

## **610.89 Memorandum of Understanding Recommending Organizations**

The following lists organizations that NRCS has entered into a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) agreement with to help facilitate the TSP certification process. Under each organization's title, is a list of information that an applicant must supply to the organization to get certified by them. If the TSP applicant appears on the organizations certified list, then the organization has already verified this information. NRCS should not have to check this information during the verification process.

### **American Society of Agronomy (Certified Professional Agronomist, CPAg)**

- Education-at least a BS in agricultural related degree.
- If a BS, at least 5 years of field experience.
- If a MS, at least 3 years of field experience.
- If a PhD, at least 1 year of field experience.
- Documents education and experience with transcripts and supporting references.
- Pass one comprehensive exam.
- To maintains certification, 40 hours CEUs every two years.

### **American Society of Agronomy (Certified Professional Soil Scientist, CPSSc/CPSC)**

- Education-at least a BS, including transcripts.
- If a BS, at least 5 years of field experience.
- If a MS or PhD, at least 3 years of field experience.
- Documents education and experience with transcripts and supporting references.
- Pass two comprehensive exams.
- To maintain certification 40 hours, CEUs every two years.

### **American Society of Agronomy (Certified Crop Advisor, CCA)**

- If a BS in agriculture, at least 2 years of field experience.
- If no degree, at least 4 years of field experience.
- Documents education and experience with transcripts and supporting references.
- Pass two comprehensive exams.
- To maintain certification, 40 hours CEUs every two years.

### **Society for Range Management (Certified Range Management Consultant)**

- Education-at least a BS in range management.
- If a BS, at least 10 years of experience in range management.
- If a MS, at least 8 years of experience in range management.
- If a PhD, at least 6 years of experience in range management.
- Applicant must supply certified transcripts, record of employment, list of publications and consulting reports, and four recommendations.

### **Society for Range Management (Certified Professional in Rangeland Management, CPRM)**

- Education-at least a BS in range management or closely related field.

- Complete, with at least a “C” average, a list of rangeland courses.
- If a BS, at least 5 years of experience in rangeland management.
- If a MS or PhD, at least 3 years of experience in rangeland management.
- Supply three references one of which must be a CPRM.
- Supply a list of users/professional the applicant has worked for/with to show experience.
- Pass one exam.
- To maintain certification, 32 hours CEUs every two years.

**Iowa State University’s (ISU) certified CNMP course (Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage Certification)**

- Complete ISU CNMP course and pass the manure and Wastewater handling and storage exam.
- Complete NRCS Conservation planning modules 1-5 (Supply copy of score or certificate).
- Complete NRCS Field Office Tech Guide modules (supply copy of score or certificate).
- Review the elements of a CNMP as contained in NRCS technical guidance.
- Complete NRCS Agricultural Waste Management System Level 2 course (supply certificate).
- To maintain certification, 6 hours of CEUs every three years.

**Iowa State University’s (ISU) certified CNMP course (Nutrient Management Certification)**

- Complete ISU CNMP course and pass the Nutrient Management exam.
- Complete NRCS Conservation planning modules 1-5 (Supply copy of score or certificate).
- Complete NRCS Field Office Tech Guide modules (supply copy of score or certificate).
- Review the elements of a CNMP as contained in NRCS technical guidance.
- Complete the NRCS Introduction to Water Quality Course (supply a copy of certificate).
- Complete the Nutrient Management portion of the NRCS Nutrient Management and Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning (supply a copy of certificate).

**Iowa State University’s (ISU) certified CNMP course (Land Treatment Practices Certification)**

- Complete ISU CNMP course and pass the Land Treatment Practices exam.
- Complete NRCS Conservation planning modules 1-5 (Supply copy of score or certificate).
- Complete NRCS Field Office Tech Guide modules (supply copy of score or certificate).
- Review the elements of a CNMP as contained in NRCS technical guidance.
- Have competence in applying Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE).

**The Wildlife Society (Certified Wildlife Biologist)**

- Education-BS, BA or higher degree in biology, wildlife or related field of study.
- If a bachelor's degree, 5 years experience within the last 10 years.
- If a master's degree, 4 years of experience.
- If a PhD, 3 years experience.
- If both a master's and a PhD, then 2 years experience.
- Document education and experience with official transcripts, work history and supporting references.

**The Irrigation Association (Certified Irrigation Designer, CID)**

- At least 1 year of education in irrigation related field or 1 year of irrigation related experience.
- Complete the Irrigation Industry exam.
- Complete the General Agriculture exam after having 3 years of experience and completion of Irrigation Industry exam.
- Complete Specialty exam(s) in Drip/Micro, Sprinkler and/or Surface.

**The Irrigation Association (Certified Agricultural Irrigation Specialist, CAIS)**

- Complete an Agricultural Irrigation Specialists training course and pass exam.
- To maintain certification, 10 hours CEUs every year.

