

World Wide Learn

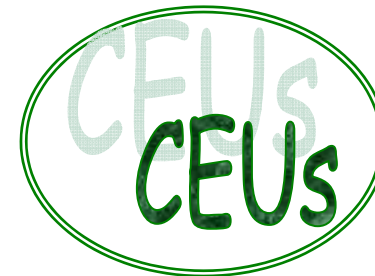
Professionals and individuals who need flexible educational programs look to World Wide Learn for access to a wide variety of e-learning solutions. These include online courses, accredited degree programs, professional continuing education, and learning resources in 352 subject areas offered by educational institutions, companies and individuals from all over the world.

Chapters may be interested in working with a group such as World Wide Learn by offering sites for professionals to access some of the offered learning opportunities. By offering sites for training, chapters still can offer quality sessions without having to design the courses themselves. Additional information about World Wide Learn can be found at their website.

World Wide Learn
<http://worldwidelearn.com>

For more information about SWCS, please visit
www.swcs.org.

Offering Continuing Education Units:



A Guide for SWCS Chapters (version 2.01)

One of the missions of SWCS is to offer continuing education opportunities to Society members and the public. This document is meant to be only a resource to assist chapters in planning professional development opportunities and offering Continuing Education Units.



**SWCS Professional Development
Committee
July 2006**

Fostering the science and the art of soil, water and related natural resource
management to achieve sustainability

What Are Continuing Education Units?

A Continuing Education Unit (CEU), as we use the term in this guide, is simply a measure of continuing professional education that an individual has completed. Other commonly used terms include Continuing Education Credit and Professional Development Hour (PDH). These are just a different form of CEU. As defined by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training, the CEU is a recognized method of quantifying participation in an organized continuing education or professional development experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction. Officially, one CEU is defined as ten contact hours of time spent in such an educational experience. However, many organizations have other ways of measuring credits, such as 1 hour of credit for each 45 minutes to an hour spent in an educational or professional development activity.

The primary purpose of CEUs is to provide a record of the non-credit educational and professional development activities that an individual has completed. This record is especially important to professionals who have been certified or licensed in specific fields of expertise.

Professional certification programs set standards for knowledge, skills, and conduct. These voluntary programs protect the public by helping insure that those offering services or advice are trained

International Association for Continuing Education and Training

The International Association for Continuing Education and Training is a non-profit association dedicated to quality continuing education and training programs. IACET authorizes education providers that meet strict continuing education guidelines created in 1968. There is a listing of organizations that accept credits through this organization.

You must become a member to be an authorized provider. They have a workshop on “How to Become an Authorized Provider”. This is an extensive process with a \$450 application fee. If chapters are interested more information can be found at the IACET website.

IACET AP Commission
www.iacet.org

Real Estate Professionals

(REALTORS[®], Real Estate Agents, Brokers, Appraisers)

Like engineers and landscape architects, real estate professionals (REALTORS[®], Real Estate Agents, Brokers, Appraisers, and others) are licensed by the individual states. Not only do these professionals have to pass a state licensing exam, but continuing education is critical in this competitive field.

To offer the best services possible to their clients, real estate professionals need to know something about natural resources and processes, e.g., soils, wetlands, water quality, arboriculture, and hydrology, as well as laws such as Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Educational activities that your chapter is planning may be of interest to them.

Continuing education requirements are determined by state real estate commissions. The National Association of REALTORS[®] website includes a spreadsheet with the number of CEUs required by each state and links to each state's real estate commission website (www.realtor.org/education/index.html, then select *Continuing Education FAQ and Requirements by State*). There are also links to the state REALTOR[®] associations (www.realtor.org/runivers.nsf/pages/jumpcourseschedulehome).

National Association of REALTORS[®]
www.realtor.org

professionals. They also help maintain integrity and professionalism, which in turn helps to maintain the trust and respect of the general public. Many practicing professionals are also required to hold and maintain a license. Licensing programs are usually state-based, with requirements varying from state to state.

