



Office of
INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER

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

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INDIANA PESTICIDE REGULATORY SUMMARY

AGENCY HISTORY: The Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) was established in 1881 by the Indiana General assembly to regulate the sale and distribution of fertilizer. It was located at Purdue University where chemical analysis on fertilizer products could be performed. Since then, OISC has been assigned no fewer than eleven different agricultural product-based laws and associated regulations to administer and enforce. These laws deal with product truth-in-labeling and distribution, and related user safety, food safety, and environmental safety. Regulated products and services include animal feed, pet-food, fertilizers, seed, plant inoculants, hemp, and pesticides. Details on OISC programs and services are available at <https://oisc.purdue.edu/index.html>.

MISSION & STAFF: The pesticide section of 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 OISC mission 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. Thirty full-time professional, laboratory, investigation, and program staff, plus an additional thirteen shared IT, quality assurance, and accounting support staff are responsible for carrying out this mission. Details on OISC pesticide programs and services are available at <https://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/index.html>.

PRODUCT REGISTRATION: In 2023, OISC registered 19,218 pesticide products in the state of Indiana. Product registration numbers in 2023 included 2,091 new registrations, which included 1 FIFRA Sec. 24(c) registrations, 67 FIFRA Sec. 25(b) registrations, 695 device registrations, 53 Restricted Use Pesticides, and no FIFRA Sec. 18 registrations. OISC continued to work cooperatively with the U.S. EPA and other State Lead Agencies to review, 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.

APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION & CREDENTIALING: OISC issued 29,932 pesticide credentials. This included licenses for 3,640 pesticide application businesses, 10,663 pesticide applicators, 4,404 pesticide technicians, 577 pesticide dealers, and 10,648 farmers using pesticides. OISC worked with Purdue Cooperative Extension Service (CES) and industry representatives to produce two applicator competency exams, one for wood preservation applicators and one for sewer root control applicators. In 2023, OISC reviewed and approved over 940 continuing certification training programs for pesticide applicators.

COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT: In 2023 pesticide staff investigated 218 complaint cases and conducted 922 routine compliance inspections. OISC pesticide laboratories analyzed 692 environmental residue samples and 57 product integrity samples. The most notable compliance issue again in 2023 was agricultural drift. OISC investigated 140 drift complaints. This is a significant reduction from the all-time high of 344 drift investigations in 2017. The number of dicamba drift complaints in 2023 fell to a level of

21. This reduction from the 2017 high of 197 was attributed, at least in part, to an application cutoff date of June 12th for over-the-top use of dicamba on soybeans.

OUTREACH & COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE: OISC field staff were able to offer compliance assistance to regulated clients in over 37% of the inspections and investigations for which violations were documented. Also, in 2023, with financial support from U.S. EPA, OISC conducted a Pesticide Clean Sweep Project, collecting 77,130 pounds of hazardous waste pesticides from 162 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. During 2023, OISC continued to support the FieldWatch/DriftWatch/BeeCheck/Seed Field Check 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 1,457 registered applicators, 4,126 producers, 3,094 sensitive fields/crops, 253,657 sensitive acres, 2,077 apiaries, 9,632 pollinator hives, and 599 seed check fields, and 65,458 acres of seed fields.

INDIANA PESTICIDE REVIEW BOARD: The IPRB was established by state pesticide law IC 15-16-4-42, in 1971. The board consists of 18 governor-appointed voting members and three non-voting advisory members from OISC and the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. The board was created to develop pesticide policy and regulations for the State of Indiana. Voting members include independent scientists, government officials, university researchers, conservationists, a public representative, and product manufacturing, distribution, and application industry representatives. In 2023, the Board and OISC reviewed and evaluated: 1) OISC proposals for treated seed disposal options; 2) OISC's Clean Sweep Project; 3) State/EPA residential mosquito control product issue paper; 4) EPA's revised approach to implement requirements under the Endangered Species Act; 5) 2023 pesticide rule revisions; 6) 2023 pesticide law amendments, introduced through HEA 1623; and 7) potential 2024 pesticide law amendments intended to clarify the full intent of provisions in HEA 1623. Details on board meetings and activities are available at <https://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/iprb.html>.

Information as of 3-10-24