



---

## ***Frequently Asked Questions: General***

### **What is FieldWatch?**

FieldWatch, Inc. is a non-profit company created to develop and expand the operation of the DriftWatch Specialty Crop Site, BeeCheck Apiary, CropCheck Row Crop, SeedFieldCheck and FieldCheck registries. To support the rapid growth of DriftWatch outside of Indiana, in December 2012, Purdue University collaborated with other agricultural stakeholder groups in the creation of a non-profit corporation called FieldWatch.

### **What is DriftWatch?**

DriftWatch is a voluntary specialty crop site registry and mapping program created by the Purdue Agriculture and Biological Engineering Department. It is currently managed and operated by the non-profit company FieldWatch. This stewardship tool improves communication and collaboration between producers of specialty crops and pesticide applicators using a technology platform which allows producers to map their crop sites/fields and provide contact information to pesticide applicators through an active mapping system. As primary stakeholders, the respective state departments of agriculture provide key leadership roles in implementing, administering and financially supporting this unique and effective stewardship collaboration tool.

### **What is BeeCheck?**

BeeCheck is a voluntary beehive/apiary registry and mapping program that is managed and operated by the non-profit company FieldWatch. The stewardship tool allows for improved communication and collaboration between beekeepers and pesticide applicators using a technology platform where beekeepers map their sites/hives and provide contact information to applicators through an active mapping system. As primary stakeholders, the respective state departments of agriculture provide key leadership roles in implementing, administering, and financially supporting this unique and effective stewardship collaboration tool.

## What is CropCheck?

Crop is a voluntary online row crop registry that was piloted in Arkansas in 2018 and is now available in multiple states. CropCheck identifies and maps four crops (soybeans, corn, rice, and cotton) and their herbicide (or pesticide) tolerances. The registry and mapping program is managed and operated by the non-profit company FieldWatch. The stewardship tool allows for improved communication and collaboration between row crop growers and pesticide applicators using a technology platform where crop producers map their crop sites/fields and provide contact information to applicators through an active mapping system. As primary stakeholder, the respective state departments of agriculture provide key leadership roles in implementing, administering and financially supporting this unique and effective stewardship collaboration tool.

## What is the difference between FieldWatch and DriftWatch/BeeCheck/CropCheck?

FieldWatch is a non-profit company. DriftWatch, BeeCheck and CropCheck are the active mapping registries operated and managed by FieldWatch.

## How do DriftWatch, BeeCheck, and CropCheck work?

Commercial producers of high-value specialty crops, such as tomatoes, fruit trees, grapes and vegetables, register and map their fields / sites with an easy-to-use mapping tool and provide contact information for their operation. Likewise, in BeeCheck, beekeepers (commercial and hobbyist) register and map their hives / sites the same way. CropCheck allows producers of sensitive row crops to have their properties / fields mapped and viewed. Pesticide applicators access the site to help determine the scope and location of specialty crops, row crops and beehives in their areas of operation. Registered applicators can sign up to receive (currently email) notifications when new crop fields or beehives are added to their designated state, county or area of operation. DriftWatch, BeeCheck, and CropCheck provide the platform to facilitate increased awareness, communication and interaction between all parties as one part of ongoing stewardship activities.

## Who can use DriftWatch?

DriftWatch is free and voluntary to use. The locations are viewable by the public, but not just anyone can register specialty crop sites or fields. The tool is for use by specialty crop producers, beekeepers and pesticide applicators (Note: Users with only beehives should use BeeCheck however if producers of specialty crops also have beehives, they can map their hives in DriftWatch). DriftWatch use is limited to specialty crop fields that are used for commercial production and are of at least a half-acre in size. DriftWatch is not intended for homeowners.

## Who can use BeeCheck?

BeeCheck is free and the site locations are viewable by the public. In most states, beekeepers can mark their hives “private” so that only pesticide applicators who are registered with FieldWatch can view their sites (not the public). BeeCheck users can be commercial beekeepers or hobbyists.

## Who can use CropCheck?

CropCheck is free and the site locations are viewable by the public. CropCheck is currently available in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and North Carolina.

## What is the difference between a “user” of FieldWatch stewardship tools and a “member” of FieldWatch?

We are a non-profit company that relies on financial support from individual members and sponsors to support the ongoing operations and continued innovation of our stewardship tools. As a user of the system, it is **FREE** for producers and beekeepers to input and manage the data related to their operation and it is also **FREE** for our end-users, the applicators, to access the data. However, we encourage our users to become voluntary, dues-paying members if they would like to support the continued innovation and operation of FieldWatch. The voluntary membership is a means to generate revenue from companies, organizations and individuals that want to get involved and demonstrate their support of our stewardship tool. Please see our FieldWatch Membership Guide for information on member benefits and how you can support FieldWatch!

