



Illinois Fertilizer &  
Chemical Association  
Supply • Service • Stewardship

## Illinois Department of Agriculture Files Rules for Use of Dicamba on Soybeans, USEPA Still Mulling Dicamba Decision

On December 3rd, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) filed rules with the Illinois Secretary of State on dicamba application to soybeans. The restrictions for dicamba use on soybeans filed by IDOA are the same restrictions required in 2021. These rules will most likely appear in the December 17, 2021, Illinois Register. Below is a list of restrictions from the filing that mirror the 2021 requirements:

### Section 250.230 Use of Pesticides Containing Dicamba on Soybeans

In addition to the requirements of the federally approved labels, all use on soybeans of pesticides containing dicamba shall comply with the following requirements:

#### Temperature Restriction

- A pesticide containing dicamba shall not be applied on soybeans if the air temperature at the field at the time of application is over 85 degrees Fahrenheit or if the National Weather Service's forecasted high temperature for the nearest available location for the day of application exceeds 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Local National Weather Service forecasts are available [here](#).

#### Cut-off Date Restriction

- Application on soybeans of a pesticide containing dicamba shall not be made after June 20 of each year.

#### Checking Sensitive Crop Registry

- Before applying a pesticide containing dicamba on soybeans, the applicator shall consult the FieldWatch sensitive crop registry [here](#) and comply with all associated recordkeeping and label requirements.

#### Application on soybeans of a pesticide containing dicamba shall not be made if the wind is blowing toward:

- Any Illinois Nature Preserves Commission site that is adjacent to the field of application; or
- An adjacent residential area.

Any violation of the requirements of this Section shall be considered a use contrary to label directions (precautionary statements, sites, rates, restricted use requirements) and shall be assessed the associated point value of 3 (see Section 24.1(4)(E)(1) of the Illinois Pesticide Act [415 ILCS 60]) for purposes of determining the appropriate administrative action or penalty authorized by Section 24.1 of the Act.

To view a full copy of the Department's administrative rule changes that were filed to start the 45-day first notice period with the Secretary of State, click [here](#). For a breakdown of the rulemaking process in Illinois, click [here](#).

The U.S. EPA is still reviewing the dicamba federal label for 2022. We hope to see a decision made very soon. It is important to make clear that the federal label supersedes any requirements set forth by IDOA. Despite IDOA indicating that there will be no changes from what was required in 2021 for dicamba application OTT of soybean, any changes made to the federal label requiring additional requirements or prohibitions will then need to be observed within Illinois as well.

On Dec 6th, USEPA told state pesticide regulators that "EPA has not yet made any decision regarding altering the 2020 dicamba registrations," said Meg Hathaway, a senior regulatory specialist within EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP). The agency is "sensitive" to the urgent need for states and farmers to know what dicamba use will look like in 2022, but there are "too many variables" at play for the agency to commit to the timing of a decision, added Ed Messina, director of the EPA's OPP. The EPA is in active conversations with the registrants on this topic, and at least one registrant has already submitted potential "mitigation measures" that could be added to current dicamba labels, Hathaway said.

*Continued on page 6*

# ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

## Spring 2022 Anhydrous Ammonia Safety Schools

Each spring and fall, IFCA partners with the IL Dept of Ag to offer ammonia safety courses throughout the state. Those who attend the training program and pass the exam receive a 3-year certificate from IDA as a “Competent Attendant” to handle anhydrous ammonia.

We have set the dates for the Spring 2022 ammonia courses, so please make a note on your calendars. Online registration will begin January 3, 2022.

We will also be offering certified grower training beginning at 1:00 p.m. at all locations following Competent Attendant ammonia training in the morning. Growers can register for the training by clicking [here](#).

