

Agricultural Innovation Board Meeting Transcript

July 22, 2024

□ **Griffith, Morgan** started transcription



0:15

All right.

Good afternoon.

It's 1:00 PM a little after, on July 22nd, we are officially calling this meeting of the AIV to order.

As a reminder, this meeting is being recorded as public record and that participation in a recorded meeting will be deemed as consent to be recorded, including statements both written and oral public records, including this recording, can be requested at any time in accordance with the Vermont Public Records Act.

Thank you. Welcome.

So the 1st.

Round of.

Introductions.

Let's start with shampoo up everyone.

So I can see.

So we'll start with Members that are on online.

So the 1st.

Person on my list is Laura.



DiPietro, Laura 1:15

Ohh Lord Petro Agency of Agriculture, director of the Water Quality Division.



1:23

Thanks Ryan.



Ryan Rebozo 1:28

Ryan Rebozo with the Vermont Center for Eco Studies.



1:33

Uh, Steve Schubert.



Steve Schubart 1:37

Steve Schubart umm the farmer.



1:44

See when the two.



Wendy Sue Harper 1:46

When they sue Harper, soil scientist.



1:53

Thanks and I have one phone number on the line.

Is that by chance?

Nate, 4741.



+18***41** 2:03

This is Abby page, Jack with DCK full program.



2:05

Ohh, I hi, Abby.



+18***41** 2:09

Sorry.



2:14

Uh, OK.

In the room, we'll just go around here.

We have.

Yeah.

Steve Dwinell, director of the Farm division.

Stephanie Smith, deputy director of the Farm Division.

I'm working.

Griffith in the farm division as well, and Fryer armed division.

And Brian?

Brian.

And it looks like we had one more member join us.

Amanda, can you hear us?

Just do a quick introduction.

AS **Amanda St.Pierre** 2:39

I, Amanda Saint Pierre for Jerry Farmer, Berkshire, Vermont and executive director of Vermont Dairy Producer Alliance.

2:47

Thanks, Amanda.

Uh, alright.

Others that are joining us online.

Let's see brook.

DB **Decker, Brooke** 2:57

Hi, Brooke Decker.

Agency of Agriculture Pollinator health specialist.

3:04

Umm beck.

He ***** Curry.

BL **Becky Langer-Curry** 3:09

Hi, Becky *****.

Bear crops science.

3:11

King, I bet.

Uh.

The Emily may.

EM **Emily May (Xerces) (Guest)** 3:19

Emily may pollinator conservation biologist with Cersei Society for Invertebrate Conservation.



3:25

Thanks family Gary.



JL Jared Carpenter LCC 3:32

Good afternoon, shared Carpenter Lake Champlain committee.
Good to see you all.



3:36

Mixture and Heidi, thanks for joining us.
Is there anybody on the call that I missed?
Right, great.
OK, so we have.
A few things to talk about today.
Get Dylan on here.
Umm doing.
You wanna just give a quick introduction?



DG Dillon Gabbert 4:09

Hello, my name is Dylan Gabbert.
I'm representing Croplife America and rice.



4:25

One more person joining.
Hey, we're just doing quick introductions.
If you're calling from phone number that ends in 2326, can you give it a quick introduction?



+14***26** 4:39

Good afternoon.
This is Nathan Norse.
Nate Norris consulting.

4:43
An 8.

+14*****26 4:46
Up in Montgomery, Vt.

4:50
Great.
Thanks for joining us.
Nate, Zach, thanks for turning the camera on.
I think I missed you.
Go ahead, Zach.

SZ **Szczukowski, Zach** 4:58
It's actually asking me.
You can see our function function.

5:06
Great.
OK so.
Ah, our agenda.
Today we're going to start with something that's slightly different, so we're going to start with a seed report.
I'll get into it after we do a little bit.
And so Jill wasn't able to join us.
And so we're she recorded her presentation.
So we're going to be listening to our data from her, but she's not here to field questions, but we'll do the best we can if we have any questions or we'll just take them as an action item to get back.
So and then we're going to talk about our.
Munich legislation that was passed just a few days before we had our last meeting in June.
Also, we didn't talk about it in great detail and then basically what what that means for us as an IV.

