

# Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association



*To represent the crop production supply and service industry while promoting the sound stewardship of agricultural inputs*

## IFCA 2024 Farm Bill Priorities

### Ensure EPA and State Lead Agencies (NDA) have Exclusive Pesticide Regulatory Role

IFCA supports science-based regulations and ensuring that oversight of pesticide is based on the scientific expertise of career regulators at the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OOP) and Illinois Department of Agriculture, versus politicians at local level where resource and scientific expertise is limited. Actions in other states could impact Illinois farmers ability to access needed products.

### Fertilizer Industry's Economic Impact on Illinois

**30,437 Jobs**  
**\$2.34 Billion in Wages**  
**\$8.07 Billion Economic Impact**

*Source: The Fertilizer Institute*

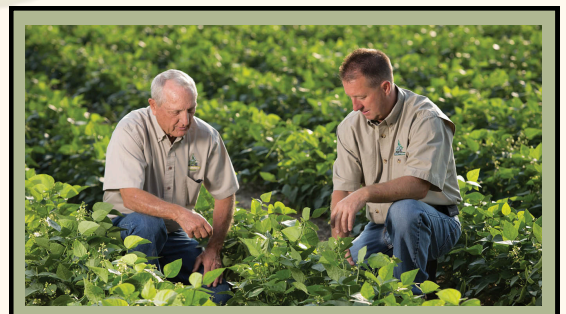
### Pesticide Labeling Uniformity Act Needed to Protect Access

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the primary statute governing pesticide, place EPA in the authority to make foundational, science-based decisions on how pesticide can be labeled and used. States are permitted to regulate the sale and use of pesticide under FIFRA but are preempted from requiring additional or different pesticide labels or packaging. Nevertheless, in recent years we have seen actions from states that directly and unjustifiably contradict EPA's scientific findings on pesticide safety. These action risk creating an unworkable, inconsistent patchwork of state or municipal pesticide labels that can quickly disrupt commerce and access to these much-needed tools. This threatens to jeopardize public confidence in EPA's authority and science-based regulations under the FIFRA, as well as the continued availability of individual tools on which there are contradictory claims.

- IFCA Position: IFCA urges Congress to reaffirm that EPA should have the exclusive authority for pesticide regulations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. IFCA supports the inclusion of Agriculture Labeling Uniformity Act (H.R. 4288) to prevent inconsistent state regulations that could disrupt access to essential pesticides.

### Support The Increase TSP Access Act

IFCA supports the continuation of the TSP program; however, we believe there should be an easier pathway for ag retailers and Certified Crop Advisers to be certified by USDA-NRCS. Currently, the certification process is cumbersome for many retailers and IFCA would like to see significant reforms to this process to ensure greater ease of conservation and nutrient stewardship plan implementation.



- IFCA Position: IFCA supports reforms to the USDA-NRCS certification process for Technical Service Providers (TSP) and Certified Crop Advisors. Simplifying this process will ensure greater ease of implementing conservation and nutrient stewardship plans, as proposed in H.R. 3036 and S. 1400.

## Critical Minerals: Phosphate and Potash

Bipartisan legislation, H.R. 8450, the Phosphate and Potash Protection Act of 2024, would direct the United State Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct an immediate review to determine the need for adding phosphate and potash to the Critical Minerals list.



Only 14 countries in the world produce potash, with Belarus and Russia comprising nearly 40% of global production. While the U.S. produces potash domestically, it imports roughly 95% of it needs. Regarding phosphate, 11 countries produce significant amounts with China accounting for over 40% of the global production.

By adding phosphate and potash to the Critical Minerals list, we can take a significant stride towards securing our own future and sending the clear message that safeguarding our nation's food supply is not only an economic imperative, but a strategic priority that ensures our well-being.

- *IFCA Position: IFCA supports adding phosphate and potash to the Critical Minerals list to secure domestic supply and ensure food security. We endorse the Phosphate and Potash Protection Act (H.R. 8450) to address supply chain vulnerabilities.*

## Reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program

The CFATS program expired in July of 2023, leaving facilities that handle sensitive fertilizer products without critical security tools. The CFATS program provides an important framework to ensure facilities are taking appropriate steps to be secure. IFCA members' facilities are subject to the CFATS program because they manufacture, store, handle, and sell certain CFATS chemicals on interest (COI), such as anhydrous ammonia and ammonium nitrate.

We strongly support efforts to enact a long-term reauthorization of the CFATS programs, and to reconstitute this program as soon as possible. The lapse in authorization of the CFATS program has subjected our members to additional regulatory uncertainty in the an already volatile agricultural market. For example, new personnel can no longer be vetted against the Terrorist Screening Database.

A long-term reauthorization provides our industry with the certainty it needs to make the necessary facility investments to mitigate security threats.

- *IFCA Position: IFCA strongly supports the long-term reauthorization of the CFATS program to protect facilities handling sensitive fertilizers from terrorist threats. We advocate for the immediate reconstitution of this program through the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act (H.R.4470).*

If you have any questions regarding IFCA's positions, please reach out to KJ Johnson at [kj@ifca.com](mailto:kj@ifca.com) or 217-369-1669.



**Representing the Agricultural Input Industry**

**Illinois Fertilizer &  
Chemical Association**  
Supply • Service • Stewardship