



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP
Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

January 7, 2016

Dear Iowa Sensitive Crops Directory Producer:

This is the time of year the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) sends out the annual e-mail notice requesting that you review and validate your Iowa Sensitive Crops Directory website information for the upcoming year.

This year, however, we're asking you to hold off on any updates to the directory. IDALS is currently negotiating a contract with FieldWatch™, Inc. to provide producers a new online platform called the DriftWatch™ Specialty Crop Site Registry (or "DriftWatch" for short) for listing sensitive crop and apiary site locations. Driftwatch is already used in several Midwest states, and, among other things, stakeholders report that the map-enabled capability of the DriftWatch website allows producers to enter information in a user-friendly manner and provides applicators easily generated maps and data.

IDALS would like to see a contract in place and a DriftWatch producer-accessible website by early March if not sooner. When that website is up and running, we will send out notices to you to that effect - and provide details on how to access and upload information to the site. Please be aware that any 2016 updates to the current Sensitive Crops Directory will not be automatically transferred to the new DriftWatch site.

If for some reason it looks like the contract negotiations will not be completed in a timely manner, IDALS will reach out and provide you with information on how to access the Iowa Sensitive Crops Directory as it has existed the past few years. IDALS will also provide detailed information on this website. Whether through the current Iowa Sensitive Crops Directory or through the DriftWatch website, our goal is to have your site information listed and accessible to pesticide applicators during the application season. In any event, I will personally work with any producers that need assistance.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while IDALS works through this negotiation stage. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Ovrom

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