

Mid-Atlantic Certified Crop Adviser (MACCA) Program Call for Grant Proposal

Solicitation Notice
Calendar Year 2009.

Background

The Certified Crop Adviser Program (CCA) is one of the professional certification programs offered by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA). It is a voluntary program providing a base level of standard through testing and raising that standard through continuing education.

The Mid-Atlantic Certified Crop Adviser Program (MACCA) is a component of the 37-state/regional/provincial boards called "Local Boards" throughout the United States and Canada.

Each CCA had to pass two exams (international and local) and submit credentials detailing their education, crop advising experience plus two references. They must sign and adhere to a code of ethics.

The exams cover four major competency areas: nutrient management, soil and water management, integrated pest management and crop management. Continuing education must also fall into one of these four areas, (or a new category of Professional Development) to be valid for CCA Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Section I. Overview and Deadlines

A. Purpose of Solicitation:

The Mid-Atlantic Certified Crop Adviser Program (MACCA) will provide financial support to agricultural agencies, research institutions, environmental agencies, and non-profit organizations to support projects and activities that support the MACCA mission and project priorities.

The MACCA's mission is to certify agricultural advisors and instill a quality of professionalism, knowledge and integrity to the agricultural industry.

Project priorities include the following:

- (1) Increase the recognition and awareness of the MACCA program.
- (2) Sponsor educational events and endeavors, such as scholarships, that will recognize MACCA and allow the MACCA chair or designee to present the award.
- (3) Provide additional MACCA related resources to certification holders such as web-based announcements and or information.
- (4) Expand the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) resources to address agronomic issues within the Mid-Atlantic region such as self-study topics and classroom events. Funding will be provided based on the number of expected participants and the hours of credits provided. Funding preference will be given to underserved categories such as soil and water management.

B. Due Date and Grant approval process:

- (1) **Due date;** Grant proposals are valid for 240 days and due before the following dates:

February 15, 2009

August 15, 2009

This is the postmark due date for an original proposal signed by an authorized representative. Proposals mailed or sent after this date will not be considered for funding.

- (2) *Review of Proposals*
A committee selected by the Chair of the MACCA will review proposals and recommend to the Board of Directors for approval. The Board of Directors may choose to delegate approval authority to a committee.
- (3) *Announcements/Rejection Letters*
will be provided by the MACCA chair within 90 days from the due date.
- (4) *Funding Limits* per Proposal is set to a limit of \$1,500. The MACCA annual budget for grants is not to exceed \$6,000.
- (5) *Grant payments* are to be honored with a bill and any other requirements established by the selection committee.

Section II. Eligible Applicants

Any local agricultural agency, college or university, federal/state/county agency, environmental organization, or non-profit organization.

Section III. Requirements for Proposals

The proposal should be brief (one to three pages) and should contain the following:

- (1) *Title:* Identify your project in one sentence or less.
- (2) *Responsible Organization:* Describe your organization and list your key

partners/researchers for this grant, if applicable, and include a “Project Manager”; a mailing address and telephone number should be provided.

- (3) *Project Description:* Provide an overview of your project that explains the concept. Describe precisely what the project will achieve - why, how, when, with what, and how it meets the grant priorities. For projects seeking funding for CEUs, applicants should include the expected number of participants, the number of hours and type of CEU to be offered (S&W, IPM, CM, NM, and/or PD).
- (4) *Objective:* Briefly list the specific goals and objectives of your project.
- (5) *Timeline:* Include a “timeline” to link your activities to a clear project schedule and indicate at what point over the months of your budget period each action, event, etc. occurs.
- (6) *Budget:* Clarify how MACCA funds will be used for specific activities. Please exhibit any outside sources of income (proposals demonstrating matching funds will be given higher consideration).

Section IV. Application Submittal

Applications shall be submitted to:
MACCA
53 Slama Road
Edgewater, MD 21037
and postmarked on or before the deadline date(s).

A Word document or a PDF file may be emailed to lynnehoot@aol.com.