### Ammonia School Date and Location

January 19-  
IFCA Convention-Peoria  
(Registration through the  
IFCA Convention)

February 21-  
Asmark Agricenter-  
Bloomington

February 22-  
Unique Suites-Charleston

February 23-  
The Pavilion-Marion

February 25-  
Effingham Event Center-  
Effingham

March 01-  
Civic Center-Mendota

March 02-  
Knox Agricenter-Galesburg

March 03-  
Holiday Inn-Quincy

March 04-  
Poes Catering-Springfield

March 14-  
Asmark Agricenter-  
Bloomington

## Growers must be certified by April 1, 2022 to handle Anhydrous Ammonia

The Illinois Department of Agriculture now requires that all growers or grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, shall be certified to understand the properties of ammonia, to become competent in safe operating practices, and to take appropriate actions in the event of a leak or an emergency. Initial certification shall be achieved no later than April 1, 2022 and growers and grower farm operators must participate in refresher training every three years.

Training applies to those individuals who transport or handle anhydrous ammonia:

- Farmers/Growers
- Farm Employees
- Family Members
- Others That Help
- Out of State Farmers/Growers



Growers have the option to achieve certification by going through online or in-person training. Growers can access the online training [here](#). IFCA in cooperation with the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture and Illinois Farm Bureau will be offering in-person training after all competent attendant schools this spring.

Currently, 1,300 individuals have completed the online ammonia training and 562 individuals have completed in-person ammonia training. If you have any questions, contact John Rebholz at [john@ifca.com](mailto:john@ifca.com).



## IFCA Veto Session Roundup

Lawmakers finished the Fall Veto Session the last week of October, putting the final votes on several important legislative measures and adjourned until January 4, 2022. Next year, the legislature only plans to be in session until April 8, with a possible return sometime in May to pass a budget if not completed beforehand. This shortened session is largely due to the state's new 2022 primary election date of June 28.

Here are a few issues IFCA was watching during this year's veto session:

### Exempting COVID Mandates from Healthcare Right of Conscience Act

As you may know, the state of Illinois has instituted COVID-19 vaccine and testing mandates for a variety of workers in healthcare, other congregate settings, and for school employees and higher education students. Affected workers opposed to vaccine mandates and testing (and their attorneys) have used the Healthcare Right of Conscience Act (HRCA) to challenge these mandates in court. On the books for decades, this law was originally intended for doctors and other healthcare professionals who objected to abortions on moral grounds. So far, a number of these workers have used this law successfully to shield themselves from termination over their refusal to get their COVID shots or tests.

In trying to stem the tide of litigation challenging these mandates,

SB 1169 (Harmon, D-Oak Park) was passed at the end of session that will essentially exempt COVID vaccine and testing mandates from this age-old law. The bill advanced to the governor along party lines (64-52-2 in the House and 31-24-0 in the Senate) with several Democrats voting "NO" or "PRESENT". While the bill did not muster a super majority of votes to take effect immediately during the Fall Veto Session, it is likely an identical bill will be brought up in early January of 2022 and, if successful, will then take effect immediately.

### New Congressional District Maps, Other New Map Information

Democrat lawmakers advanced new Congressional District Maps that will pit four sitting Republican Congressman against each other in 2022. Congressman Mike Bost (R-Carbondale) is in the same district as freshman Congresswoman Mary Miller (R-Oakland) and Congressman Darin LaHood (R-Peoria) is also in the same district as Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-Ottawa), although Kinzinger announced that he will not run for reelection. Incumbent Democrat Congresswoman Marie Neuman (D-LaGrange) is also in the same district as incumbent Congressman Chuy Garcia (D-Chicago).

Previously this summer, Democrat lawmakers met in Springfield to correct new House and Senate district maps. Like the new congressional district maps, the state House and Senate maps are considered the most partisan ever passed by the legislature. These redrawn House districts have now put 12 Republicans against one another in six newly redrawn districts - two in the Chicago suburbs, and four downstate. It is estimated that the House Democrat majority will be able to gain 5-6 more seats under this new map and be able to retain

their supermajority for the next 10 years. The Senate, which already has a Democrat supermajority with five seats to spare, are also expected to retain their supermajority for the next decade.

