



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

Robert D. Waltz, Ph.D.
State Chemist &
Seed Commissioner

Purdue University • 175 South University Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2063
Telephone (765) 494-1492 • Facsimile (765) 494-4331
www.oisc.purdue.edu

2020
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. Twenty-seven full-time professional and support staff, plus an additional twelve shared OISC support staff are responsible for carrying out this mission.

PRODUCT REGISTRATION: In 2020, OISC registered 17,229 pesticide products in the state of Indiana, including registrations from 270 new registrants/manufacturers. To contrast, in 2018 there were only 24 new product registrants/manufacturers registering products in Indiana. Product registration numbers in 2020 included 1,650 new registrations, 22 FIFRA Sec. 24(c) registrations, 524 FIFRA Sec. 25(b) registrations, 713 device registrations, and one FIFRA Sec. 18 registration for a herbicide used in mint production. In an effort to assist registrants with challenges created by the COVID pandemic, OISC extended product registration deadlines and provided opportunities for one-year conditional registrations. OISC also collaborated with the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service to provide an overview of the legal use of pesticides to hemp growers during applicator trainings. OISC continued to work cooperatively with the U.S. EPA and other State Lead Agencies to review and 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. In addition, OISC continued to chair the American Association of Pest Control Officials (AAPCO) FIFRA Sec. 25(b) Workgroup to develop consistent national standards for state registration of 25(b) pesticide products that are exempt from federal registration.

APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION & CREDENTIALING: OISC issued 29,485 pesticide credentials. This included licenses for 3,745 pesticide application businesses, 11,035 pesticide applicators, 3,642 pesticide technicians, 583 pesticide dealers, and 10,480 farmers using pesticides. With the assistance of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service (CES) and industry representatives OISC upgraded and implemented the pesticide Core exam. In 2020, OISC reviewed and approved over 700 continuing certification training programs for pesticide applicators.

COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT: In 2020 pesticide staff investigated 316 complaint cases and conducted 1465 routine compliance inspections. Previous five-year highs were 518 complaint investigations in 2017 and 1773 routine inspections in 2017. In 2020 OISC pesticide laboratories analyzed 936 environmental residue samples and 56 product integrity samples. The previous five-year high was 2577 environmental residue samples in 2017 and 107 product integrity samples in 2019. Complaint investigation sample numbers have increased significantly over the last three 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. By comparison, OISC collected only 124 environmental residue samples in 2006. As in 2017 through 2019, the

most notable compliance issue during 2020 was agricultural drift, with 231 total (83 dicamba) drift complaints investigated. The number of dicamba drift complaints were reduced by approximately 50% from 2017 through 2019 levels as the result of the June 20th application restrictions implemented by OISC and the IPRB prior to the 2020 growing season.

OUTREACH & COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE: During 2020, with financial support from U.S. EPA, OISC conducted a Pesticide Clean Sweep Project, collecting 37,558 pounds of hazardous waste pesticides from 231 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.

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 2020, the Board and OISC worked cooperatively and successfully to: 1) draft legislative revisions for successful enactment by the Indiana Legislature to overhaul and update pesticide civil penalty administration by OISC; 2) designate all agricultural dicamba products as Highly Volatile Herbicides to accommodate a June 20th application cutoff date and reduce the incidents of off-target movement; and 3) facilitate discussions for solutions to address aerial public health mosquito applications and protection of pollinators.

Information as of 1-4-22