

August 14, 2024

NEWS REGARDING: Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Award
Nominations due November 1, 2024

FROM: Mershon Tobin - Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Program
Administrator

We would like your help in nominating a qualified CCA you work with for the "Indiana Certified Crop Adviser of the Year Award" for 2024. This award will recognize an individual who has performed superior service for you in nutrient management, soil and water management, pest management and crop production.

The award will be presented to the winner at the 2022 Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Conference on December 17-18, 2024. The nominator, if not the nominee's employer, that submits the winning application will receive **\$250** and the CCA winner will receive **\$1,500**. In addition, the winner will be nominated to the International CCA Board for consideration for the International CCA of the Year Award with an honorarium of **\$2,000**.

The purpose of our Indiana award program is to increase awareness that farmers and their service people strive to do their best, not only in making economically sound cropping decisions, but also ones that are environmentally sound. With increasing farm size, complexity of management options, and increasingly complex regulations, we foresee farmers relying more and more on the advice of specialists who are CCAs.

To be considered for the Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Award, a CCA must be certified in Indiana and nominated by a client, a colleague, or the employer of the CCA who knows their qualifications.

A nomination form, letter of recommendation form, and tips for completing the nomination are included. Please feel free to copy and distribute to those who might be using services of a CCA.

The nomination should include

- the nomination form,
- three letters of recommendation- one from the CCA's employer and two from customers. Three letters of recommendation may come from customers if the CCA is self-employed.

Indiana CCA must receive the nomination by **November 1, 2024**. If you have any questions, please contact Mershon Tobin at 1.217.762.7955.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TIPS FOR COMPLETING CCA AWARD NOMINATION

Purpose: The Indiana Certified Crop Adviser Award is designed to recognize a certified crop adviser who delivers exceptional customer service, is highly innovative, has shown that they are a leader in their field, and has contributed substantially to the exchange of ideas and the transfer of agronomic knowledge within the agriculture industry.

Minimum Standards: Nominees must be a Certified Crop Adviser, certified in Indiana and in good standing. The CCA must be nominated by a client, colleague, or employer with first-hand knowledge of the quality of work the CCA has performed. The nomination should include the nomination form, and three recommendation forms. (Two recommendation forms should be from customers and one from the employer. If the CCA is self-employed, three letters are needed from customers).

Selection Committee: The Selection Committee will be comprised of three representatives of the Indiana CCA Board, plus a representative of Indiana Farm Bureau.

Tips:

1. Typed forms are preferred.
2. The main question to answer is: What is this CCA doing that is over and above what others are doing, unique, or cutting-edge? We are looking for specific examples.
3. Here are some suggestions for the nomination form:
 - **For question number 3**, try to include situations where the CCA is involved in daily field decisions and crop production advice. For example, state the number of customers, type of crops, number of acres on which the CCA is advising, number of locations for which they are responsible, running plot trials, etc.
 - **In question number 4**, try to include activities like writing a customer newsletter, organizing a meeting of customers to review the past year's successes and failures, holding field days to highlight new technologies and emerging issues, etc. These activities should be things that other CCAs are not routinely doing.
 - **Question number 5** asks for a list of the CCA's program involvement. This could be serving on a CCA committee, writing articles for publication, ensuring CCA decals are on all company vehicles and office windows, distributing CCA brochures to producers, etc.
 - **Question number 6** is an opportunity to highlight some of the other community activities in which the CCA may be involved. For example, sports teams/coaching, local Soil & Crop Improvement Association, Ag in the Classroom, local hospital boards, involvement in charities, etc.

Deadline:

Nomination forms must be received by **November 1, 2024**, and sent to:

Mershon Tobin – PAQ Interactive, Inc.
109 E Main Street
Monticello, IL 61856
Phone: 1.217.762.7955
E-Mail: info@indianacca.org

NOMINATION FORM
INDIANA CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2024

Please complete this nomination form and submit with three letters of recommendation.

Candidate Name: _____

CCA Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail (if available): _____

Your Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-Mail Address: _____

Additional pages may be added if needed.

1. Employer (if applicable): _____

Provide the name of the employer or state "self-employed"

2. Years of crop consulting experience? _____

Provide the number of years of crop advising experience.

3. Crop Advising Work

Describe the scale and scope of crop advising work being done (i.e. type of clientele, acres responsible, particular areas of focus or specialty. 20 points (Character Limit, including spaces: 1500)

4. Skills or Initiatives

What skills or initiatives has the nominee displayed in their crop advising career that sets them apart from their colleagues? 40 points (Character Limit, including spaces: 6000)

5. CCA Program Involvement

List CCA program involvement, i.e. serving on committees, Board, organizing CCA events, promoting continuing education, promoting own designation or company involvement, etc. 25 points (Character Limit, including spaces: 3000)

6. Other volunteer service

Describe other volunteer service within and outside the agriculture industry. 15 points (Character Limit, including spaces: 1500)

Signature of nominator: _____

Date: _____

Return by November 1, 2024, to:

Mershon Tobin – PAQ Interactive, Inc.
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Letter of Recommendation
Indiana Certified Crop Adviser of the Year Award 2024

Nominee: _____

Person completing reference (customer or employer): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Additional pages may be added if needed.

1. How many years has the CCA been assisting you with crop advice? _____

2. What type of services and advice has the CCA provided? Were the CCA's activities unique or exceptional? (i.e. plot work such as corn hi-bred trials or variable rate nitrogen, new product demonstration, yield map interpretation, etc.)

3. What specific crop production objectives/goals were met and how have these resulted in a net benefit to your operation?

4. Has the nominee been instrumental in identifying, reducing, solving, or avoiding any environmental problem?

5. Were the CCA's activities a proactive approach to a particular agronomic problem or challenge facing farming, rural communities or the agri-food industry? Describe:

6. Please make any other comments which you feel best describes the candidate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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