

University of Vermont



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A Smart, Sensible and Sustainable Approach to Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments

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The University of Vermont

Objectives & Focus

EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) grant.

Grants explore the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) over two years.

OBJECTIVE: to provide farmers education and experience with scouting and assessing action thresholds for early season pests in row crops.

Through this newly gained knowledge farmers will be able to make more informed decisions as to whether a neonicotinoid seed treatment is needed to prevent any crop losses.



Outcome

Over 250 farmers, representing 25,000 acres of row crops, **will receive hands-on training** on how to scout and determine if pest levels necessitate the use of neonicotinoid seed treatments (NSTs).

Of those 250 farmers, 30 **will implement** scouting, pest thresholds on over 1500 acres of corn and soybeans.



Education & Outreach

2-scouting protocols and action threshold factsheet for soil pests of corn and soybeans developed in the winter of 2023.

1 intensive training focused on IPM strategies for soil pests in corn and soybeans will be held at the Annual No-Till and Cover Crop Conference in 2023.

During outreach events in 2023 - 30 partner farms will receive one-on-one training and tools to implement scouting and action thresholds.

4-part webinar series focused on soil pests of corn and soybeans, scouting, thresholds, and IPM strategies to reduce the prophylactic use of neonicotinoids in the winter of 2023/2024.



Demonstration

6 on-farm demonstration sites to be split over 2 years.

Fields of high and low risk will be evaluated.

Farmers will actively participate in scouting and field selection.

Sites will have in-season scouting and yield monitored.

Sites will be used for on-farm field days in each year.