The majority of these programs require completion of continuing education activities each year in order to maintain a certification or license. In addition, some professional organizations have specific Professional Development Certification programs to recognize members who are committed to lifelong learning.

In some cases, the amount of education required is relatively easy to attain. For others, CEUs are difficult to find and expensive to obtain, so professionals are continually looking for conveniently located and reasonably priced continuing education opportunities. SWCS Chapters may be able to provide them.

What Are the Benefits to My Chapter?

It is by no means a requirement that chapters offer CEUs at training sessions. However, if they are not currently doing so, chapters may want to consider the benefits of offering CEUs, which can be achieved for very little effort. Among other benefits, professional development activities which offer CEUs may provide your chapter with:

- An opportunity to introduce more professionals to the mission of SWCS;
- Increased exposure for your chapter;
- Increased attendance at training sessions; and
- As a result, the potential for increased revenue and new chapter members.

Do Conservation Professionals Need CEUs?

Today the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is requiring that employees obtain Conservation Planning Certification and sometimes certification in nutrient and pest management as well. Some states require CEUs to maintain these certifications. The same requirements also apply to Technical Service Providers (TSP) working with the agency. If your chapter is interested in providing continuing education to TSP and NRCS planners, work with your NRCS state office staff to determine the needs for training and CEUs.

Certified Urban and Rural Planners

The American Planning Association (APA) certifies urban and rural planning professionals through the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). AICP's Continuing Professional Development Program encourages all certified planners to pursue continuing education. The principal requirement is a minimum number of 60 hours of professional development credit obtained over a three-year period.

Professional development is defined as any course work that covers technical, and personal, growth and development activities related to the practice of planning. Upon completion of the 60 hours, a CPDP Certificate is awarded for each three-year period. Participants keep track of their CEUs. There is no pre- or post-approval of CEUs. Chapters need only to offer programs that may benefit planners and provide verification of attendance.

For more information, contact the American Institute of Certified Planners.

American Planning Association
American Society of Certified Planners
312-431-9100 or 202-872-0611
www.planning.org/CPDP
www.planning.org/professionals

Certified Environmental Professionals (CEP)

The Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP) administers the Certified Environmental Professional program, which provides environmental professionals who have special qualifications of education, experience and accomplishments with the opportunity to be judged and certified by a board of their peers. Certification is offered in one of five functional areas: Environmental Assessment, Environmental Documentation, Environmental Operations, Environmental Planning, or Environmental Research and Education.

CEPs must complete 40 hours of continuing professional development credit each year in order to maintain the certification. For most CEPs, 20 hours is earned for full-time employment; the remaining 20 hours can be provided through a variety of activities, including attending seminars, conferences and other continuing education activities. Activities are self-reported annually on the Continuing Professional Development and Certification Maintenance Activities form.

National Association of Environmental Professionals
Academy Board of Certified Environmental Professionals
866-767-8073

www.abcep.org/maintprog.html

Many professional organizations also have certification programs and continuing education requirements for professionals working in the conservation and natural resource disciplines, such as engineers, foresters, wildlife biologists, crop consultants, range conservationists, Geographic Information System (GIS) specialists, planners, erosion control specialists, and soil scientists. These are all potential audiences for your chapter's activities.

Requirements vary between professions and organizations, so each should be contacted individually about their requirements for granting CEUs. There may also be state-level requirements for approving and accepting these credits. Information about various natural resource professionals and their continuing education needs is provided later in this guide.

Hint: To see what training might be needed in your region, take a look at the 2002 Professional Development for Conservation Professionals Survey. Contact a member of the Professional Development Committee if you need a copy.

How Do We Get Approval to Offer CEUs?

As mentioned above, CEU requirements vary between the professional organizations and societies. There are basically three scenarios.