In addition, a new Illinois Supreme Court boundary map - which has not been changed since the new Illinois Constitution of 1971 - was also changed this summer to safeguard a Democrat majority on the state's highest bench. This map was signed into law.

And lastly on this topic, legislation was also signed into law this summer making the state's Primary Election date June 28, 2022. This will allow candidates more time to circulate petitions in their new districts.

### Mandatory Sexual Harassment Training Reminder

Illinois made anti-sexual harassment training mandatory for all Illinois employers in January 2020. Employers are required to provide annual anti-harassment training to every employee every year. Your company can register [here](#) with the State of Illinois and take the video/audio modules on sexual harassment prevention. A certificate is available at the end of the slides that can be assigned to each employee who completed the training.

# IFCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## **New Ag Center Inc.**

Myron (Mike) Corbin

*Manager*

*New Ag Center Inc.*

*25516 S RTE 45*

*Monee, IL 60449*

**Started in the Business:** 1983

**Counties Served:**

Cook, Kankakee & Will



**M**ike grew up in rural Manhattan, IL along with four brothers. Mike was the middle son to

Harold & Marie Corbin. Mike's interest in agriculture started in the mid 1970's as he was actively involved with helping his father Harold in the custom application business. An interesting fact, his father Harold owned one of the very first "Big A's" in the country. After high school, Mike went to Joliet Junior College where he obtained a degree in Agriculture Business and Supply in 1982. Upon graduation, Mike worked for Standard Oil Company in Symerton, IL as a custom applicator. In February of 1986, Mike left Standard Oil Company and went to work for Agro in Monee, IL. Mike continued as a custom applicator but eventually transitioned into sales. Agro was acquired in 1990 by New Ag Center Inc. and Mike became the manager in 1995 where he still works today.

### **Family/Hobbies?**

Mike has three children: Daniel, Amanda & Andrew. Mike is fortunate to work with the next generation of ag retailers as both Daniel and Andrew work with Mike. Mike's daughter Amanda works for Cigna. Mike is also the proud grandfather of six grandchildren. During his free time, you will most likely run into Mike if you happen to be in the Shelbyville area. Mike enjoys spending time camping as well as boating on Lake Shelbyville.

### **What do you enjoy about the business?**

Mike has always enjoyed working with the growers as well as his employees.

### **What are your concerns?**

Urban sprawl has been a challenge in navigating the roads with bigger equipment as well as farmland surrounded by housing developments. Also, trying to find employees that are willing to work in an ag retail environment.

### **Why did you join IFCA?**

IFCA has always been a solid source of information for regulatory needs as well as keeping us informed on what is going on at the state and national level. Finally, networking with other retailers whether it be at MAGIE or the Convention.

## PESTICIDES UPDATE

### **Update on Pesticide Training and Testing**

**A**s 2022 nears, we want to ensure that anyone who needs to complete pesticide training and/or testing understands what options are available.

The only option for pesticide training for the foreseeable future is online. IDOA and Illinois Extension stated that there will be no in-person training clinics until December of 2022. The one exception is in-person general standards training will be held at the IFCA Convention from 8-11:30am January 19th, prior to PSEP testing for all categories at 1pm.

The online training consists of two options. One option is the PSEP online training. This course is designed to mirror the format of a traditional in-person training clinic, is self-paced and is available to the user for 30 days. The second option is to purchase a manual and workbook.

As far as testing, both online and in-person options will be available. Online testing requires setting up a unique account with Illinois Extension. You will then be given instructions for setting up your computer and given a direct link to schedule an exam with an online proctor. Unlike pesticide training, pesticide testing will also be available in-person. The IDOA currently has over 50 locations throughout the state listed on their website that are offering in-person testing.

