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## INDIANA PESTICIDE CONTROL SUMMARY REPORT of ACTIVITIES

*Office of Indiana State Chemist*

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**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 also 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. Twenty-one professional staff and five support staff are responsible for carrying out this mission.

**PRODUCT REGISTRATION:** In 2014, pesticide manufacturers registered 15,813 products for sale and distribution in Indiana. This number exceeds the ten year annual average for Indiana of 14,646. It also exceeds the last ten year average of 13,458 pesticide products registered by neighboring states.

During the last year OISC worked directly with US EPA headquarters to improve the quality of federal product registration data and to improve the coordination and consistency of comparable federal and state data.

**CERTIFICATION & CREDENTIALING:** OISC issued 28,521 pesticide credentials. This included licenses for 3125 pesticide application businesses, 12,279 pesticide applicators, 11,449 in-house and government applicators, 2867 pesticide technicians, 545 pesticide dealers, and 11,449 farmers using pesticides. The 28,521 total credentials for 2014 are consistent with the ten year annual average of 27,434.

During 2014 OISC worked with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service (CES) and a team of industry representatives to develop or upgrade the subject-matter-valid certification exam and corresponding training manual for area-wide mosquito control commercial pesticide applicators. OISC also reviewed and approved approximately 750 continuing certification training programs for pesticide applicators.

**COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT:** Pesticide staff investigated 390 complaint cases and conducted 1561 routine compliance inspections, exceeding the ten year annual averages of 268 complaint cases and 1462 compliance inspections. These investigations and inspections required OISC laboratory analysis of 732 environmental residue samples and 66 product integrity samples. The 732 environmental samples exceeded the ten year annual average of 247 samples.

For investigations finalized to date there have been 212 formal violations, including 212 written warnings/citations, 104 administrative fines, four applicator credential suspensions, and twelve stop use/sale orders. Enforcement action numbers have been relatively consistent with the ten year annual average of 169.

Numbers of off-target pesticide drift complaints (102) and resulting violations (37 to date) exceeded the ten year averages of 70 and 25 respectively.

During 2014 OISC initiated two investigations being conducted in conjunction with U.S. EPA's Criminal Investigation Division. Those pending cases involved the illegal importation and application of a non-registered agricultural insecticide to motel rooms for the control of bedbugs and the illegal importation and application of a Chinese labeled non-registered insecticide in restaurants.

In an effort to ensure that neonicotinoid insecticide products were being used by professional seed treatment applicators in a manner that was responsible and protective of pollinators, OISC conducted over 150 routine compliance inspections at seed treatment businesses.

**TRAINING, OUTREACH & COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE:** During 2014, with financial support from U.S. EPA, OISC conducted a Pesticide Clean Sweep Project, collecting 64,003 pounds of hazardous waste pesticides from Indiana applicators at little or no cost to the participants. This collection figure exceeded the annual average over the last five years of 22,556 pounds. The significant increase was attributed to a large agriculture dealer cooperative cleaning out accumulated waste from all of their multiple branch locations this year rather than carrying some waste forward to next year's collection.

OISC continued to participate in professional and regulatory association affairs with at least 9 staff members serving as officers or committee members on no fewer than 24 regional and national committees and work groups.

**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 2014, the Board and OISC: 1) examined the need to make adjustments to the pesticide business license liability insurance regulation; 2) continued to examine potential implications of the introduction of 2,4-d and dicamba tolerant crops; 3) examined the need for a state rule to address the shortcomings of current pesticide runoff restrictions on federal product labels; 4) evaluated comments prepared by OISC and submitted to U.S. EPA in response to proposed amendments to federal Worker Protection Standard regulations; and 5) formulated a work group to develop a state plan in response to the President's directive to provide protection of pollinators from negative exposures to pesticides.

*Information accurate as of 4-22-15*