1. *Self-certification* - The professional holding the certificate or license keeps track of his or her educational activities. They usually have to submit a list of activities to the certifying or licensing organization on a yearly basis and are expected to be able to provide proof, if requested, that they attended the activities submitted.
2. *Post-approval* - Following attendance at a professional development activity, the agenda and proof of attendance is sent to the certifying or licensing organization. The number of CEUs to be approved is determined and recorded for each participant after the educational activity has occurred.
3. *Pre-approval* - A professional will only receive CEUs if the certifying or licensing organization has pre-approved the credits before the professional development activity takes place. Following the activity, an official list of participants is sent to the organization, which then records the number of CEUs obtained by each.

Landscape Architects

Landscape Architects are licensed by the states. Not only do many states require landscape architects to participate in professional development as a condition for maintaining their licenses, but most landscape architects need continuing education to stay up-to-date in the profession in order to provide the best services possible to their clients.

CEUs for landscape architects are approved by the respective licensing state. Contact your state's Board of Landscape Architects or American Society of Landscape Architects chapter for details on CEU approval if your chapter is planning an activity that might benefit these professionals.

Your chapter can also apply to become a provider through the American Society of Landscape Architects' Continuing Education Provider Program (CEP). CPE Providers can apply for status as a Single Program Provider, for a one time event such as a conference, or as a Basic Provider, to offer several programs throughout the year or one program several times. For more information, contact the American Society of Landscape Architects.

American Society of Landscape Architects
202-216-2338
www.asla.org/nonmembers/continue_ed.cfm

Certified Fisheries Professionals (FP-C)

A fisheries professional is an individual with specialized education in the sciences and technologies involving the structure, dynamics, and interactions of habitats, aquatic organisms, and humans. The American Fisheries Society offers professional certification to anyone who meets specific education and experience requirements related to fisheries. Professional development is required of all FP-Cs to keep abreast of developments in the field and to ensure continued enhancement of knowledge and skills.

Evidence of professional development activities must be submitted both to achieve and to maintain certification. A point system is used, with each FP-C required to obtain a minimum of 100 “professional development quality points” (PDQPs) in five categories over a 5-year period. PDQPs are self-reported.

At least 35 PDQPs must be obtained by participating in continuing education activities directly related to fisheries science or management. Up to 35 PDQPs can also be obtained through participation in continuing education activities that are not primarily fisheries oriented, but are “professionally enriching”.

American Fisheries Society
301-897-8616
www.fisheries.org/html/Certification.shtml

Obviously, it would be easier for your chapter to offer CEUs under the first two scenarios. However, because CEUs in the third category are often the most difficult to get, professionals needing these are more likely to attend your chapter’s activity and to pay to do so if the appropriate pre-approved CEUs are offered.

Hint: The more “types” of CEUs your chapter can offer for an activity from a variety of organizations, the more professionals that may be willing to attend!

Below are some suggested steps for obtaining approval for and offering CEUs provided by David Robinson of the Hugh Hammond Bennett (North Carolina) Chapter.

1. Organize a program on a timely and relevant topic. Schedule knowledgeable and eloquent speakers and good technical sessions. Develop the agenda as early as possible.
2. From the program, determine which disciplines may qualify for CEUs.

Hint: Include a wide variety of disciplines in your list of professions that may qualify for CEUs by attending your program. “Look outside the box”. If you are having a program on planting native grasses, invite engineers as well as agronomists.

3. Send a copy of the program and agenda (if available) to representatives of the boards of the various certification and licensing programs. Do this as far in advance of the program as you possibly can.
 - a. The boards will review the information to determine if your program qualifies for CEUs in a given discipline under their requirements.
 - b. The boards will then determine the number of CEUs that will be awarded to attendees. Things that may be considered include the program topic(s), program objectives and goals, length of the program, qualifications of the speakers, equipment to be demonstrated, and facility where the activity will be held.
4. Develop the conference notice and other materials to advertise your program.
5. When you have received approval from the Boards for CEUs, include this in the conference notice, and send it to professional societies for the disciplines that may benefit. (If you do not have time to wait for approval from the Boards, you can indicate on the notice that approval for CEUs has been requested). Also send the notice to colleagues in related organizations, and ask them to do the same.

