

## 2023 AIB WORK PLAN

### Legislative Charge:

Act No. 145 of 2022, Section 2, amended 6 V.S.A. §1105a:

(c)(1) Under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, after consultation with the Agricultural Innovation Board, shall adopt by rule BMPs for the use in the State of neonicotinoid treated article seeds. In developing the rules with the Agricultural Innovation Board, the Secretary shall address:

(A) establishment of threshold levels of pest pressure required prior to use of neonicotinoid treated article seeds;

(B) availability of nontreated article seeds that are not neonicotinoid treated article seeds;

(C) economic impact from crop loss as compared to crop yield when neonicotinoid treated article seeds are used;

(D) relative toxicities of different neonicotinoid treated article seeds and the effects of neonicotinoid treated article seeds on human health and the environment;

(E) surveillance and monitoring techniques for in-field pest pressure;

(F) ways to reduce pest harborage from conservation tillage practices; and

(G) criteria for a system of approval of neonicotinoid treated article seeds.

A copy of the proposed rules shall be submitted to House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and Senate Committee on Agriculture on or before March 1, 2024

### OVERALL GOAL:

Draft proposed rule for the use of neonicotinoid treated seeds in VT

### OBJECTIVES:

Develop rules for use of neonicotinoid treated seeds in collaboration with the Agency including all outlined items in Act No. 145

### TIMELINE:

Friday, September 29, 2023

### RESOURCES - What info does AIB need?

### RESOURCES - What info does AIB have?

### BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

[Detail each team member's roles and responsibilities on the project. Be specific to avoid confusion during the project.]

### STRATEGY:

[List the sub-tasks required to achieve the objectives for this goal.]

### Does AIB have enough information to make a recommendation?

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATION

### Required Topic A:

Establish threshold levels of pest pressure required prior to use of neonicotinoid treated seeds

### OBJECTIVES:

List economic threshold levels for identified pests

### TIMELINE:

Monday, March 27, 2023

### RESOURCES - What info does AIB need?

\*Identification of target pests for treated seeds  
 \*Are studies needed to determine economic threshold levels for identified pests? Or do they already exist (Ontario, UMD Extension)?  
 \*Discuss grower decision making around IPM practices vs weighing treatment cost & crop value.

### RESOURCES - What info does AIB have?

### BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

[Detail each team member's roles and responsibilities on the project. Be specific to avoid confusion during the project.]

### STRATEGY:

\*Heather Darby, UVM 3/27/23

### Does AIB have enough information to make a recommendation?

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATION

<b>Required Topic B:</b>		Determine availability of nontreated article seeds that are not neonicotinoid treated article seeds					
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>TIMELINE:</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB need?</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB have?</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>STRATEGY:</b>	<b>Does AIB have enough information to make a recommendation?</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF FINDINGS &amp; RECOMMENDATION</b>
Identify nontreated seeds (non-neonic treated seeds) that are available to VT farmers	Monday, April 24, 2023	*survey seed distributors in VT for what seeds are available for sale *List of non-treated seeds available for specific crops *List of non-neonic treated seeds available for specific crops *Availability from distributors not just what being sold (what is criteria for having non-neonic treated available? How is industry going to change to accommodate potential restrictions in VT?) *what are constraints for getting non-neonic treated seed? What would it take to get non-neonic treated seed in VT?	*2023-0123 AIB Seed Update *2023-0227 AIB seed report update	AAFM	*VT Seed Data report (Stephanie Smith & Jill Goss)		
<b>Required Topic C:</b>		Determine economic impact from crop loss as compared to crop yield when neonicotinoid treated article seeds are used					
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>TIMELINE:</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB need?</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB have?</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>STRATEGY:</b>	<b>Does AIB have enough information to make a recommendation?</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF FINDINGS &amp; RECOMMENDATION</b>
Economic analysis of using neonicotinoid treated seeds	2/27/23 - Topic C to be discussed at future AIB meeting (5/22/23)	*Literature review of relevant research *Identify people with expertise we want to reach out to *Are more relevant studies needed?		[Detail each team member's roles and responsibilities on the project. Be specific to avoid confusion during the project.]	*Eelson Shields Cornell ? *Travis Grout Cornell ?		