So what are our responsibilities and how are we going to tackle those responsibilities?

So the last time we met was June 24th and we sent out the meeting minutes and I. Heard back.

They wouldn't.

So you said looks great.

There's any other Members have any?

Comment about those meeting minutes.

Or are they acceptable as they were sent out?

Right.

Umm another thing?

When is who did send an article that was about?

Basically like where Munich going in the corn planting that is having a the practice of Prairie strips.

So I did put it on our team site so everyone should be able to get to that.

I can send.

I'll send a link to it when I send out the meeting minutes for today's meeting, but when you add it, know if you wanted to just.

They why you thought it was interesting?

WH Wendy Sue Harper 7:21

OK, there's a little delay when I unmute.

Umm well.

I read it.

Six weeks ago.

So it's not completely in my head, but the.

7:31

Yeah, sorry.

I just.

WH Wendy Sue Harper 7:35

My memory's not as good as it used to be, but the thing that was interesting is that the Prairie strips did not take up the neonics as I thought they might do from the soil.

That was the interesting thing about it.

So it's more complicated than maybe what we've heard, you know in the past.

So anyways, that's why I thought it was a really interesting article and I I get agricultural ecosystem in the environment through science direct and that was one of the papers they had posted.

And you know, I can download things for so many days after I get sent that message.

And then you know, so I that's why I sent it to us so.

8:14

Well, thank you.

Yeah.

We really appreciate it.

So I I put it on our team so we we all have access to it.

So Wendy Sue, thank you.

We really appreciate it and I think I found the same thing that was interesting was just like, huh?

Well, it's not get it.

You know that some of the idea of that query ship though, is to plant pollinator friendly things in the Prairie strip.

So it's one positive thing is good to know that those pollinator friendly plants in the Prairie strip does not sucking up in their necks, but they're just passing through.

I didn't get to see the article.

Yeah, I apologized that you help the strippers adjacent to the field, not through the field.

Fighting.

I can send it to you.

I can send it to.

OK, it would be online.

Right.

Like it's a buffer around an agricultural field.

I think it was through.

I don't.

We can look at it.

I don't know.

I think it's through it.

Yeah, 22.

Umm, but also just to put it out there for other members, if you have things you think are relevant to things that we're talking about, please send them along and I'm happy to put them on the team site so that everyone can.

Umm.

See and read and find what's interesting as well.

So thank you, Wendy Sue.

And then extending the offer to other members to keep them, keep them coming.

All right, so without further ado, I'm going to attempt to do Jill's seed report.

Unless you do, we have any other agency bag update, OK.

All right.

So I tested this so if people in the chat just give me a thumbs up.

If you can hear it when I start it, OK.

I can start.

Because.

 **Griffith, Morgan** 10:23

Good afternoon.

Today IB, for those of you who don't know me, my name is Jill Goss, with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, is feed seed, fertilizer program.

And today I'm presenting a summary on the 2023 seed report.

Let's begin with an overview.

There was a sizable uptick in reporting compliance from registered seed distributors issue.

This 2023 cycle had 116 registered.

See distributors.

Just one last than last year's 117 with 70 seed distributors filing all required reports.

This compares to last year where we had 17, one distributor filed an incomplete report this year whereas 8 filed incomplete reports.

Last year we had six seed distributors that were filing under a parent entity and we this year we had 39 seed distributors failed to file any of the GE treated and untreated seed reporting.

This compares to last year where we had 92 failing to file any of the GE treated and untreated seed reporting.

There's a quick graphic that just shows the amount of treated and untreated seed

across all seed categories this year.

In 2023, a total of 2114 tons of treated seed was reported in all categories save her health and a total of 1267 tons of untreated seed was sold across all categories.

