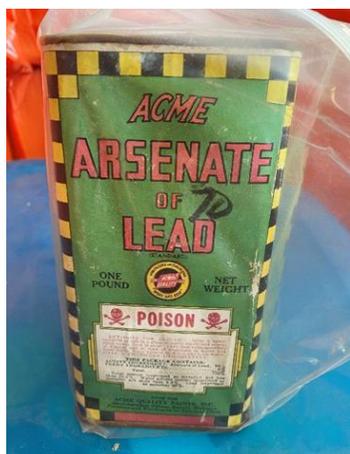


The SCOOP

State Chemist Office Outreach for Pesticides

Clean Sweep Program Safely Disposes of Cancelled, Outdated and Unused Pesticides

The Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) is a state agency that is charged with regulating feed, seed, fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia, hemp and pesticides. One valuable service the agency has provided for more than two decades is a service widely known as the Clean Sweep Program. Clean Sweep is a pollution prevention project aimed at offering farmers and commercial pesticide applicators a no cost or low-cost alternative for legal disposal of cancelled, outdated, unusable or unwanted pesticides. Disposal up to 250 pounds is free while amounts over 250 pounds cost only \$2.00 per pound. The program has been a resounding success in Indiana safely disposing of hundreds of thousands of pounds of pesticides that were no longer usable.



OISC's Clean Sweep Program is one of the largest state sponsored pesticide disposal programs in the US. For the 4th consecutive year, the OISC Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal Program collected more banned, outdated, and unusable pesticides than the previous year with 77,130 pounds of pesticides collected from 162 participants. This year's sites were in Elkhart, Gibson, Hendricks, Jackson, Newton, and Wayne counties. The program rotates locations to different counties each year to allow more widespread participation.

The OISC has observed several trends when it comes to the disposal of pesticides from Indiana's farms. First, generational changes within family-owned farms have caused a reassessment of pesticide use and storage. The younger generation doesn't want to carry forward the liability of endlessly storing outdated and unusable pesticides on their property. Second, the sale of non-operational farms has revealed some unwanted surprises to the new owners in the form of older cancelled pesticides. The Clean Sweep Program gives them a cost-effective way to properly dispose of the outdated and unusable pesticides.



In 2023, Clean Sweep assisted three non-operational family farms and one non-operational ag dealer in the legal disposal of over 14,000 pounds of outdated and unusable pesticides. Without Clean Sweep as a disposal option, many of these pesticides would have continued to sit in unused outbuildings. With Clean Sweep as an option, these pesticides were disposed of safely and legally while safeguarding the health and environment of the citizens of Indiana.



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