Wildlife Professionals

The Wildlife Society certifies Wildlife Biologists and has a certification program in Professional Development. Due to advancements in technology, changes in public awareness and expectations, and increased pressures on wildlife habitats, it is critical that wildlife professionals continually improve their knowledge and skills.

Certified Wildlife Biologists are required to complete professional development/certification renewal requirements every five years. Certification Renewal requires the completion of a minimum of 80 hours of organized activities over five years. These activities can be in wildlife, related natural resource, or other “professionally enriching” areas.

To obtain Professional Development Certification, a biologist must complete 150 hours of professional development in five categories of activities within a five-year period. For renewal of the certificate, a minimum of 80 hours is required every five years.

Individuals keep a record of educational activities. There is no pre- or post-approval for CEUs. Chapters need only to offer programs that may benefit wildlife professionals and provide verification of attendance.

The Wildlife Society
301-897-9770
www.wildlife.org/certification

Forestry Professionals

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) certifies forestry professionals for a three-year period. An active program of professional development keeps foresters abreast of rapidly expanding scientific and technical knowledge and methods associated with forest resources. To maintain certification a Certified Forester (CF) must continue to comply with the CF Standards of Professional Practice and accumulate 60 continuing education contact hours.

Six SAF-recognized categories of educational activities qualify for CFE (Continuing Forestry Education) credits. Credits are allocated by the state CFE coordinators and may be awarded before or after an educational event. Contact information for the state CFE coordinators is available on the SAF website.

A calendar of continuing forestry education is also available on the SAF website and may be another way to advertise your professional development activity!

Foresters are also registered or licensed through the states. CEUs are often required to maintain state forestry registration. Contact your state registration board or chapter of SAF for information on state CEU requirements.

Society of American Foresters

301-897-8720

www.safnet.org/education/continuingeducation.cfm

Hint: Include the following information in the conference notice:

- Program agenda
- Speakers & brief background information
- CEUs - “type”, number offered & whether pre-approval has been obtained
- Location (including directions)
- Registration costs
- Lodging/travel arrangements & costs
- Contact information

6. Set up an email list and a mailing list of chapter members and other potential attendees. Send reminders to potential attendees several times; perhaps, a preliminary program 6 months in advance, the formal conference notice and program 3 months in advance, and a final notice 2 weeks before the registration deadline.
7. Have a sign-up sheet available for program attendees who want to register for CEUs. You may need a different sheet for each type of CEU, depending upon the certification or licensing programs' requirements. Visit the SWCS website (www.swcs.org) to obtain an example sign-in/out sheet.
8. Prepare a verification of attendance and provide it to each attendee. Include the conference information and the number of CEUs pre-approved. A sample verification form is available on the SWCS website (www.swcs.org).

9. Following the program, send the sign-in sheets to the boards of the respective certification or licensing organizations so that attendees will receive CEUs (or follow the procedures provided by the boards).

If your chapter is not able to have CEUs pre-approved by the certification or licensing organizations (due to time constraints or other issues), suggest to attendees that they request post-approval of CEUs from their organizations themselves, or offer to submit sign-in/out sheets and other information in order to obtain post-approval. Chapters can provide verification of attendance forms or other documentation so that attendees can seek CEUs on their own. This method will be acceptable to some organizations.

Which Professionals Need CEUs?

Information about some of the natural resource professions and professional organizations that utilize or require CEUs follows. It is suggested that chapters contact the certifying or licensing organizations or agencies directly to inquire about their individual requirements for offering CEUs.

While website links are provided, the current accuracy of these cannot be guaranteed. Please contact the organization or agency listed for additional information if a link is not current.

GIS, Remote Sensing, Mapping and Photogrammetry Professionals

A growing number of scientific and technical disciplines depend on GIS, remote sensing, photogrammetry, and the mapping sciences for reliable measurements and information. The purpose of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Certification Program is the establishment and maintenance of high standards of ethical conduct and professional practice among photogrammetrists and mapping scientists.