The top 5C categories for this reporting year for corn, soybean, turf, cereal, grain and legume forage and pasture.

Whereas last year at the 2022 reporting season, it was corn, soybean, legume forage, and pasture cereal grains and cover crops.

He's top five seed categories for 2022 and 2023 are here just displayed with a quick visual representation, with the orange being the volume of treated seed and the blue being the volume of untreated seed.

And then taking into account all seeds sold, not just those top five categories, we had 37% untreated and 63% treated seed sold for the year 2023, whereas in 2022 we had 22% untreated and 78% treated.

We're taking a look at single versus multiple treatment types applied to see just to see how distributors are selling packages or single types of seed treatments.

When I say a single treatment might be applied, I would give an example of a fungicide.

But even though that fungicide might be a single treatment type, it might have multiple active ingredients such as thiriod and metalaxyl, and a combination on the right hand side.

It looks like we have about 36% of the seed reported as treated, for which we have no treatment information and we have 50% reporting that they had a single treatment type applied and 14% for which there was multiple treatments applied.

My guess is it's probably largely a multiple treatment applied, but again, having no information provided as simply a guess.

Last year we had a 1% of seeds reported as treated as a single treatment applied and we had 99% as multiple treatments applied.

It's like to focus our attention on the single treatment applied five seed treatment type.

So we had 50% in that single treatment seed category this past year.

And then 2022, we have just 1% reporting a single treatment applied.

So that while the data is a little off in terms of a side by side comparison, you can see that there is a mirror of the amount of fungicide reported as applied as a single treatment and the amounts of biological seed treatments applied.

As our reporting compliance and the information gathered, the comes for uniform,

it'll enable us to do a better side by side picture of what the top single treatments are applied.

This is the treatment and tons reported on the right hand side.

We have 2023 data, so we have fungicide treated seed coming in as 1002 tons insecticide treated seed as 12157 tons nematicides treated seed as 813 tons and then miscellaneous sea treatments applied were 134 tons.

So that big focus here is the insecticide was 39% of all seed treatments applied.

The fungicide followed at 31% of all seed treatments applied, and then Matt aside at 26% of all seed treatments applied and the remainder was just miscellaneous seed treatments.

I left last year San but again because there was a small number comparatively of seed reports received last year, I think we we will be able to look clearly as we move forward and reporting compliance continues to have a better picture of which categories farmers are seeking to have applied.

Here we're looking at a side by side to the parison of the 2022 data on reported active ingredients and the 2023 data estimating pounds of active ingredient.

A total of 2114 tons of seed was reported as being treated, and there was an estimate of 7979 pounds of active insecticide.

Chemical agents of these 7979 pounds of applied insecticide, 7093 pounds or 89% of these estimated active ingredients were reported as being a neonicotinoid and 885 pounds of the estimated active ingredients, or 11% were reported as being a non neonicotinoid.

Use were noted as being the anthranilic Diamide family.

As I indicated on the previous slide, there was an uptick in reporting compliance and an increase in available data and this led to an effort to utilize the reported data to create an estimate of pounds of applied fungicide, insecticide, nematicide seed treatments by their individual chemical agents.

Most treated seed was reported to have multiple treatment types applied and multiple active ingredients utilized in those treatment types.

This table represents the estimated amount and towns of the reported insecticide seed treatment.

These estimates were calculated by using a representative product label to obtain the upper and lower rate for the seed crop category reported.

Applying those crates to the pounds of seed reported and then obtaining an average, this is meant only as a rough estimate of the total pounds of active

ingredients apply to the reported seed sold in Vermont for 2023.

Here we can see that the top seed insecticide treatment applied was clothianidin, followed by thiamethoxam, then chlorine trim and chlorine. Trinil thrill and the Middle Chopra mine.

Excuse me in the middle.

Clobbered too much time in the veterinary world.

