

**VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS (AAFM)
AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION BOARD (AIB)**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 27, 2023

LOCATION: Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets 94 Harvest Lane,
Williston, VT 05495 – Conference Room 210 / Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Member	Present	Absent
Ayer, Clara	x	
Beckford, Roy		x
Bradshaw, Terry	x	
Chamberlin, Jonathan	x	
Cutler, Clarice	x	
Ransom, Earl	x	
Rebozo, Ryan	x	
Schubart, Steven	x	
Owen, Sarah	x	
Harper, Wendy Sue	x	
DiPietro, Laura	x	
Dwinell, Steve	x	
Morgan Griffith	x	
Guests in Attendance		
Stephanie Smith Jill Goss Clark Parmelee Emilie I Sang Pham Unidentified participant (-5192) Patti Casey Brooke Decker Dillon Gabbert (Bayer Crop Science) Fred Putnam Jr (VT Beekeepers Association) Zach Szczokowski Lisa F Bethany Creaser		

Meeting called to order: 1:00 PM EST

Meeting adjourned: 2:46 PM EST

Next meeting: Monday March 27, 2023

Agenda:

1:00 PM – Welcome & Introductions

1:05 PM – Agenda, previous meeting minutes & action item review

1:15 PM – Report Regarding BMPs for Non-neonicotinoid Treated Article Seeds submission to Legislature

1:20 PM – PHARM activities update

1:50 PM – AIB 2023 workplan development and discussion

3:15 PM – Review of relevant 2023 Legislative Bills

3:45 PM – Public Comments

4:00 PM – Adjourn

New Action Items

Action	Responsible Party	Complete? (date)
Sarah Owen will provide AIB with human health risk assessment of neonicotinoid treated article seeds	Sarah Owen	
Terry Bradshaw will provide AIB with environmental risk assessment relevant article citations for neonicotinoid treated article seeds	Terry Bradshaw	
AAFM staff will provide AIB with summary literature review of environmental risk articles	AAFM	

Ongoing Action Items

Action	Responsible Party	Complete? (date)
AIB members let Morgan know if eligible for per diem reimbursement to receive necessary paperwork	All eligible AIB members	
Provide AIB members with literature articles on non-neonicotinoid active ingredients identified in seed reports to date (metalaxyl fungicide)	Morgan	2/9/2023
Send draft written report regarding whether best management practices (BMPs) should be adopted for the use of treated article seeds that are not neonicotinoid treated article seeds to AIB for review/finalization before 2/15/23	Morgan	Draft finalized by AIB and submitted 2/14/23

Welcome & Introductions, agenda, previous meeting minutes & action item review

- 1/23/23 meeting minutes accepted without changes
- No additions/modifications to agenda

Report Regarding BMPs for Non-neonicotinoid Treated Article Seeds submission to Legislature

- AIB 2022 Annual Report submitted to legislature on February 14, 2023

- available on [AIB website](#) and on [Vermont Legislative Reports website](#)

PHARM activities update

- Dave Huber (Deputy Director of Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management Division, AAFM) no update due to illness
 - Vermont rule for control of pesticides is in effect as of February 24, 2023
 - In the process of implementation of new rule now
- Stephanie Smith (Deputy Director of Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management Division, AAFM)
 - Scheduled meeting in March with American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) to discuss seed certification, seed lab operations (federal, state and commercial, and labeling requirements.
 - Agency staff attended The Pest Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) meeting in Feb which is a group of government agencies, industry, and research institutions that stewarding life cycle of pesticides.
 - Agency staff will participate in the TPSA pesticide disposal workgroup, with the goal to reduce pesticide waste. Some ideas of the workgroup that will be presented at the next TPSA meeting include: reducing pesticide purchases, educating consumers about purchases, storage and disposal, responsible management by industry recycling of pesticide containers, producer responsibility, reduction of pesticide waste, and engaging with the Producer Responsibility Organization (pesticide container disposal).
 - Ag inputs survey closed on Feb 23
 - 49 respondents (sent to >600 farms)
 - At least 1 from each county (majority in Addison county)
 - Most participants were small or certified small, 1 large farm participant
 - Will discuss with board members if we would like to open the survey up again for more participation
 - Will decide after review results at next meeting
 - Treated and Untreated Seed Report Update – Jill Goss, Agricultural Resource Specialist, AAFM
 - Reported total tons, talk in detail about top 3: Corn, legume, forage & pasture, and soybean
 - Reference the pdf presentation linked in meeting materials for specific numbers reported
 - Majority of untreated seeds were sold to dealers
 - Single treatment seeds majority are treated with fungicide
 - Neonic treatments on 86% of tons reported, non-neonic treatments 14%
 - Still actively getting reports in
 - 70 tons reported without treatments noted
 - AAFM Seed Program is following up with this distributor
 - 1508 tons reported last year, this year 1300 tons so far, so maybe a couple hundred tons outstanding based on last year's reports
 - We are being more active than prior years so may see an increase in reporting

- The entity who labels the seed is the distributor there is potential for a dealer to double report, but AAFM is following up with distributors to try and limit this potential
 - There are a lot more active ingredients than metalaxyl that are not neonicotinoids
 - Will share full report summary with Board members at future meeting

AIB 2023 workplan development and discussion

- A Workplan for 2023, specifically focused on the responsibility of the Board to provide a recommendation to the Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets about rules for BMPs for the use in the state of neonicotinoid treated article seeds by March 1, 2024, was developed by AIB members.
 - The 2023 workplan file, updated during this meeting will be available on the AIB website and AIB Teams site for members.
 - **Sarah Owen will provide AIB with human health risk assessment of neonicotinoid treated article seeds
 - **Terry Bradshaw will provide AIB with environmental risk assessment relevant article citations for neonicotinoid treated article seeds
 - **AAFM staff will provide AIB with summary literature review of environmental risk articles
 - **AIB members are encouraged to share any relevant information, references/citations, and contacts that can help the Board gain the knowledge needed to make a recommendation
- Decision making process for AIB was presented by Steve Dwinell (available in meeting materials on AIB web and AIB Teams site for members)
 - Goal is to not have a voting process for proposals and reports, and instead document member support or lack of support.
 - Members affiliated with the Agency will have opinions on proposals brought to the Board by other members, but no documented support or lack of support for proposals and reports submitted to the board from the Agency itself.
 - The proposal and/or report will be provided to the Secretary of the Agency including all information of AIB member support or reasons for not supporting
 - If a member disagrees or does not support a proposal they will be asked to record why and if there are changes that can be made in order to support the proposal or report. If changes and a consensus cannot be made, then the member's lack of support will be recorded and provided with the proposal.
 - Members will have time to put their thoughts down if they do not support
 - This review and support process was supported by the following non-AAFM members present at the meeting: Wendy Sue Harper, Jonathan Chamberlin, Clara Ayers, Sarah Owen, Earl Ransom, Steve Schubart, Clarice Cutler, Terry Bradshaw.
 - No member spoke of not supporting this process

Review of relevant 2023 Legislative Bills

- AAFM is not aware of any bills introduced to legislature this session to date that are relevant to agricultural pest control or IPM at this point.

Public Comments

- None

** - indicates action item