### **Links to all training and testing sites provided below:**

**PSEP Online Training**

**Training Manuals and Workbooks**

**Online Testing**

**In-Person Testing**

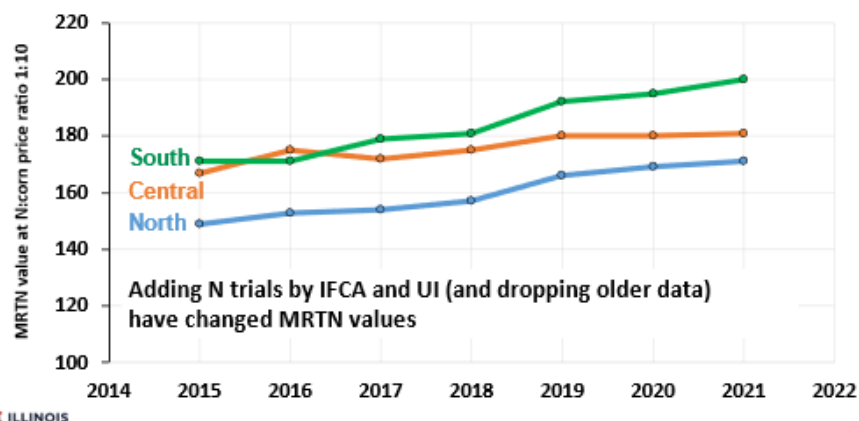
# 4R Program Update

Dan Schaefer, Director of Nutrient Stewardship for IFCA, has been hard at work implementing nitrogen rate trials throughout the state for close to a decade. Through grants from the Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC), both Dr. Emerson Nafziger and Dan have spent years applying, tracking, studying, and analyzing all things nitrogen. Why have they spent this much time and effort trying to better understand nitrogen response? To them, the answer is simple. All data from their work helps “feeds” the MRTN, or Maximum Return to Nitrogen calculator.

The MRTN is updated every year with data from dozens of harvested nitrogen rate trials, while the oldest data is then removed. Because N responses are not predictable, measuring results over time based on many response trials is the best chance we have at applying the correct rate. Another major reason for utilizing the MRTN is the fact that it factors both the price of corn and fertilizer when producing a nitrogen range. These prices play a bigger role in both the selection of a N rate and overall profitability opposed to only looking at yield.

The current price of natural gas being roughly twice what it was a year ago as well as supply chain issues are both driving up nitrogen prices. Also, the projected corn price for 2022 is \$.25 less than it was in

Change in Illinois MRTN, 2015 to 2021



2021. These are factors that affect the MRTN, and can reduce the N rate range substantially, as shown above.

### What did the 2021 data tell us?

The picture above shows that adding the 2021 N rate harvest data only slightly increased MRTN values. The overall data from the 2021 trials showed typical N responses compared to previous years. Some trials showed high yields with a low rate or even a zero rate of nitrogen applied. In the western and west-central part of the state, there were trials with responses to higher N rates where it was wet in May and June.

Comparing fall versus spring trials showed that yields at the optimum nitrogen rate were identical, just over 237 bu/acre. To get to this optimum

yield, 211 lbs/acre of N was required for fall-applied trials, with 194 lbs/acre for spring-applied. The additional 17 lbs needed for fall applied nitrogen to meet the same optimum yield as a spring application mirrors data collected from tile-drainage comparisons, where there was 17lbs of additional N lost in fall applications.

### New Nitrogen Rate Protocol

Dr. Emerson Nafziger recently developed a new protocol for conducting nitrogen rate trials within Illinois. The system is even easier to execute and saves time for participants. The concept is based on comparing existing nitrogen rates being used in fields to either a significantly higher or lower rate of nitrogen. This higher or lower rate can be applied with the tool-bar used during normal nitrogen applications and will consist of only 2 to 4 plots at 3/4 of an acre.

A copy of the new protocol can be found [here](#). Please consider participating, as these trials can considerably help our understanding of fertilizer rates throughout the state. If interested, please contact Dan Schaefer at [dan@ifca.com](mailto:dan@ifca.com).

IFCA would like to recognize and thank NREC for funding the much-needed nitrogen research in the state of Illinois.