You're the look at the rough estimate on the fungicide, active ingredients and this is in the increasing order from left to right here with period cholesterol been being the top active ingredient applied and the least would be pen plugin at .12 pounds total reported and puracal strobil at 2363 pounds applied.

Here's a peek at the Nematicide and towns applied.

The Solus Furnace I had at £391.00 total applied in the state and have them act in at £84.

Total applied in this state.

Is here a total of 1116 tons of genetically engineered seed was reported in the corn, soybean and legging forage and pasture crop categories.

This is where places on the ground beginning from when we first started measuring genetically engineered seeds sold in the state of Vermont till this 2023 reporting cycle.

Here we have a look at the three year comparison and crop categories of reported GE tonnage.

We want to just 2021 the blue is 2022 data and the green is 2023 data.

These are the tonnage numbers for that GE reported in the three year comparison.

This year's to genetically engineered reported seed would be 953 tons of treated.

Pardon me to genetically engineered corn.

Almost one ton of genetically engineered legging forage and pasture, and about 162 genetically engineered soybean.

So before we go forward, I wanted to take a look back at some of the changes that we made in the 2023 reporting season.

So the genetically engineered seed report and they treated and untreated seed report required from all our registered seed distributors for link this year into one form and we made that form available in either an Excel version or a PDF version.

There was also a change in the reporting forms where we asked where are the seed was purchased from.

This was an attempt by the agency to be able to remove redundant volumes prior to

data analysis.

We also attend to declare by the amount and type of treatments applied report farms now requested active ingredient and the rate at which it was applied.

And then one final note, there was a separation in previous forms as to where in the system the seed was sold, whether it was sold to another dealer or whether it was sold to a farmer.

This was removed from the reporting form.

Looking ahead, the goal for the seed program is to continue to actively engage with our received distributors, providing reminders of reporting obligations and responding to their questions and helping them fill out the required forms.

We're looking to also refine that linked reporting form to improve its clarity and ease of use.

We have a number of distributors give us positive and negative feedback and we're taking that into account and rolling it out for a new year.

And this year, we're also going to move to use the EPA number and the rate of application rather than the brand and active ingredient and the active of application rate for that treatment reporting.

So the EPA number and rate will be a little bit simpler than to look at all the various brand names that have been reported in previous years.

23:57

Great.

She didn't do a sign off, but Punjab.

There's, I know she's not here, but we can attempt to answer.

Does anybody have a question about that and that will be up on the website and on our AIB SharePoint?

To access for, does anybody have any questions now?

Morgan.

Yes, Stephanie here in the room.

I wanted that report and that data is available on the Agency's website.

It's umm.

I'm gonna try to put a link in the chat.

Great.

So Next up is just one more time.

We're gonna talk to you about the new neck prohibition.

So.

I'm gonna start us off.

Ohh I can get rid of this.

Right.

Better.

OK.

So today we've been calling this H 706, but since it has passed it is now act 182 uh called an act relating to the banning to banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. So the idea is just to quickly go over exactly what is in it, how it passed as its final version.

Umm, because we've been talking about it a lot.

We have been talking about previous versions, so this is this is what is in the books.

Umm, so when we last talked about it, we knew it had passed the House and Senate.

It was vetoed by the governor's near the end of May and then just a couple days before we met in June.

That video was overwritten.

So the main.

Sections that are in fact 182 one.

This is the one that we were kind of the responsible for providing a recommendation for, and so this is about relevant treated seeds.

So seeds treated with neonics so.

It is.

Worded as selling offering for sale or distribution distributing or using soybean or cereal, grain seeds treated with NEO next is prohibited.

Neonics, the active ingredients listed here, are the ones that are defined as neonics in Vermont statute.

So the ones that we see are the last three there.

Those are the ones that we've been commonly talking about.

Umm, some of these, we don't have anything registered in Vermont.

Some we do, but because of previous legislation, anything that contains any one of these active ingredients is a restricted use pesticide in the state of Vermont.

The cereal grain crop groups.

