



Office of  
**INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER**

*Protecting Indiana's Agriculture and Environment - Feed, Fertilizer, Hemp, Pesticide and Seed*

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**2022**  
**INDIANA PESTICIDE REGULATORY**  
**SUMMARY REPORT of ACTIVITIES**

**MISSION & STAFF:** The pesticide section of the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) is charged with administration of the Indiana pesticide laws I.C. 15-16-4 and I.C.15-16-5 and represents the Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) in Indiana for the purpose of enforcing federal pesticide law. The mission of OISC under these laws is to protect Indiana citizens and the environment from hazardous, ineffective and improperly formulated and labeled pesticide products and from unacceptable pesticide exposure. Thirty full-time professional and support staff, plus an additional thirteen shared OISC support staff are responsible for carrying out this mission.

**PRODUCT REGISTRATION:** In 2022, OISC registered 19,373 pesticide products in the state of Indiana. Product registration numbers in 2022 included 3,799 new registrations, which included 2 FIFRA Sec. 24(c) registrations, 171 FIFRA Sec. 25(b) registrations, 1,130 device registrations, 82 Restricted Use Pesticides, and no FIFRA Sec. 18 registrations. OISC continued to work cooperatively with the U.S. EPA and other State Lead Agencies to review, maintain, and correct product registration databases and product labels. Adequate product registration and labeling are paramount to a safe, effective, and credible national pesticide regulatory program.

**APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION & CREDENTIALING:** OISC issued 29,736 pesticide credentials. This included licenses for 3,577 pesticide application businesses, 10,592 pesticide applicators, 3,945 pesticide technicians, 562 pesticide dealers, and 10,205 farmers using pesticides. OISC worked with Purdue Cooperative Extension Service (CES) and industry representatives to upgrade the commercial applicator aquatic pest management (category 5), the termite control (category 7B) and the wood destroying pest inspection (category 12) competency exams. The new exams have been completed and the category 5 exam has been fully implemented. In 2022, OISC reviewed and approved over 730 continuing certification training programs for pesticide applicators. OISC coordinated with U.S. EPA to develop and gain approval of a state plan for certification of applicators that complies with recent revisions of 40 CFR 171.

**COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT:** In 2022 pesticide staff investigated 320 complaint cases and conducted 853 routine compliance inspections. Previous ten-year highs were 518 complaint investigations in 2017 and 1773 routine inspections in 2017. In 2022 OISC pesticide laboratories analyzed 746 environmental residue samples and 72 product integrity samples. Previous ten-year averages are 1,234 environmental residue samples and 76 product integrity samples. Average complaint investigation sample numbers have increased significantly over the last six years due to the unprecedented increase in the complaints resulting from the adoption of dicamba tolerant crops and a corresponding increase of the use of dicamba herbicides on those crops. The most notable compliance issue again in 2022 was agricultural drift. 227 drift complaints were investigated. 84 of those complaints involved dicamba herbicides. The number of dicamba drift complaints were reduced in 2020-2022 period by approximately 50% from 2017-2019 period. That 50% reduction has been attributed to a June 20<sup>th</sup> application cutoff date being implemented by OISC and the IPRB, effective 2020.

**OUTREACH & COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE:** During 2022, with financial support from U.S. EPA, OISC conducted a Pesticide Clean Sweep Project, collecting 60,728 pounds of hazardous waste pesticides from 140 Indiana applicators at minimal to no cost to the participants. This collection figure was second only to the previous all-time high in 2017 of 104,520 pounds of pesticide waste. Also, in 2022, OISC continued to support the FieldWatch/DriftWatch/BeeCheck pesticide sensitive crop and pollinator protection mapping registries through financial support of an on-staff data steward for Indiana. For the year, these registries recorded 1,386 registered applicators, 4,139 producers, 2,562 sensitive fields/crops, 182,107 sensitive acres, 2,139 apiaries, and 9,696 pollinator hives. And new for 2022 was the Seed Field Check feature that allows for identifying pesticide sensitive seed characteristics in planted fields. 492 fields covering 62,162 acres were registered in Seed Field Check.

**INDIANA PESTICIDE REVIEW BOARD:** Created through IC 15-16-4-42 in 1971, this twenty-member board is appointed by the Governor to develop pesticide policy and regulations for the State of Indiana. Board members include scientists, government officials, university researchers, conservationists, industry representatives and a public representative. In 2022, the Board and OISC worked to: 1) finalize revisions to Indiana pesticide rules to accommodate recent revisions to the federal EPA applicator certification and training rules; 2) review EPA's approach to address off-target drift from mosquito adulticide insecticides applications to private property; 3) review EPA's revised approach to implement requirements under the Endangered Species Act; 4) review OISC drift response processes, including the development of guidance for interpreting environmental residues in samples collected during investigations; and 5) identify steps to improve OISC customer service for licensed applicators.

*Information as of 1-19-23*