

Understanding Agricultural Inputs

The Agricultural Innovation Board is charged with surveying farmers from every county in the State to help better understand how agricultural inputs, such as pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, and plastics

1. are currently used; and
2. the current challenges farmers face in reducing these inputs

The results of this survey will be reported in aggregate to the General Assembly. Answers will not be attributed to any person or operation. The responses will assist the Agency in developing or exploring recommendations to reduce the use of and exposure to pesticides, and innovative or alternative practices, and to make future budget recommendations and ideas for funding sources for new programs.

6 V.S.A. 61 The Secretary may collect information on subjects within the jurisdiction of the Agency, including data obtained from questionnaires, surveys, physical samples, databases, and laboratory analyses conducted by the Agency. This information shall be available upon request to the public, provided that it is presented in a form that does not disclose the identity of individual persons, households, or businesses from whom the information was obtained or whose characteristics, activities, or products the information is about.

1.Farm NameRequired to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

2.Operator First NameRequired to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

3.Operator Last NameRequired to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

4.County location of home farm?Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Addison

Bennington

Caledonia

Chittenden

Essex

Franklin

Grand Isle

Lamoille

Orange

Orleans

Rutland

Washington

Windsor

Windham

5. Would any of the following reasons persuade you to reduce pesticide use/toxicity in crop production? (select all that apply) Required to answer. Multiple choice.

If it would reduce operations costs

If I could be assured that reducing pesticide use will minimally affect productivity

If it decreased pesticide exposure to myself and farm staff

If it increased the efficiency of my operation, including reducing re-entry times

If it would reduce impacts to non-target species, e.g. pollinators

If it could prevent target pests from becoming tolerant of an active ingredient

Reducing the amount of pesticides that enter the soil/water near the farm

I am not interested in reducing pesticide use

6. In 2022 did you practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles when making pesticide related decisions? (IPM means "a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks", 7 U.S.C. § 136r) Required to answer. Single choice.

yes

no

Not sure

7. What IPM strategies do you use? (select all that apply) Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Crop rotation

Scouting for and identifying pests

Selecting pest resistant crop varieties

Mechanical pest control methods

Weather monitoring

Automated decision support system (e.g., NEWA)

Targeted pesticide selection

Cultural practices (e.g., adjusting seeding timing; residue management)

8. What would encourage you to practice IPM principles in 2023? (select all that apply) Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Monetary incentives

IPM certification training

Regulatory incentives

Market differentiation

Improved access to markets

9. What type of operation do you have? Required to answer. Single choice.

Certified organic

Non-certified organic

Non-Organic

Split farm/operation (Dual system of farm management)

10.If you use treated seed, which kind do you use? (select all that apply)Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Neonicotinoid treated seed

Fungicide

Inoculated seed

Bio-stimulant treated

Other treated seed, indicate the other type below

I don't know what treatments are on the seed

11.If you could purchase a treated seed without a neonicotinoid insecticide, would you? (if you would like to elaborate use the "Other" field)Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Yes

No

I don't know

12.If you could obtain a custom pesticide seed treatment would this interest you?Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

Don't know

13.What types of pesticides (insecticide, fungicide, herbicide, etc) do you use?Required to answer. Single choice.

Pesticides suitable for organic production (e.g., OMRI approved)

Conventional pesticides

Both organic and conventional pesticides

I don't use pesticides

I don't know

14.What types of agricultural plastic do you use on your farm? (select all that apply)Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Plastic mulch

Round bale wrap

Plastic nursery pots and trays

Drip irrigation tape or tubing

Green and hoop house covers

Bunker silo covers

Silage tubes

Feed and pellet bags

Bale netting/twine

Maple/tubing mainline

Fruit netting

Hoof blocks
Weed tarps
Coverall barn/structure
Polycarbonate panels
Trellising material/clips

15. How do you manage agricultural plastic that is used on your farm? (select all that apply) Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Take it to the landfill/picked up with my trash/put in a dumpster
Recycle with my solid waste district/municipality
Sterilize and/or re-use
Recycle with a market option
Dispose of on farm

16. Would any of the following options persuade you to change current practices managing agricultural plastic? (select all that apply) Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Cost effective product alternative
Convenient recycling option
Incentivize alternative to landfilling
Viable alternative practice that doesn't include agricultural plastic
OMRI approved bio-degradable plastic

17. Which soil tests do you perform? Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Nutrient content or deficiencies
Pesticides in soils
Heavy metals
Soil microbiology
Cornell Soil Health test
I do not perform soil tests

18. Estimate the ratio of synthetic to natural fertilizers used as inputs on your farm?

A **synthetic fertilizer** is any fertilizer manufactured from one or more synthetic materials containing no animal parts, animal by products, manures, or renderings. [AAPFCO, 2005].

A **natural fertilizer** is a substance composed only of natural organic and/or natural inorganic materials and natural fibers. [AAPFCO, 1993]. Required to answer. Single choice.

100% synthetic; 0% natural
75% synthetic; 25% natural

50% synthetic; 50% natural

25% synthetic; 75% natural

0% synthetic; 100% natural

I use manure produced on or imported to the farm

19. Which agricultural technical service providers do you use? Required to answer.

Single choice.

Extension specialists

Private crop consultant

Conservation district

Industry sales consultant

Farm Viability Program

NOFA-VT

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Industry Associations (e.g., VVBGA, VTFGA, VGFA)

20. Is there anything you would like to add? Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

Add new