So I tried to list.

Here are some of the.

Plants that are included in that crop group, and so corn, right?

So that's the one we talked about the most.

That's the one that has the most significance in Vermont.

And but other things are in that crop group.

So seeds treated with neonics that are oats or wild rice or amaranth or barley, all of those would also be prohibited.

This section this provision takes effect January 1st, 2029.

However, that prohibition can be suspended with the issuance of an exemption order from Secretary of Agriculture, but only when the following conditions are met.

So the grower has to complete an integrated pest management I PM training that is either provided by the agency bag or by a approved third party.

The grower has to complete a pest risk assessment and submit that to the and to do that and that the seeds that are allowed to be used under the exemption order can only be planted on the properties that are identified on that pest risk assessment and the grower has to keep current records of the pest management assessment report, including when the treat seeds are planted.

Pass.

These are things that are spelled out in the act as to what an exemption order, what has to happen for an exemption order to be issued, so the exemptions for the treated seeds.

What?

I can be valid for up to one year, so can't be over a year.

Umm, they specify the type of Munich treated seed that can be used or sold.

It has to have the date on it that the exemption takes effect and the duration of the exemption.

An exemption order like a permit saying so.

The exemption order can have additional restrictions on there to, umm, restrict how those neuronics treated seeds can be used in order to minimize the harm to pollinators, birds or other ecosystems for public health.

And uh, when agency of egg issues and exemption order, they have to send it then to the Senate and house ad committees.

And the General Assembly will post it on the website.

So this is all written in the act.

It is if I can rescind, can take back that exemption order, but it's a little bit tricky because obviously you can't take it back if they already planted the treated seats.

Stop me at any time.

If you wanna say like, whoa, whoa, hold up.

Umm, so the next section is about.

This is.

This is what's kind of new to what we haven't looked into this yet, so this is the general neonet pesticide, right prohibitions.

So the following uses of Munich pesticides are prohibited.

First one outdoor application to any crop during bloom.

This is already in our rule for control of pesticides, so this isn't necessarily new.

It's just putting it in a different place.

Umm.

Yeah.

In addition to the rule #2 outdoor application to soybeans in any cereal grain crop group, so all of those.

Plants that I listed in that cereal crop Group A few slides ago and soybeans basically says you can't apply new annex in the field either.

So you can't do conferral, you can't do over the top. Umm.

Have known Unix.

The third one here is outdoor application 2 crops.

In the leafy vegetables, brassica bull vegetables, herbs and spices and stocks stem leaf pedial vegetable crop groups that are harvested after bloom.

So I put a few.

This is definitely not all of the plants.

That are listed in those crop groups, but the key thing here is that the application application of neonics are prohibited.

If these plants are harvested after bloom, so if you look at these plans.

Like garlic and onions and your college flower.

And your broccoli.

So you harvest those before, but like you don't want us to bolt in flour, right?

So you're harvesting those for bloom so, and if you guys see something on there that definitely is like people are growing in Vermont and we need to reach out to somebody.

Before.

So we've done a little bit of.

Umm digging already?

So we talked to your VM extension.

For vegetable growers kind of kind of trying to get an idea of how this would affect people and we don't have a big contingency that this would affect because of that harvested after bloom condition.

Saffron was one that we were also worried about, cause that one definitely it's hardest to during bloom.

So saffron is like the, umm crocus flower.

So it's like the stem.

What does that called Damon?

Umm.

Of the crocus flower.

So and I know that we do have some Vermont saffron growers and so we reached out to Margaret Skinner with VM and topology.

Does she was like the owner of the saffron list.

Does she was like the owner of the.

List serve and so she just got back to me today and she kind of did a quick survey.

There's a potential of 900 people on the saffron listserv, but I think that's obviously outside of Vermont.

It's the kind of like almost a nationwide saffron.

So she got 36 responses, so a 4% response rate.

Umm, but she said two people from outside of Vermont said that they use an herbicide.