<b>Required Topic D:</b>		Research relative toxicities of different neonicotinoid treated article seeds and the effects of neonicotinoid treated article seeds on human health and the environment					
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>TIMELINE:</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB need?</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB have?</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>STRATEGY:</b>	<b>Does AIB have enough information to make a recommendation?</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF FINDINGS &amp; RECOMMENDATION</b>
Literature review/Risk assessment of neonicotinoid treated seeds on human health and the environment (water, pollinators, etc broadly interpreted)	Start here because accounting for more than treatment cost vs crop value so get bigger picture * Human Health Lit review update March 27, 2023 *Environment lit review update March 27, 2023	*Literature review of relevant research (neonics used as seed treatment) *Identify neonicotinoid treated seeds available in VT *Human health and environmental risk assessment of each active ingredient with lens of use on treated seed *Do EPA eco/health risk assessments cover treated seed use (pathway for exposure)? *EPA ecological impact for chemicals covers broadly (all living organisms)	information is available in literature	Sarah Owen - Human Health Impact AAFM - Environmental Impact Terry Bradshaw - provide citations environmental lit	*contract with someone/utilize AAFM resource to complete in depth literature review ? *UVM's Vermont Legislative Resource Service ? *EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Fate and Effects Division - find someone to give synopsis of relevance/timeliness of data that is available *Sarah Owen can look into human health using EPA resources/Chemical Managers *AAFM can summarize environmental impact literature		
<b>Required Topic E:</b>		Outline surveillance and monitoring techniques for in-field pest pressure					
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>TIMELINE:</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB need?</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB have?</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>STRATEGY:</b>	<b>Does AIB have enough information to make a recommendation?</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF FINDINGS &amp; RECOMMENDATION</b>
Identify and outline pest pressure surveillance and monitoring techniques that farmers can use to inform seed purchasing decisions	Monday, March 27, 2023	*Are there practical in-field scouting techniques that can be aligned with seed purchasing schedule? *Do we try and get Ontario Regulators to come talk to AIB? *Do we use their pest risk assessment guideline as resource for scouting techniques?		[Detail each team member's roles and responsibilities on the project. Be specific to avoid confusion during the project.]	*Heather Darby, UVM 3/27/23		
<b>Required Topic F:</b>		Outline ways to reduce pest harborage from conservation tillage practices					
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>TIMELINE:</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB need?</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB have?</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>STRATEGY:</b>	<b>Does AIB have enough information to make a recommendation?</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF FINDINGS &amp; RECOMMENDATION</b>
Identify ways to reduce pest harborage from conservation tillage practices	Monday, March 27, 2023	*What are the pest pressures from conservation tillage practices? Different pests? *How can pest harborage be reduced? How can you reduce your pest populations to below economic threshold levels?		[Detail each team member's roles and responsibilities on the project. Be specific to avoid confusion during the project.]	*Heather Darby, UVM 3/27/23		

<b>Required Topic G:</b>		Establish criteria for a system of approval of neonicotinoid treated article seeds					
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>TIMELINE:</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB need?</b>	<b>RESOURCES - What info does AIB have?</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>STRATEGY:</b>	<b>Does AIB have enough information to make a recommendation?</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF FINDINGS &amp; RECOMMENDATION</b>
Establish criteria for approval of neonicotinoid treated seeds (criteria for when you can use neonic seeds?) [AAFM General Counsel will be consulted for interpretation of this topic]	June/July?	*Ask AAFM General Counsel interpretation of this Topic *Is this approval for use of neonic seeds? *The Agency currently doesn't register seed products just dealers. This would require a change in the law, registration fees, database development, human resources to conduct label review and enforcement.		[Detail each team member's roles and responsibilities on the project. Be specific to avoid confusion during the project.]	*AAFM General Counsel legal opinion of meaning of this topic		

**Proposed Meeting Dates & Agenda Items**

3/27/2023	4/24/2023	5/22/2023	6/26/2023	7/24/2023	8/28/2023	9/25/2023	10/23/2023	12/4/2023	1/29/2024
Ag Input Survey Results - AAFM	Availability of non-treated and non-neonic treated seeds Seed Data Report - AAFM	EPA OPP Environmental Fate & Effects Div?				Review draft of proposed rules			Finalize draft of proposed rules
Human Health & Environment impact lit review update - Sarah Owen (VDH), AAFM	Human & Enviro risk assessment update - Sarah Owen, AAFM	plan for economic impact (Topic C)							
Heather Darby UVM Ext Research Update *plan for NTS vs Fungicide only TS *overview of pest pressures and how to reduce from no-till *scouting/monitoring and economic thresholds									

Elson Shields OR Travis Grout et al Cornell University Economic impacts of crop loss vs crop yield with NTS  
??  
Paul Hoekstra Grain Farmers of Ontario update on response to Ontario NTS Regs ?  
Heather Darby research update?