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A Note and Some Suggestions on the Ethics CEU Requirement

The Soils Certifying Board decided in 2010 to require one ethics credit per each CEU cycle (1 CEU in ethics as part of the 40 CEU requirement). This policy was implemented as of January 1, 2011 and was widely advertised on our website and in our print and on-line media. The ethics requirement is not unusual for certified and licensed professionals and in fact is a requirement in many professions.

There are many options available to you to obtain the 1 CEU in ethics:

- There is an online recorded webinar called Ethics or That Little Grey Area You Need to Pay Attention To. This can be found on our website at <https://www.soils.org/certifications/cpsc-self-study/> and is available 24/7. The cost is \$25 and you will need to take a 10 question quiz at the end. Your CEU would then be automatically recorded by our system and your CEU record would be updated since you would log in when you take the webinar.

The on-line course is not the only way to obtain an ethics credit, but you must show one on your CEU reporting form in order to renew.

- There are many books written on ethics, and reading one of those would certainly qualify for a credit.
- If you are at an educational institution and have access to the university's library system you can search for and read articles on ethics and this would be free to you.
- If you are an USDA-NRCS employee, I have been told by NRCS employees that they have access to 46 courses in AgLearn which provides in-house ethics training for employees and includes things like the following (other government agencies may also have something like this):

Ethics: Seeking Non-Federal Employment
Ethics: Government Purchase Card Ethics Training
Ethics: Conflicting Interests
Ethics: Gifts Between Employees

- You can also search our ACSESS Digital Library, which is a complete collection of all content published by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. The societies are providing free access through the end of the year and you can access the site at <https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/>. I have gone into the digital library prior to suggesting this to you to make sure that there are ethics articles available. I just put in the keyword ethics and had well over 100 suggestions come up. This would be free to you until the end of the year and you would need to report which paper(s) you read to equal one CEU.

If you have further questions, please contact Dr. Dawn Ferris at dferris@soils.org or by phone at 608-819-3900.