Umm for their saffron production by growers all in Vermont.

So they use a fungicide.

Umm, but she says that sometimes they do have a fungicide.

That's biologically based.

So she was thinking that maybe what they use and zero of the 36 responses reported that they use any insecticides, though no one was reporting that they used Neo next. Obviously because they are not using any insecticides though.

Liminary thoughts as this might not be a big impact for saffron growers in Vermont.

Umm so that that third prohibition, it sounds scary at first, but it might not have a huge impact.

And so the 4th prohibition of the General Munich pesticide is significant.

And so it is listed in the Act as it's prohibited for any application to ornamental plants.

So.

Uh, we talked.

We tried to set up a meeting with the landscape, ornamental and landscape associations.

Are versary and landscape sociation via LA?

Lost landscapes.

Thank you.

With a diverse membership of individuals that participate in either of you know, operating a nursery and or a landscape type business so that they have very diverse membership.

Yeah.

And so we we ended up just talking to one UM nursery owner in Vermont about the significance of this.

And it is it is.

It would impact their.

Production process right now, even you know they're using I PM, but they have neonics in their toolbox currently.

So this prohibition for Munich pesticide use in general, it takes effect July 1st, 2025.

So that prohibition also can be suspended, submit suspended with issuance of an exemption order by the Secretary of egg.

And that is if the Secretary determines that there's a valid environmental or agricultural emergency.

That new Unix would be effective in addressing the emergency, and that there is, umm, there is not an alternative, so there's not a less harmful pesticide or any other pest management practice that would be effective in addressing that emergency.

Similar to the treated seed exemptions, there are up to one year.

They specify the new unit, pesticide uses and crops the takes effect and the duration of the exemption, and also that geographic scope of where they can be used.

It also has to include an evaluation determining that that emergency exists. Umm.

Uh.

And then like a permit or and like the other exemption orders, the exemption order can have additional restrictions for the use of those.

And your next book should say near pesticides.

Not too seeds.

I apologize.

Umm.

To minimize harm to pollinators, birds ecosystem.

If we if they see that issues an exemption, they have to send it to the Senate and the House ad committees and they can rescind the exemption order.

And the.

But no sooner than 15 days after they.

So Section 5 of the act.

Uh is around the registration of Munich pesticides, so the wording in the act is unless they use or sale of a neonet pesticide is otherwise prohibited.

Agency of AG registers Neonet products approved for outdoor use as a state restricted use product.

So this is an amendment it so it basically just that first part of that sentence.

So unless the user sale of a neonate pesticide is otherwise prohibited, is the addition to what's already in statute.

So right now we already register things with NEO next as, Umm, a Class A restricted use product.

There is a list of exemptions, most notably include that includes pet collars, pet products, a lot of those have munichs in them, and those are still for homeowner use or classy products.

So that second bullet, basically what was also listed in the list of things that could stay classified as non restricted use.

It did say treated seed in there.

Umm so treated seed was removed from that list.

However, we learned when we were talking about this that you, the treated seed itself, is not a pesticide, right?

So we don't register currently treated seeds.

We register the products that go on the treated seeds and so that will continue to happen.

And what the change here means to the unless the user sale of neonics has sides.

Otherwise prohibited, which means that we are going to review products before registration to understand their uses and to understand if those uses are prohibited by this act.

So section 6.

So this is the part where it uh.

Puts the responsibility on the agency of the Egg to.

Adopted by rule best management practices in Vermont for the use of first two

bullets, here are ones we know, right?

Neuronic treated seeds, so now it's new and it treaties, when they're used prior to when they are prohibited, the date and the act says 2031, but it should be 2029 because that's when that prohibition takes effect.

Or the use of the neonate treated seeds when there's an exemption order in place so that we've already done so.

AIB, we've already consulted with agency of add on the MP's for neonate treated seeds.

So really now what should?

Thing in our heads is the second two bullets and so agency of AG has to adopt by rule best management practices for new unit pesticides when they're used under an exemption order.

