NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Nebraska DriftWatch/BeeCheck – Crop Eligibility

DriftWatch/BeeCheck is an online map system for displaying locations of specialty and pesticide sensitive crops for pesticide applicators. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is the data steward for this web site. Basic eligibility for crops to be approved for DriftWatch in Nebraska is as follows:

- Crops must be commercial in nature - that is, sold in some way and not solely for personal use.
- Crop categories in Nebraska are:
  - Grapes
  - Fruits
  - Vegetables
  - Beehives
  - Greenhouse – high tunnel
  - Nursery crops
  - Orchards
  - Fish Farms
  - Non-specialty Certified Organic
  - Non-specialty Transition to Certified Organic
  - Other (plants grown for seed, cut flowers, flowers for scented products, woody florals, hops, and certain non-herbicide resistant crops)
- Certified Organic crops, including alfalfa, pasture, and native prairie, are considered eligible, if they are a part of a commercial operation. Growers, who are certified organic or transitioning, have invested in the certification and verification process to increase their crops' value. Similar classifications, such as naturally grown, organically grown, natural, etc., are not considered eligible, unless they also fit into one of the other categories of crops as listed above.
- Conventionally grown pasture and native prairie are not considered specialty crops or pesticide-sensitive crops at this time. While any plant may be sensitive to herbicides, drift or misuse complaints concerning these crops happen infrequently.

More information on DriftWatch can be found at fieldwatch.com. More information about NDA's Pesticide Program can be found at bit.ly/NDAPP.

F I E L D W A T C H

To promote communications between producers of specialty crops, beekeepers and pesticide applicators in support of ongoing stewardship activities.

What is DriftWatch?

The DriftWatch® Specialty Crop Site Registry is a voluntary online tool that is intended to help pesticide applicators and specialty crop growers in Member States communicate more effectively and to promote awareness and stewardship activities to help prevent and/or manage drift appropriately.

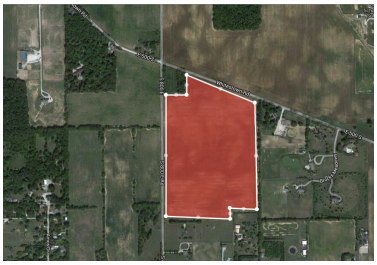
DriftWatch was originally designed by staff from the Purdue University Agricultural and Biological Engineering and Agricultural Communications departments with input and support from Purdue University Cooperative Extension Specialists. It is now a national registry platform operated by FieldWatch, Inc, a non-profit company created in collaboration with Purdue University and sponsored by interested agricultural stakeholder groups.

DriftWatch is not intended to be a registry for non-commercial gardens or sites less than half an acre.

For more information, visit www.fieldwatch.com.

Crop producers can map specialty and certified organic crop fields, as well as their beehives:

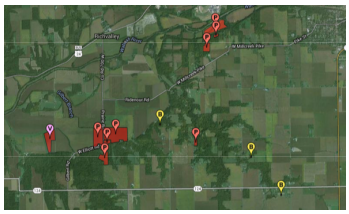
Register and map sites so



applicators know about your specialty areas and can plan their stewardship activities accordingly.

For applicators:

You can easily locate registered sites on DriftWatch before you spray and register to receive automated e-mails alerting you when a new commercial specialty crop or apiary site has been registered in the state or local area you designate.



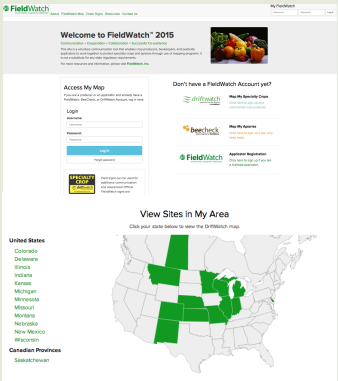
How does DriftWatch work?

Producers of high-value specialty crops, such as tomatoes, fruit trees, grapes and vegetables, map their sites online with an easy-to-use mapping tool and provide contact information about their operation. **Similarly, commercial beekeepers register and map their hives the same way using BeeCheck® Apiary Registry.**

Pesticide applicators access the FieldWatch website to help determine the scope and location of specialty crops and beehives in their trade areas. FieldWatch provides the platform to facilitate better awareness, communication and interaction between all parties as one part of ongoing stewardship activities.

Who can use DriftWatch?

DriftWatch is free and the site locations are viewable by the public; but, not just anyone can register crop sites or fields. The tool is for specialty crop producers, beekeepers and pesticide applicators. Only managers and owners of specialty crop fields that are used for commercial production and are of at least a half-acre will have fields approved. It is not intended for homeowner gardens.



The DriftWatch Specialty Crop Site Registry has a new look and updated functionality.

Who checks the validity of sites submitted?

Each FieldWatch Member state has data stewards who are employed through the state's Department of Agriculture. Each site submission is reviewed by the data steward and will either be approved or denied based on the established criteria before being placed on the FieldWatch map.

What is FieldWatch?

FieldWatch, Inc is a non-profit company that was created in December 2012 to develop and expand the operation of the DriftWatch Specialty Crop Site Registry. The new company is located off-campus at the Purdue Research Park in West Lafayette, IN.

Voluntary Membership

As a non-profit company, FieldWatch relies on donations and sponsors to keep DriftWatch and BeeCheck operational, up- to-date and useful tools for producers, beekeepers and applicators. While keeping the registries free to use, the company has established a Voluntary Membership for generating revenue from companies, organizations and individuals that want to get involved and demonstrate their support of the DriftWatch and BeeCheck registries.
For a list of supporting Members and more information, please visit the website www.fieldwatch.com

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