Anyone who has been certified by the ASPRS is certified for life unless there is cause to remove the certification. The Society has a Recertification Program to assure that a certified person has maintained and improved on the skills and knowledge that allowed for certification. Recertification applicants are required to fill out an application to show the type of activities that they have attended in the mapping sciences. Each applicant must earn 25 points or CEUs as defined by the Society over a five-year period. The point criteria are listed on the ASPRS website.

Chapters interested in hosting training should review the CEU recertification requirements and model training opportunities to match those requirements.

American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
301-493-0290
www.asprs.org/membership/certification/

Irrigation Professionals

The Irrigation Association certifies a number of professionals working in the field of irrigation, including Irrigation Contractors, Irrigation Designers, Agricultural Irrigation Specialists, Golf Irrigation Auditors, and Landscape Irrigation Auditors. All certified individuals must complete at least 10 CEUs each year. These units can be earned by attending irrigation field days, short courses or seminars. CEUs are self-reported on-line as they are earned, so all your chapter needs to do is advertise to these professionals and provide verification of attendance.

The Irrigation Association
703-536-7080
www.irrigation.org/certification

Professional Animal Scientists

The American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists requires all members to complete 16 CEUs each year. CEUs can be earned at most meetings/symposia/workshops applicable to the Animal Science Professional. CEUs are self-reported, but can be pre-approved by submitting a copy of the program to the ARPAS Business Office. The ARPAS Examining Board also provides a list of events that qualify for CEUs on the ARPAS website.

American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists
217-356-5390
www.arpas.org/about.asp?view=require

Table of Contents

Page	Profession or Organization
12	Certified Crop Advisers
14	Certified Professional Agronomists
14	Certified Professional Soil Scientists
14	Certified Professional Soil Classifiers
15	Certified Pesticide Applicators
16	Certified Professional Crop Consultant
16	Certified Professional Crop Consultant – Independent
16	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Specialists
17	NRCS Pest Management Specialists
18	Erosion & Storm Water Control Specialists
19	Certified Grassland Professionals
20	Certified Professionals in Range Management
21	Professional Engineers
22	Irrigation Professionals
22	Professional Animal Scientists
23	GIS, Remote Sensing, Mapping & Photogrammetry
24	Forestry Professionals
25	Wildlife Professionals
26	Certified Fisheries Professionals
27	Landscape Architects
28	Certified Environmental Professionals
29	Certified Urban & Rural Planners
30	Real Estate Professionals
31	International Assoc of Continuing Ed & Training
32	World Wide Learn

Certified Crop Advisers (CCA)

Individuals that advise or consult growers on agronomic practices and can meet the standards of the program can become Certified Crop Advisers (CCA). This is one of several professional certification programs offered by the American Society of Agronomy. It is a voluntary program and is the largest certification program in agriculture with over 14,000 CCAs throughout the United States and Canada. Once certified, individuals are required to earn 40 hours of continuing education credits every two years in crop management, soil and water management, nutrient management, and integrated pest management. There is also a category for professional development, such as time management, leadership, GIS, and other skills.

The program is administered locally by 37 state, regional, or provincial boards throughout the US and Canada. CEUs for CCA can be pre- or post-approved. To request CEUs for an educational activity, a Certified Crop Adviser CEU Application form must be completed. Information about submitting materials for approval is available on the CCA website at www.agronomy.org/cca/edu.html.

A calendar of events where CEUs are offered is maintained on the CCA website, potentially providing free advertising for your professional development activity.

CEU applications along with any related supporting materials, including the attendance roster, must be submitted no later than 30 days past the event date. To

Professional Engineers (PE)

Over half of U.S. states have Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) requirements for professional engineers. At this time, it appears that New York and Florida are the only states that require pre-approval of activities or vendors for professional development hours (PDHs). Engineers in Florida and New York are required to take continuing education courses from Approved Providers. In Arkansas, Louisiana and North Carolina, use of Approved Providers is not required, but pre-approval assures that PDHs will be accepted by the certifying or licensing boards. If you are in one these states, your chapter may want to contact the state licensing board to find out what is required to become an Approved Provider or Sponsor.

