

2007

PESTICIDE PROGRAM SUMMARY REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES

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The pesticide section of the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) is charged with administration of the Indiana Pesticide Registration Law (I.C. 15-3-3.5), the Indiana Pesticide Use and Application Law (I.C.15-3-3.6), and also represents the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) in Indiana for the purpose of enforcing the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). A full time field staff of five performs inspections at licensees, samples pesticide products and devices, and investigates complaints concerning the use or alleged misuse of pesticide products.

CREDENTIALS ISSUED		ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY	
Licensed Businesses	2607	Complaints Investigated	138
For-Hire Applicators	5559	Enforcement Letters Issued	99
Not-For-Hire Applicators	948	Administrative Hearings	5
Public Applicators	1221	Credential Revocations/Suspensions	3
Registered Technicians	2331	Criminal Actions	0
Restricted Use Dealers	538	Forwarded to US EPA	1
Private Applicators	13760	Civil Penalties Assessed	54
Pesticide Consultants	314		

The Indiana Pesticide Registration Law requires the registration of all pesticides or pesticidal devices that are used, produced, distributed, sold, displayed or offered for sale within the state of Indiana. The law defines "pesticide" as any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating a pest or used as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant. OISC maintains a complete label file for all pesticides registered in the state of Indiana. A listing of currently registered pesticides can be searched on line through the Pesticide Section at www.isco.purdue.edu.

In 2007, 14,127 pesticides were registered by manufacturers or formulators. Inspections conducted at pesticide producer establishments and in market places resulted in the collection and analysis of 158 pesticide formulation samples. 11% of these samples failed to meet their label guarantees or had label defects and were therefore violative. During the year, it was necessary to issue 11 stop sale orders for pesticide products that were not in compliance.

CLEAN SWEEP

The Office of Indiana State Chemist in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, conducted a Pesticide Clean Sweep Project. The intent of the program was to give farmers, agricultural chemical dealers, pest control companies, municipal and county agencies, golf courses and others an opportunity to dispose of unwanted, cancelled or suspended pesticides at little or no cost. In August of 2007, in Daviess County, Tippecanoe County, Whitley County and Decatur County, a total of 22,355 pounds of waste pesticide were collected for disposal. Also this year OISC discovered what may be the tip of the iceberg in unwanted or forgotten caches of pesticides. In two separate instances OISC assisted private individuals with the disposal of pesticides. In these two instances 4,105 pounds of pesticides were removed for disposal.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

One of the goals of OISC and USEPA is to ensure that there is a "value" added to regulation and that behaviors are being changed for the better. As a result, OISC has started a formal program to re-inspect those companies that have had enforcement problems. For example, if a company is cited for having unlicensed individuals applying pesticides for hire without proper supervision, OISC will ensure this company will be re-inspected within a few months to document compliance with the licensing and/or supervision requirements. This program is called "Measures of Success" and is reported to USEPA bi-annually.



AGRICULTURAL FUNGICIDE USE ON THE RISE

In Indiana, as well as many other corn-belt states, rising corn prices and aggressive marketing of yield increase potential through the use of fungicides created a number of regulatory challenges in 2007. Because the fungicide application to corn required aerial application, OISC found it necessary to create a number of reciprocal certification agreements with other States to accommodate the influx of out-of-state applicators. We went from 67 licensed aerial applicators in 2006 to 109 in 2007. OISC field staff also responded to at least ten additional off-target drift complaints involving aerial application of fungicides. While the additional drift complaints were a significant increase above the annual average, the actual number in comparison to the total acres treated during the small application window may have been relatively small. This could have been the result of advance risk mitigation outreach work between OISC and the pesticide application industries before the spray season.