**National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (Certified Professional Crop Consultants, CPCC)**

- Education-BA or BS in agricultural discipline (at least 10 years as a crop consultant).
- With a non-agricultural degree may petition.
- If a bachelor's degree, 6 years experience providing crop management recommendations.
- If a master's degree, 5 years experience providing crop management recommendations.
- If a PhD degree, 4 years experience providing crop management recommendations.
- Pass either a State specific licensing exam, State or regional CCA exam, or if these are not available pass the national CCA exam.
- Submit a case study.
- Submit names of five clients.
- To maintain certification, 36 CEUs per year.

**Society of American Foresters (SAF) Certified Forester**

- Education-bachelors or masters from a SAF accredited school or bachelors or masters from a non-SAF accredited school which is substantially equivalent.
- If a bachelor's degree at least 5 years of qualifying professional forestry related experience.
- If a master's degree at least 4 years of qualifying professional forestry related

experience.

- If a PhD degree, at least 3 years of qualifying professional forestry related experience.
- If both a masters and a PhD, at least 2 years of qualifying professional forestry related experience.
- Pass a certification examination.
- To maintain certification, 30 CEUs every three years.

#### **Association of Consulting Foresters of America (ACF)**

- Education-at least a BS degree in Forestry from an approved college.
- Minimum of 2 years experience in practical forestry administration, management or other special forestry classifications.
- Must be owner or partner of a forestry consulting firm, or salaried employee in one owned by an ACF member.

#### **American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS)**

- Education-at least a BS in one of the Animal Sciences.
- If an BS, 4 years of relevant professional experience.
- If an MS, 2 years of relevant professional experience.
- If a PhD, 1 year of relevant professional experience.
- Pass a written exam.
- Supply 2 references of completed Feed Management practice.
- To maintain certification, 15 CEUs per year.

#### **American Fisheries Society (Fisheries Professional Certified, FP-C)**

- Education-at least a Bachelors degree in Biology w/fishery aquatic sciences courses.
- If a bachelor's degree, 5 years of fulltime experience.
- If a master's degree, 4 years of fulltime experience.
- If a PhD degree, 2 years of fulltime experience.
- Document education and experience with official transcripts, work history and supporting references.
- To maintain certification a complicated point system for professional development.

#### **American Forage and Grasslands Council (AFGC)**

- Completion of a bachelor's degree in Agronomy, Soils, Animal Science, Natural Resources, Range Science, or closely related fields.
- Completion with a grade of "C" or better in the following subjects: a) Plant Physiology, b) Basic soil science, c) Principles of forage production, d) Principles of biology, e) Basic animal science, f) Animal nutrition, or g) Principles of agriculture economics.
- Certified Grassland Professionals will be required to meet the minimum continuing education requirements of 32 CEU's during the 2-year certification

period.

- At least five years of full-time, experience is required.
- Passing score of at least 75 percent on the comprehensive written exam.
- Furnish three letters of reference, at least two of which must be from professionals in the field of forage, range, or pasture management.
- Furnish a list of five or more forage or grassland management professionals or land users, and contact information, for which they worked during the five or more years of qualifying experience.

### **Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)**

- Earn a BS degree or higher in engineering (agricultural, civil, or environmental), geology, soil science, natural resource science or management, or a related field is acceptable.
- Three (3) years of professional level experience in the soil erosion and sediment control profession - college transcripts are required. The time requirement for professional level experience may be reduced by obtaining In-Training status.
- Complete seven (7) years or more of professional level experience in the erosion and sediment control profession. The time requirement for professional level experience may be reduced by obtaining In-Training status.
- Through the professional experience profile, references, and written exam, the applicant must demonstrate an ability to observe, evaluate, and synthesize information; to consider alternatives; and to propose appropriate recommendations in a clear, logical manner.
- International applicants must provide documentation to assure that educational degrees obtained and work experience. Qualification under a delegated program (e.g. CPESC - Australia) meets this requirement.

### **Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPSWQ)**

- Each applicant must successfully pass a written examination designed to determine proficiency in the principles, practices, and legislation of storm water quality.
- Earn a BS degree\* plus six (6) years of professional level experience in the storm water quality profession.
- Earn a MS degree\* plus four (4) years of professional level experience in the storm water quality profession. \*\*
- Earn a PhD degree\* plus two (2) years of professional level experience in the storm water quality profession.\*\*
- Attain certification as a CPESC (Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control).

Degree in hydrology, engineering ( agricultural, civil, environmental, or  
\* chemical ), landscape architecture, geology, soil science, natural resources management, or a related field are acceptable.

\*\* Professional level experience is defined as working in a profession where

approximately 75 percent of professional time is spent in the relevant field.

- Through the professional experience form, references, and written exam, the applicant must demonstrate an ability to observe, evaluate, and synthesize information, to consider alternatives, and to establish appropriate recommendations in a clear and logical manner.
- International applicants must provide documentation to verify that educational degrees and work experience.