## Changing MRTN with changing prices, 2022

Corn at \$5.00; N price as indicated

IL Region	Rotation	MRTN at N price, \$ per ton NH <sub>3</sub> /\$ per lb N			
		\$600/0.37	\$800/0.49	\$1,000/0.61	\$1,200/0.73
North	Soy-Corn	185	172	161	153
	Corn-Corn	222	206	197	185
Central	Soy-Corn	193	182	173	166
	Corn-Corn	212	200	193	183
South	Soy-Corn	214	200	194	184
	(Spring) Corn-Corn	215	198	188	179

## Dicamba

*Continued from page 1*

To listen to the entire meeting between USEPA and state pesticide regulators, please click [here](#).

IFCA will remain in communication with IDOA regarding this permanent rule making process. In 2021, 178 dicamba related complaints were reported to IDOA. This compares to over 700 complaints filed in 2019 and 149 in 2020. If IDOA desires to seek additional protections, IFCA will work closely with them and urge an expedited decision to provide clarity to the industry ahead of the 2022 crop year. In the meantime, please feel free to contact KJ at [kj@ifca.com](mailto:kj@ifca.com) or **217-369-1669** with questions or concerns.



## Save the Date – MAGIE 2022

**Wow**, did our members come through with attending MAGIE 2021. Thank you for supporting the show and attending despite the intense heat index of over 100 degrees. Mark your calendars for **MAGIE 2022 in Bloomington, IL August 24 – 25.**

## 4R Field days

The photo below shows a 4R Field Day Alliance sponsored event IFCA held at Precision Planting's PTI Farm in Pontiac on September 21st. The audience consisted of representatives from the ag input and retail sector, fellow associations, government, and growers. The field day provided not only an opportunity to learn about new agronomy research being conducted in Illinois, but also a place for groups to discuss with each other the topics covered and collaborate.



## Is Chlorpyrifos Still Legal to Apply and Other Frequently Asked Questions

**C**hlorpyrifos products are still legal to use within the 6-month period between publication of the final rule and revocation of tolerances. Food use tolerances will be canceled at the end of the 6-month period and no chlorpyrifos residues would be allowed on such crops/commodities after that time. In this case, the tolerances expire on February 28, 2022.

**For companies who still have existing stocks of chlorpyrifos products, EPA states:**

Existing stocks is a term under FIFRA generally used in connection with the pesticide products that have been released for shipment as of the date a product registration is cancelled. EPA has not cancelled any chlorpyrifos products as a result of the final tolerance rule; therefore, there are no existing stocks at this time.

The tolerance rule issued on August 30, 2021, does not prohibit sale and distribution of registered pesticide products. However, once the tolerances expire and are revoked in six months, sale and distribution of chlorpyrifos products labeled for use on food crops would be considered misbranded; therefore, it would be a violation of FIFRA to sell and distribute those products.

EPA intends to cancel registered food uses of chlorpyrifos associated with the revoked tolerances under FIFRA, as appropriate. That cancellation action would only address the registered food uses of chlorpyrifos; it would not impact nonfood uses of chlorpyrifos, including public health uses for mosquito control and USDA quarantine use for fire ant control. EPA will continue to evaluate the non-agricultural, non-food uses as part of the ongoing registration review for chlorpyrifos. Following the cancellation of food uses, there may be some products that have label instructions for both food and non-food uses. Those labels would need to be amended to remove any food-uses that were cancelled.

For answers to more frequently asked questions on the chlorpyrifos 2021 final rule, click [here](#).

