

FieldWatch® SeedFieldCheck Pilot Program: Best Practices

Pesticide Applicators Best Practices

1. Pesticide applicators must be registered in FieldCheck to be able to view the SeedFieldCheck worker locations.
2. The FieldCheck registry provides a good tool for communication, collaboration and cooperation to minimize incidents where seed field workers are put at risk from nearby pesticide applications. We all want to ensure safe pesticide applications and to avoid incidents with the potential to create negative perceptions of our respective industries. Cooperation from all parties will protect Iowa's agricultural industry, ensuring businesses have freedom to operate in the future.
3. All pesticide applicators doing business in Iowa should be utilizing the FieldWatch system daily to ensure safe application of pesticides around seed field workers, apiaries, and sensitive crops.
4. New for 2020, FieldWatch will have a pilot program in Iowa that allows seed companies to register the location of seed field worker crews daily. Field locations will be flagged as either "planned" or "occupied" for field workers and be updated daily providing a near real-time communication tool for all seed companies and applicators in a single system.
 - a. "Planned" status will indicate worker presence at the start of the following day
 - b. "Occupied" status will indicate worker presence currently
 - c. Field status will change from "planned" to "occupied" overnight
 - d. Seed company field managers will designate fields as inactive as crews finish
 - e. Registered applicators will be able to click on fields that are in "planned" or "occupied" status to get a pop-up with seed company contact information.
5. Pesticide applicators are still expected to use due diligence and ensure fields are free of seed field workers prior to pesticide applications. It's possible that not all ag workers will be registered in SeedFieldCheck. Individuals may still be working in fields that are not in the current registry.
6. Pesticide applicators should encourage their software partners to stream FieldWatch data near "real time".
7. Go to www.fieldwatch.com and click on the FieldCheck panel to register as an applicator for free. For a video demonstration of how to sign up and what you will see in SeedFieldCheck, go to: www.fieldwatch.com/applicatordemo.

Seed Companies Best Practices

1. The FieldWatch registry provides a good tool for communication, collaboration and cooperation to protect Iowa's agricultural industry and ensure freedom to operate in the future.
2. New for 2020, FieldWatch will have a pilot program in Iowa that allows seed companies to register the location of seed field worker crews daily. Field locations will be flagged as either "planned" or "occupied" for seed field workers and be updated daily providing a near real-time communication tool for seed companies and applicators in a single system.
 - a. All fields will be visible for company administrators, but only planned or active fields will be visible to applicators
3. We are asking all Iowa seed producers with seed field workers to utilize this new feature in FieldWatch.
 - a. Utilize the SeedFieldCheck tool in FieldWatch by setting up their company data and field information.
 - b. Import or draw seed field boundaries to the confidential layer.
 - c. On a daily basis, activate fields "planned" for seed field workers no more than 24 hours in advance of activity.
 - d. Inactivate fields as crews finish the work to the extent possible allowing near real time data.
 - e. Utilizing this system enables registered pesticide applicators to have a "one stop shop" for collecting information prior to scheduling or applying pesticides.
 - f. Improve communication and transparency to better protect Iowa's seed field workers.
4. In addition to the safety benefits, a goal of this system is to replace the multiple different methods of crew notifications to applicators from your field teams with one program. Our goal with FieldWatch is to have it become a single source of truth for safe pesticide application.
5. Success of this pilot launch will be largely dependent upon the performance of the seed companies, so it's imperative that adequate resources be dedicated to maintaining the field status daily.
6. Seed companies should develop a contingency plan to communicate ag worker information if something unforeseen would cause the FieldWatch system to go down during this pilot year in Iowa.
7. Participating seed companies will access www.seedfieldcheck.org to administer and manage their sites.