<https://fieldwatch.com/media/FieldWatchMembershipFlyer.pdf>

## Are the DriftWatch, BeeCheck, and CropCheck tools free to use?

**YES.** All registries are free to use and free for applicators to access. FieldWatch has implemented a voluntary membership structure as a means of funding to support the operation and continued innovation of our tools. If you wish to join as a FieldWatch member, there is a fee structure associated with membership, however, the registries are free to use regardless of whether users choose to join FieldWatch as member or not.

Please see our current Members and Partners that make our on-going operation and development possible:

<https://fieldwatch.com/membership-sponsorship/>

## Which states/provinces are part of the FieldWatch registries?

FieldWatch is currently operating in 22 states and one Canadian province: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin and the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. Please see our “FieldWatch Registries” page for a full map: <https://fieldwatch.com/fieldwatch-state-registries/>

## What types of memberships are available?

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of FieldWatch! Please click on our current Membership Guide for more information on how you can get involved!

<https://fieldwatch.com/media/FieldWatchMembershipFlyer.pdf>

## How can I participate in FieldWatch if my state has not implemented the program yet?

We are currently in the process of expanding our geographic footprint and have active conversations in many states. However, we can use your help in spreading the word about the importance of voluntary stewardship tools like FieldWatch with key stakeholders in your state. As a non-profit, we need your help and your conversations and relationships go a long way in creating momentum for a state to become involved and join the registry. It may be beneficial for individuals and grower/appliator groups to contact their state department of agriculture or university extension service indicating the desire and need for such a program in their state. Please see our "Resources" page:

<https://fieldwatch.com/resources/> for more information to assist in your outreach and please do not hesitate to reach out to FieldWatch – we always welcome the opportunity to speak to stakeholders as we simply cannot do this without you!

Contact: [Info@FieldWatch.com](mailto:Info@FieldWatch.com) or (877) 443 – 4353.

## What is a data steward?

Each FieldWatch participating state/province/territory typically has a primary data steward and in all locations to date, that person is employed with the state's department of agriculture or university extension service. The data stewards provide a key leadership role in implementing and administering the FieldWatch tools. When you register with FieldWatch, your data steward will receive your request. He or she will either approve or deny this request based on the scope criteria as defined on our Resources page. If problems arise while using the registry, your data steward can offer assistance or direct you to someone who can answer your question.

## *FAQs for DriftWatch, BeeCheck, & CropCheck Users*

### What if I am not good with a computer?

If you don't have a computer or are unsure of how to use the FieldWatch website, please contact your data steward who will be able to help in creating an account and mapping your fields. We welcome users without email or computer access to identify and map their crops and apiaries with our help. The contact information for your data steward is on our "Contact Us" page.

<https://fieldwatch.com/contact-us/>

## What if I don't have an email address?

Communication between FieldWatch and its users is typically done through email. However, if a user does not have an active email account, communications can be made through the user's phone number or mailing address. Please contact your data steward or county extension agent for more information. You can locate their contact information on the "Contact Us" page.

<https://fieldwatch.com/contact-us/>

## If I have problems mapping my fields, who should I contact?

There are state-specific data stewards identified on the FieldWatch website. In addition, we have a detailed Users Guide under the Resources tab for your use.

<https://fieldwatch.com/resources/#da4a4922bdd183210>

If you have trouble with mapping your fields, contact your state's data steward and for assistance. You can also send an email to [info@fieldwatch.com](mailto:info@fieldwatch.com).

## Can anyone put in a crop site or beehive?

**NO.** In order to map a specialty crop site (and be approved) in DriftWatch, you must be producing the crop for commercial use. The site is not intended for homeowners who have small gardens. To become a producer and map your sensitive areas, you must have a commercial site that is at least a half-acre. For BeeCheck, in most states, you can use the site if you are a commercial or hobby beekeeper. For CropCheck, users must be growing a commercial row crop that is sensitive to off target movement of chemicals.

## Can I register my apiaries if I am not a commercial beekeeper or produce honey for commercial use?

**YES.** Each state is different on how they address hobby beekeepers. Most states will approve apiaries that do not produce for commercial purposes. If you are a hobby beekeeper and are concerned with getting your sites approved, contact your state's data steward by clicking on our "Contact Us" page. <https://fieldwatch.com/contact-us/>

## What are the requirements for mapping my beehives?

We ask that beekeepers map the specific location of each of their apiaries. Apiary locations are identified with a half-acre circle. If beekeepers wish to include the foraging area, they must limit that area to their own property (they can click on “add a crop” while in BeeCheck). Areas that expand further than the hive's location and/or the beekeeper's property may not be approved. If a beekeeper has multiple hives, they may designate the number of hives during registration. If beehives are in close proximity to each other, it is ok to map them together and indicate the number of hives in the drop down for number of hives. (I am not familiar with adding a crop for the foraging area.)

## If I have a rotating crop field or mobile beehive, how can I easily map it and keep it up-to-date?

The "Active Dates" feature, which appears when you are registering a site, makes it easy to put a time stamp on your crop field or beehive. If you know your field or hive will no longer be active in that area after a certain date, you can select an expiration date for the site. If you know your field or hive will not be active until a certain date, you can also select a specific start/activation date. You may always go back and modify these dates (and other features) by selecting "make changes to this site" from the information box of your site when logged in.