In other states with mandatory CPC requirements, it is generally the responsibility of the engineers to select courses that meet the state guidelines. However, some of these states will pre-approve PDHs. You should contact the licensing board or professional engineering society in your state to determine whether pre-approval is possible. Professional engineers will be much more likely to attend an activity where they are guaranteed to receive PDHs, which can be expensive to obtain elsewhere. Typical state guidelines define a qualified course as one whose purpose and objective are clear with a content that will “maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge of the licensee’s field of practice.”

National Society of Professional Engineers
703-684-2800
www.nspe.org

Certified Professionals in Range Management (CPRM)

Individuals who have the professional credentials required to plan and implement sound management of rangelands can be certified as Professionals in Range Management by the Society for Range Management. To maintain this certification, 32 CEUs in a diversity of topics are required during the 2-year certification period.

Courses and CEUs must be pre-approved by the Certification Committee. Proof of satisfactory completion of all CEUs is also required. To request pre-approval of CEUs, visit the SRM Education-Certification Programs website and submit a copy of the agenda for your activity to the contact listed there.

Forms to verify the attendance of CPRMs at your continuing education activities are available on the SRM Education-Certification Programs website. A registry of activities pre-approved for CEUs is maintained on the SRM website, potentially providing free advertising for your professional development activity.

Society for Range Management
303-986-3309

www.rangelands.org/education_cprm.shtml

be eligible for CEUs, the meeting must be relevant to the CCA Continuing Education Standards. Information and application forms are available through the local boards as well as the CCA website.

If participants are expected to attend from five or more states (e.g., a regional, national or international meeting), pre-approval of CEUs can be requested from the national CCA office. Otherwise, approval is granted by the local boards. For local board CEU applications, check with the local CEU contact. Contacts for each state are available at www.agronomy.org/cca/ceu_contact.html.

CCA contact numbers for calling from specific areas follow:

National – 608-268-4954

AZ, AR, BC, CA, HI, ID, KS, LA, MI, MS, ND, NE, NM, NV, ON, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA – 608-268-4954

CO, CT, IA, KY, ME, MA, MN, MT, NH, NY, NC, OH, OK, RI, TN, VT, WI, WY – 608-268-4955

AB, AL, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, MB, MD, MO, NB, NF, NJ, NS, PA, PE, SC, SK, VA, WV – 608-268-4953

Once your activity is pre-approved for CEUs under the CCA program, Certified Professional Agronomists, Soil Scientists, and Soil Classifiers will also be eligible for the credits, in addition to CCAs.

American Society of Agronomy
www.agronomy.org/cca/edu.html

Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg)
Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS)
Certified Professional Soil Classifier (CPSC)

Certified Professional Agronomists (CPAg), Certified Professional Soil Scientists (CPSSc), and Certified Professional Soil Classifiers (CPSC) are certified by ARCPACS, a federation of certifying boards in agriculture, biology, earth, and environmental sciences. The certification program is a membership service of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America. Certification requirements include a college degree, certain level of experience and passing an exam.

All categories of certification must be maintained by completing 40 hours of continuing education every two years. Activities eligible for CEUs are professional meetings, self-directed study, community service, and authoring technical or educational materials.

CEUs that are pre-approved by the Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) boards (*above*) will be accepted for CPAg, CPSS and CPSC. A separate approval process is not required.

American Society of Agronomy (CPAg)
608-273-8080
www.Agronomy.org/certification/

Soil Science Society of America (CPSS and CPSC)
608-273-8080
www.soils.org/certification/

Certified Grassland Professionals (CGP)

Grassland Professionals are certified by the American Forage and Grassland Council, which promotes profitable production and sustainable utilization of quality forage and grasslands. A minimum of 32 CEUs from a diversity of topics must be obtained during the 2-year certification period. At least 16 CEUs must come from the following subject matter areas: vegetative management, animal management, conservation planning on grasslands and grazing lands, pasture condition assessment, economics of forage and grassland management, grassland soil management, soil quality, erosion control, and soil fertility management.

