



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

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

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**2021**  
**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-eight full-time professional and support staff, plus an additional thirteen shared OISC support staff are responsible for carrying out this mission.

**PRODUCT REGISTRATION:** In 2021, OISC registered 16,888 pesticide products in the state of Indiana, including registrations from 239 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 1,320 new registrations, 21 FIFRA Sec. 24(c) registrations, 497 FIFRA Sec. 25(b) registrations, 671 device registrations, and no FIFRA Sec. 18 registrations. 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 29,914 pesticide credentials. This included licenses for 3,633 pesticide application businesses, 10,720 pesticide applicators, 3,872 pesticide technicians, 599 pesticide dealers, and 11,090 farmers using pesticides. OISC is working 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. In 2021, OISC reviewed and approved over 550 continuing certification training programs for pesticide applicators.

**COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT:** In 2021 pesticide staff investigated 293 complaint cases and conducted 931 routine compliance inspections. Previous five-year highs were 518 complaint investigations in 2017 and 1773 routine inspections in 2017. In 2021 OISC pesticide laboratories analyzed 931 environmental residue samples and 49 product integrity samples. The previous five-year high was 2577 environmental residue samples in 2017 and 107 product integrity samples in 2019. Average complaint investigation sample numbers have increased significantly over the last five 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 2020, the most notable compliance issue during 2021 was agricultural drift, with 200 total (68 dicamba) drift complaints investigated. The number of dicamba drift complaints were reduced in 2020 and 2021 by approximately 50% from 2017 through 2019 levels as the result of the June 20<sup>th</sup> application restrictions implemented by OISC and the IPRB prior to the 2020 growing season.

**OUTREACH & COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE:** During 2021, with financial support from U.S. EPA, OISC conducted a Pesticide Clean Sweep Project, collecting 59,211 pounds of hazardous waste pesticides from 189 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 registered 85 commercial applicators, 363 producers, 907 sensitive fields/crops, 93,200 sensitive acres, 451 apiaries, and 1936 pollinator hives.

**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 revisions to Indiana pesticide rules to accommodate recent revisions to the federal EPA applicator certification and training rules and to address other outdated provisions of current state rules; and 2) develop solutions to address the increasing incidents of off-target drift from mosquito adulticide insecticides applications to private property.

*Information as of 1-13-22*