

Newsletter Article

Pest management is a significant part of a grower's operations to maximize yield and profitability. Access to a full complement of technologies, including a class of insecticides known as neonicotinoids, is key to a grower's ability to make the best decisions to protect his crops. Currently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is undergoing an established process for assessing the benefits and risks of pesticides known as registration review for neonicotinoids with a focus on their impact to pollinators.

Neonicotinoids are critical for controlling damaging and invasive pests in various agricultural crops, as well as urban and residential landscapes. The loss of neonicotinoids would mean reliance on less effective pest management options, higher operating costs, more frequent spraying of older less-selective products, and increased risks to workers, pollinators and the environment. In fact, new studies show that a loss of neonicotinoids would not only have a devastating impact on some grower operations, but could seriously impact the economic vitality of rural communities dependent on agriculture.

Recently, the EPA announced a 60-day comment period following publication of a benefits assessment report named [Benefits of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatment to Soybean Production](#). Although these reports are common within the EPA, there are concerns about how this report was generated and released to the public. These concerns range from targeting a single use rather than all relevant and registered uses without prior notification, uncommon and outside of the normal process established to the use of a limited and incomplete data set, upon further analysis. As a result, the conclusions reached in the report understate the value of seed treatments to soybean pest management and yield enhancement, safety to pollinators, and local agricultural economies.

There is also new information that challenges the EPA's report. A new series of 13 reports based on a study conducted by AgInfomatics, LLC, is now being released. The reports provide a comprehensive evaluation of the economic and societal benefits of neonicotinoid insecticides in North America. These reports provide reliable, objective evidence of the benefits these products, which are the largest selling insecticide class in the world, for modern pest management systems. Research on commodity crops such as corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, sorghum and canola, specialty crops such as citrus, vegetables and grapes, plus turf, ornamental and landscape uses show that neonicotinoids add billions of dollars to the economy, and benefit entire communities, not just individual growers. Go to www.GrowingMatters.org for more of the latest information, reports, videos and infographics on the benefits of neonicotinoid insecticides.

Today the focus is soybeans. Tomorrow it could be corn, cotton, wheat, citrus or any other crop. Speak out to help Protect Growers' Rights to have choices in production practices uses by posting your comments today. **Your voice definitely matters. Urge EPA to comprehensively review and consider the [benefits](#) of seed treatments in soybeans and other crops.**

Commenting is fast and easy.

Visit www.AgVoice4Choice.com to **ACT!** There you will have the ability to personalize a general sample letter and a soybean specific letter, as well as find facts to cite and use to customize and submit your comments directly to the Federal docket.

If you prefer to comment directly on your organization's letterhead, go to:

- Docket number: EPA-HQOPP-2014-0737 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- Address correspondence to Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

The comment period closes Dec. 22, so the time to ACT is now.