## USEPA Fines Fertilizer Distributor for RMP Violations

**USEPA** will collect over \$50,000 from an Iowa fertilizer distributor to resolve alleged violations of the Risk Management Plan rule. According to USEPA, the company stores 457,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia and failed to protect workers and the surrounding community from accidental releases. After reviewing the facility's records, USEPA determined that the company failed to update its plans for preventing the release of anhydrous ammonia and responding to a release. The company also failed to update a hazard review, maintain operating procedures, and perform and maintain compliance audits. In response to USEPA's findings, the company took the necessary steps to return the facility to compliance. If your company has any questions regarding RMP, please don't hesitate to reach out to John on IFCA's staff. [john@ifca.com](mailto:john@ifca.com) or 309.827.2774

## From the President's Desk

by Kevin "KJ" Johnson



**A**s I reflect on the last nine months as IFCA Interim President, I can't look back and not be grateful. For me personally, it has been a year of learning, growth, and opportunity. It is an honor to serve and represent all

of the people that work in the ag input industry every day. I'm proud of the IFCA board of directors; they are truly dedicated to the growing business of ag retail, and they do an amazing job. They are the reason IFCA remains one of the leading voices for agriculture in the state and the country.

In spite of the many obstacles that 2021 presented, and amidst working through the COVID-19 pandemic, IFCA has had many successes, including celebrating the 40th anniversary of the MAGIE show, keeping the AG sales tax exemption in tact (when the state was looking for new revenue dollars), holding several ammonia trainings statewide for retailers, and keeping the 4R's at the forefront of the nutrient loss reduction strategy.

Also, in looking at the challenges the year has presented, I'm proud of the industry for overcoming challenging times that include higher and more volatile fertilizer markets, supply chain shortages in crop protection products, and employee shortages and retention. IFCA has made it a priority to stay informed and in tune to these issues during such unprecedented times.

I'm truly thankful that the IFCA board of directors has given me the opportunity to lead this outstanding organization. It is my honor to serve Illinois ag retailers, fertilizer manufacturers, chemical manufacturers, and everyone that is part of the industry. My hope for the future is to continue building upon IFCA's positive momentum and continue growing our association. Looking into the future includes fostering new retailer and legislative relationships, staying ahead of the nutrient loss strategy, as well as continuing to expand our social media presence and audience.

As you close another productive fertilizer/chemical season, I hope you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I looking forward to seeing you January 18-20 in Peoria for the IFCA Convention and Trade Show.

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**Illinois Fertilizer &  
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### Our Mission

To assist and represent the Illinois crop production supply and service industry while promoting the sound stewardship and utilization of agricultural inputs.

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## IFCA Chairman's Report

by Tadgh Davis



It was great to see everyone at the MAGIE show and I appreciate all the work the IFCA staff and volunteers put in for another great show. I know Jean appreciated the great turn out at her reception despite the hot weather. The IFCA also hosted a successful 4R Nutrient Field Day in September at the impressive Precision Planting farm in Pontiac. We had a great lineup of speakers on nutrient loss reduction and we are already making plans for a field day in Piatt county next year. I am very proud of the leadership the IFCA has played in nutrient loss reduction. But we all need to recognize we need to continue to improve this

important strategy in order to meet both local and federal expectations.

It is hard to believe in just a little under two months we will be in Peoria for the convention and trade show and I will be wrapping up my term as Chair. I am extremely grateful and proud of the IFCA staff and board for their continued leadership in our industry.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

## 2022 IFCA Annual Convention & Tradeshow

January 18 – 20, 2022 in Peoria, Illinois is the place to be to network with peers and navigate into the future. Not only, after a year off, can you catch up with your peers on the tradeshow floor there are opportunities to obtain CEU credits. All in one place, IFCA provides programs that keeps our attendees informed on a wide range of agronomic and forward-looking topics that aim to keep you on the forefront of success and sustainability. You won't want to miss the keynote speaker, radio podcast personality Rob Sharkey. In the digital world he is known as The Shark Farmer and has the ability to directly address controversial topics.

Registration, exhibitor information, and a listing of speaker topics and bios can all be found on our website under the Convention tab.



## IFCA Scholarships

Every year, IFCA awards four scholarships to junior and/or four-year college students who are studying for a career in our industry. We encourage our members who have children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews in school and wanting to work in our industry to complete the scholarship application and return it to IFCA by December 17th. Click [here](#) to download a copy of the application. The scholarships are for \$1,000 and will be awarded at the IFCA annual meeting on January 19, 2022, at the Peoria Civic Center.