). To attain this certification, Sandbeck passed an International CCA exam as well as the State of Wisconsin CCA exam, worked for nearly 10 years as a crop advisor and provided documentation of professional competence.

“Walt brings a high degree of knowledge and professionalism to AGGRAND,” said Chris Orr, AGGRAND business manager. “He is the front line of our Technical Assistance department and does a fantastic job supporting our customers with all of their growing needs.”

As a Certified Crop Advisor, Sandbeck will uphold the CCA Code of Ethics. This means his focus will be on grower profitability while optimizing and protecting natural resources in accordance with the code.

“Getting the CCA means I can start a directed study program,” Sandbeck said. “I had to pass both the International and Wisconsin CCA exams in the same calendar year to be qualified to submit my application initially.”

Certification Calls for Continuing Education

The certification comes with an ongoing education stipulation.

“Now, I must accumulate 40 CEUs (Continuing Education Units) every two years, by attending/reading qualifying webinars, seminars, and magazine articles. The subjects covered will include nutrient management, soil and water management, integrated



NEW CERTIFICATION — Walt Sandbeck, AGGRAND fertilizer specialist, recently earned his Certified Crop Advisor certificate from the American Society of Agronomy.

pest management and crop management. Each of these disciplines dovetails on some level with my job as fertilizer specialist at AGGRAND.”

Research scientists at land-grant universities provide much of this cutting-edge training.

“More than 13 years of AGGRAND experience, coupled with Walt’s landscaping and gardening background and hard work passing the CCA exam, make it a natural fit for him to be a Certified Crop Advisor,” said Richard Holappa, AGGRAND research and development manager. “This milestone will be a definite asset to the AGGRAND business.”

CCA Certification Recognizes Expertise

The Certified Crop Advisor Program is administered by the American Society of Agronomy in Madison, Wis.

CCAs are recognized by the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) as eligible to register as Technical Service Providers (TSPs). They provide assistance to farmers in protecting resources through conservation planning in soil and water, nutrient, crop and pest management. CCAs also are recognized as agricultural experts by the USDA Risk Management Agency which administers the Federal crop insurance programs.

To learn more about the benefits of working with a Certified Crop Advisor contact AGGRAND at 715-399-6419 or by e-mail at info@aggrand.com. More information about the CCA program and a CCA directory is available at www.certifiedcropadvisor.org.