



Office of
INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER
Protecting Indiana's Agriculture and Environment - Feed, Fertilizer, Pesticide and Seed

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2017
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 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-four full-time professional staff and six support staff are responsible for carrying out this mission.

PRODUCT REGISTRATION: In 2017, pesticide manufacturers registered 16,852 products for sale and distribution in Indiana. This number exceeds the ten-year annual average for Indiana of 15,251. OISC continued to work cooperatively with the U.S. EPA to review and improve federal pesticide registration databases and pesticide product labels. Federal product registration and labeling are paramount to a safe, effective, and credible national pesticide regulatory program.

APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION & CREDENTIALING: OISC issued 31,133 pesticide credentials. This included licenses for 3570 pesticide application businesses, 10,750 pesticide applicators, 4049 pesticide technicians, 557 pesticide dealers, and 12,207 farmers using pesticides. OISC worked with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service (CES) and a team of industry representatives to revise and upgrade the subject-matter-valid certification exams and corresponding training manuals for ornamental pest management (category 3A) and fumigation (category 7D) commercial pesticide applicators. OISC also reviewed over 610 continuing certification training programs for pesticide applicators. OISC hired a fourth full-time clerical position in the certification and licensing section during 2016. This hire reduced the credentialing processing time by over a month during 2017.

COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT: Pesticide staff investigated 523 complaint cases and conducted 1779 routine compliance inspections, exceeding the ten year annual averages of 342 complaint cases and 1688 routine compliance inspections. These investigations and inspections required OISC laboratory analysis of 2577 environmental residue samples and 103 product integrity samples. The 2577 environmental samples exceeded the ten-year annual average of 604 samples. For investigations and inspections finalized to date there have been 249 formal violations cited. This is below the ten-year annual average of 215 violations, but many 2017 cases are still being processed. The most notable compliance issue for 2017 was agricultural drift. The annual ten-year average of off-target drift complaints is 89, but in 2017 a record number 263 complaints were filed. An unprecedented 134 of those complaints were alleged to involve the herbicide dicamba. No single pesticide active ingredient has ever been associated with such a large number of complaints. New dicamba-tolerant soybean seed technology introduced this year resulted in more dicamba use, at critical soybean growth stages. This phenomenon was not an Indiana specific issue, as record numbers of dicamba drift complaints were filed in every major soybean producing state in the nation. All of OISC's resources and priorities were impacted and stressed by drift response activities. Both U.S. EPA and the Indiana Pesticide Review Board will be tracking this issue closely in 2018.

OUTREACH & COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE: During 2017, with financial support from U.S. EPA, OISC conducted a Pesticide Clean Sweep Project, collecting a record 104,520 pounds of hazardous waste pesticides from 234 Indiana applicators at minimal to no cost to the participants. This collection figure significantly exceeded the six-year annual average of 30,097 pounds of pesticide waste. Products collected included federally cancelled products such as DDT and calcium cyanide.

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 2017, the Board and OISC: 1) drafted a rule to address negative implications of the introduction of 2,4-D and dicamba tolerant crop technologies; 2) drafted a rule change to exempt bulk disinfectant pesticide users from storage and containment regulations; 3) developed regulatory criteria for allowing web-based continuing certification training of certified pesticide applicators; 4) evaluated the need to allow for mitigation of large civil penalties assessed for pesticide violations; and 5) developed a multi-stakeholder state plan to protect pollinators from negative exposures to pesticides.

Information accurate as of 4-25-18