General Guidance and Scope

1.) FieldWatch registries (DriftWatch and BeeCheck) use location and contact information provided by specialty crop producers and beekeepers. The focus on specialty crops and beehives is intended to improve communication between specialty crop producers, beekeepers and applicators.

To strengthen this area of focus, we are not currently adding data or data layers at this time.

Note: We will give careful consideration to user requests to add new types of data layers that could enhance our scope and service.

2.) Specialty crops include all commercial fruit and vegetable crops, grapes, nurseries, tobacco, herbs, greenhouses, orchards, tree crops and flowers that can be registered based on the verifiable field boundaries (or greenhouse) where they are grown.

DriftWatch does not include crops based on pesticide sensitivity since all crops can be pesticide sensitive. Specifically, we do not include commodity field crops such as field corn, soybeans, cotton, rice, hay (alfalfa), wheat or pasture unless they are certified organic. DriftWatch does not map different types of herbicide-tolerant, conventional or non-genetically modified crops.

BeeCheck does not include other types of pollinators or other types of bees other than honeybees.

3.) Bees are often an integral part of specialty crop production, as such, beehives can be mapped in DriftWatch or BeeCheck. Both FieldWatch tools include the mapping of beehive locations, which can be marked on the map as a specific site where the hives are located.

Beehive sites are marked as points with a ½ acre circle around the point, rather than foraging or pollinating areas. However, beehive sites can be marked on top of specialty crop fields that are drawn separately on the DriftWatch map.

Privately owned properties with verified boundaries that are actively managed by beekeepers for resting and foraging of beehives, may be drawn according to the field boundaries.

4.) FieldWatch does not map livestock. However, certified organic pasture can be marked and effectively indicate the grazing area of organic livestock.

Commercial fish farm pond areas also can be drawn given their stationary nature.

5.) Only submissions from commercial producers are included in the DriftWatch map — not homeowners or gardeners. All mapped fields must be at least ½ half acre in size.

Submissions from commercial and hobby beekeepers are included in the BeeCheck map. Beehives are marked with a point and the number of hives can be submitted during the mapping process. Hobbyist beekeepers are not required to sell honey or pollination services to be able to use FieldWatch registries.

6.) Where sites that fall outside of this scope already exist on the registry, these criteria will be applied the next time the site is reviewed by a data steward or during the annual renewal process.