

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CPAg

With the approach of the new year our thoughts turn, naturally, to CPAg and what we have done in the past year in terms of continuing professional development. The assessment panel (John Caradus, Murray Craighead, Howard Bezar and Jacqueline Rowarth) want to make your task of applying for CPAg as easy as possible, so here are some guidelines:

WHO CAN BECOME CPAg?

CPAg is for full members of NZIAS and NZSHS who have at least two years of experience in agri-industry. Members of NZSSS can become CPSS. We are working with various other groups, exploring possibilities of affiliations.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR CPAg?

Jenny Taylor sends out application forms to every member at the beginning of each year. You are asked to fill in the forms by 31st March each year; after this date, applications for CPAg will be considered for new members, only. We suggest you send in the forms with your subscription in the reply paid envelope; unfinancial members are not eligible for CPAg.

WHAT CAN I PUT ON THE APPLICATION FORM?

1. Five hours reading. We know that you spend more than five hours reading - but most are connected directly with your employment. The five hours claimed here are 'in addition to normal work'.
2. Hours for short courses, plus deliverer and dates.
3. Hours for conferences, plus organiser and dates. Note that conferences count for a maximum of six hours per day, unless the organisers have made a case for long days and applied for those hours (in which case, there will be a note on the conference flier that has words to the effect of "this conference counts for X hours towards CPAg").
4. Hours for seminars and workshops, plus deliverer and date. Please note that student seminars do not count. Nor do rehearsal for paper presentations. Both are given to elicit your help; we are looking for professional extension.
5. If you are involved in postgraduate study or courses which are recognised by a certificate of some sort, put the hours down.
6. Hours for field days, plus organiser and dates (NB hours where you were the deliverer should not be counted, and nor should a suite of field days covering the same topics).
7. Study tours are eligible at 6 hours a day; details should be presented of people visited. Words such as 'study tour of barrier reef; 14 hours a day' tend to be viewed sceptically, despite the best intentions of the panel.

Activities which are ineligible include judging science fairs, committee work, lecturing, writing or editing books, policy reviews, organising activities, and refereeing bids - this is because you wouldn't be doing those activities if you weren't considered to have capabilities in that field. CPAg acknowledges 'expanding of knowledge at a professional level'

WHAT HAPPENS TO HOURS OVER 50

If you are credited with more than 50 hours, the extra will be rolled for ONE YEAR, after which they are dead.

For example:

In 1999 you did 75 hours of continuing professional development.

In 2000, you will be credited with those 75 hours, 25 of which can be carried forward to 2001.

If in 2000 you do:-

Hours in 2000	Application in 2001	Result	Application in 2002	Result	Application in 2003
0	25 (from 1999)	no CPAG			
25	50	CPAG			
50	75	CPAG, plus 25 hours carried forward from 2000			
75	100	CPAG, plus 50 hours carried forward from 2000	No need to apply ¹	Automatic CPAG	Reapply based on 2002
1000	1025	CPAG, plus 975 hours carried forward from 2000	No need to apply ¹	Automatic CPAG	Reapply based on 2002 ² .

¹ CPAG will be given automatically if you did 100 hours in 2000. However, this means you will be starting fresh in 2002. We suggest that you do fill in your hours and reapply every year as surplus hours can be rolled for one year.

² The hours you did two years earlier, even though there were hundreds of them, are now 'dead' - as they are no longer 'up-to-date'. As a consequence, being credited more than 100 hours is of no use to you personally, but they do help the statistics in terms of calculating hours that agricultural professionals spend on continuing professional development.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY APPLICATION?

Applications are reviewed by the assessment panel who check hours and activities and make a recommendation. If we are unsure about a figure (for instance, what a seminar series or field tour involved) we will ask for clarification. We want to have as many people accredited as possible, but are working within guidelines (from Australia) so that the accreditation means something. The new fertiliser guidelines state that anybody making fertiliser recommendations should be CPAG. We hope that more groups will follow this initiative so that CPAG becomes a recognised mark in the industry.

Jacqueline Rowarth, CPAG
President,
NZIAS5/2/2000