## How should I identify my specialty crop if it is not an option under the crop type category?

The crop type category includes the most relevant specialty crops grown in each state. The "fruits" and "vegetables" categories are broad enough to cover a wide range of specialty crops. If you need to identify a crop that is not in the drop-down menu, please select "other" and provide the crop information in the "additional notes" section. Please provide ample detail so your data steward will be able to approve the crops submission.

## Can conventional row crops be included in DriftWatch?

**NO.** The DriftWatch Specialty Crop Site is intended for specialty crops. However, conventional crops that are “Certified Organic” or “Transitioning to Certified Organic” are treated as a specialty crop and are allowed in the registry. For these entries, the crop grown is to be identified in the notes section of the registration process. Specialty crops can be identified as "organically grown", "certified organic," or "conventional" - but only "certified organic" is permitted with non-specialty crop fields.

## How can I order field signs to mark my fields?

Producers or beekeepers with at least one site registered and approved through DriftWatch, BeeCheck, or CropCheck may purchase signs or flags. Signs are not required but can provide additional visual identification and communication of your crop sites and beehives. Signs may be purchased by clicking on our [“Order Signs”](#) page and logging-in to our site.

## Will mapping my crops and/or beehives ensure that pesticides are not sprayed near my property?

**NO.** The purpose of FieldWatch and our stewardship tools (DriftWatch BeeCheck, and CropCheck) is to promote communication and awareness between crop growers, beekeepers and pesticide applicators to reduce incidences of off-target exposure. We encourage growers and applicators to continue a personal dialogue so that concerns can be reduced. We also encourage you to look at your state's pesticide regulatory agency for more information on the agricultural policies in place in your area. [The National Pesticide Information Center \(NPIC\)](#) is a helpful tool that provides resources by state. Another is the [Association of American Pesticide Control Officials \(AAPCO\)](#) for similar resources.

## FAQs: Applicator Specific Questions

### Do applicators have to register to use FieldWatch?

**NO.** FieldWatch is voluntary and publicly available. The FieldCheck registry is the access portal for applicators. It may be accessed from a desktop or mobile device (iOS and Android). Applicators may access the map from the home page and zoom into the area in which they are interested to see the registered crop and apiary sites that have been submitted and approved.

### As an Applicator, what are the benefits of registering with FieldCheck?

Registered applicators can identify the specific area(s) within the states, provinces or areas in which they want to receive automated (currently email) notifications for each new specialty crop or apiary site that is approved in their area. The identified area is known as your "alert area". In addition, in most locations, beekeepers can mark their hives as "private" if theft or vandalism is a concern. This means that only registered applicators ( in FieldWatch) can view the locations of those sites. The "public" FieldWatch map is a great resource for locating pesticide sensitive sites however, be aware of its limitations. In addition, applicators registered with FieldCheck can draw additional fields or other areas on their map or add notes concerning pesticide sensitive areas that are not shared on the general FieldWatch map.

Be aware that certain herbicide resistant crops technologies (dicamba and 2,4-D) require applicators to check sensitive crop registries, such as FieldCheck, before making applications.

### Is there increased liability to the applicator due to FieldWatch providing information of sensitive crops and beehives?

**NO.** "Pesticide product labels set the standard of care," according to legal opinion sought by FieldWatch. FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act) mandates that applicators must use the products in accordance with the instructions on their labels. FieldWatch is another tool/data point for applicators to use to make informed decisions in the course of their work.

## **Is there increased liability for applicators if they don't use FieldWatch?**

**NO.** According to the legal opinion provided to FieldWatch, "So long as an applicator follows label directions for measures related to avoiding drift, as well as any statutes or regulations related to avoiding drift, an applicator's failure to use the FieldWatch registries should not be stand-alone basis to establish a claim for negligence or gross negligence." As an informational tool, FieldWatch may help an applicator make a more informed decision, and therefore, avoid a drift incident, reduce claims and overall liability. However, the liability related to any single incident remains the same.

## **Is there increased liability for not using FieldWatch if it is required on the label?**

## **Does accessing the FieldWatch registries create a higher standard of care for applicators?**

**NO.** Based on prevailing case law, legal opinion provided to FieldWatch suggests there is not a "higher standard of care beyond a duty of care framed by a pesticide's label instructions and statutes/regulations related to drift avoidance."

## **Does using FieldWatch reduce an applicator's liability?**

**NO.** It is the responsibility of the applicator to avoid drift; and the liability associated with any incidence is the same whether or not FieldWatch is used. However, "an applicator may effectively argue its use of the FieldWatch registries prior to application is evidence, as part of broader evidentiary showing due care... that the applicator met the standard of care," and was not negligent by having used information at his/her disposal to make a proper application.