The AFGC CGP Program recognizes both committee-approved and self-reported CEUs. Your chapter has the option of getting pre-approval for credits or allowing CPGs to self-certify at a later date. CGPs must provide proof of satisfactory completion of all CEUs when making application for certification renewal, so providing them with a verification of attendance is important.

A CEU Program Documentation form for requesting pre-approval of CEUs is available on the AFGC website (www.afgc.org/AFGC%20CEU%20Program.htm). The form must be submitted by the meeting provider. Submission at least 30 days prior to the event is recommended.

American Forage and Grassland Council
800-944-2342
www.afgc.org

Erosion and Storm Water Control Specialists (CPESC and CPSWQ)

Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) and Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ) must maintain their certification by participating in ongoing professional development activities such as continuing education courses, information transfer to other professionals and the public, support of professional organizations, and community extension that promotes the profession. Certified professionals must accumulate a minimum of 60 Professional Development Units (PDUs) over a three year period in order to maintain their credentials. Certified professionals self-report PDUs every three years. In-training registrants are also required to accumulate a minimum of 10 PDUs per year.

There is no requirement for pre- or post-approval of PDUs for CPESC or CPSWQ. Your chapter only needs to provide verification of attendance to professional development participants. Individuals maintain and report their own CEUs. All PDU information is managed from the CPESC, Inc. office in Marion, North Carolina.

Regional representatives of CPESC, Inc. may be available to help arrange and promote SWCS professional development activities. Contact CPESC, Inc. for more information.

CPESC, Inc.
828-655-1600
www.cpesc.org

Certified Pesticide Applicators

EPA regulations require that pesticide applicators be certified as competent to apply restricted use pesticides in accordance with national standards. Pesticide applicators are trained by state Cooperative Extension Service pesticide applicator training programs and are certified or licensed by the lead agency in each state. Certified applicators are classified as either private or commercial. There are separate standards for each. All states require commercial applicators to be recertified, generally every three to five years. Some states also require recertification or other training for private applicators. Although each state has different requirements, most states require that applicators obtain a set number of approved CEUs prior to recertification. Training of certified applicators may cover Best Management Practices for safe pesticide use as well as environmental issues such as endangered species and water quality protection. Some states offer guidelines for providing recertification training on their pesticide certification websites.

CEUs for pesticide applicators should be approved in advance. For more information, contact your state or local Cooperative Extension Service or state agency responsible for pesticide applicator certification. EPA maintains a list of state lead agencies for pesticides at www.epa.gov/oppfod01/safety/applicators/statepro.htm.

U.S. EPA Pesticides Program
www.epa.gov/oppfod01/safety/applicators/howtobec.htm

Certified Professional Crop Consultant (CPCC) Certified Professional Crop Consultant – Independent (CPCC-I)

The National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants certifies those professionals who provide crop management recommendations to agricultural clients. Each CPCC and CPCC-I must obtain 36 CEUs each year in several categories to maintain the certification. Activities may include attendance at informational meetings, self-directed training, and tours. Each certified individual is responsible for acquiring documentation for CEU activities. NAICC accepts CEU forms from other certification programs.

National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
901-861-0511

www.naicc.org/howtojoin/why_certify.cfm

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning (CNMP) Specialists

In response to USDA and EPA recommendations that certified specialists be used to develop Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) for animal feeding operations (AFOs), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and many of the state agricultural agencies certify professionals as qualified to develop these plans. Although requirements vary between the states, Nutrient Management Planning Specialists generally need to obtain a minimum number of CEUs in order to maintain their certifications.

For more information on educational requirements in your state, contact the NRCS state office staff (www.nrcs.usda.gov), state or local Cooperative Extension Service office, or state agriculture agency.

NRCS Pest Management Specialists

Conservation planners may also be certified by NRCS as qualified to develop Pest Management Plans. As with Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning Specialists, requirements for obtaining and maintaining this certification vary from state to state. However, continuing education will often be required in those states where this certification is available. States also license or certify pesticide applicators (*see page 15*).

For more information on educational requirements for Pest Management Planners in your state, contact your NRCS state office (www.nrcs.usda.gov).