So when that emergency exists that environmental or agricultural emergency list exists and VMPS for agricultural use of neonics pesticides after the prohibition is in effect, that their use is not otherwise prohibited.

So basically any ad use of new pesticides.

Should be addressed in the best management practices that are adopted by rule, and that's where and we are consulting with Agency of AG for those restrictions.

Yes, go ahead, agricultural innovation.

Consulting with.

Sorry, I'm saying I'm saying we as say IB.

Ohh.

So AIB is consulting with AC VAC.

Yeah.

Sorry it's confusing.

Correct. OK.

So in developing the rules this we've seen before, these are the seven required topics that we went through over the last year and a half.

So what they did in active, so they are just including the general nunit pesticides into each of these.

Required topics and I'm gonna go into this a little bit more when we talk about our work plan, but so it's the same ones that we've seen about scouting and monitoring economic impact, umm toxicity to human and environment and kind of that criteria for system of approval.

So where we interpreted that as a IB where we look at other things, right?

So we're going to see what other states are doing or have done and kind of what's out there already for best management practices.

So for this rulemaking, the timing in the act is the same as it was when it was just for neonate treated seed.

So this was the timetable that we worked on for the last year and a half.

It's still the.

Time that's in the act. So it's hard for us to day of time for us, but I I we we can talk about it more when I pull up the work plan.

Umm, so we the Agency of Agriculture did submit on March 1st a copy of proposed rules for best management practices for neonate treated seeds.

That was we had.

We did see that as well as AIB.

I believe it's on our SharePoint and it's available because it was shared during meeting.

Uh, this we talked about.

So they did add Section 8 of the ACT is about this contingency route to repeal.

So the prohibition of use and sale of Munich treated seeds shall be repealed.

If that prohibition on the use of neonet treated seeds in New York is repealed, so basically we talked about that comparison between New York and Vermont.

And so this just ties us even closer.

So if New York gets rid of it, then ours is repealed as well.

And then the second bowl is just the same just for that general neonics, pesticide use prohibitions.

Effective dates just again for you.

So the general neonet pesticides on certain crops, that provision takes effect July 1st, 2025, provided that New York still has it and the provision of use and sale of Munich treated seeds takes effect January 1, 2029, provided that New York still has this also.

So the next thing that we're going to talk about is how, like, right, what is AI be responsible for?

How are we going to tackle it?

But does anyone have anything they want me to go back to or go back over?

Yeah, go ahead Becky.

BL **Becky Langer-Curry** 45:10

Uh, so under the exemption for the Treaty, you mentioned that there the grower

would need to take IP I PM training offered either by the state or a third party.
Umm, Group One I I wondered if the state already gives that sort of I PM training and two if third party offered it, does it need to be approved by the state?

45:34

Go ahead, Steve.

Yeah.

So.

So Becky, yeah.

So currently there is some general I PM training, you know for in general crops or particular crop, but this would have to be specific for the use of the treated seat.

Uh.

Umm, since that's the subject of this up for vision. Umm.

BL **Becky Langer-Curry** 45:52

Mm-hmm.

45:57

As far as a third party party would have to have some kind of approval.

The thing to keep in mind is that this provision mirrors the almost identical provision in New York.

The New York law and in conversations with folks over in New York, Cornell is already working on something like this, and I've had conversations with UVM and their communicating.

So whatever gets developed, you know, through Cornell for you.

Yeah.

And that's the way I'm this thing would develop and be a I PM training course.

Either you know, adopted from the one that New York develops or you know, model on it, or vice versa.

But UVM folks and the Cornova's already talked, and we're already talking with our kind of merchant.

BL **Becky Langer-Curry** 46:51

OK. Thanks.

46:59

Umm.

Does anybody else have any questions from that run through?

Alright so.

The next thing that we.

Where I was going to pull up is our.

So as AIB, what do we have to do right?

So I kind of walked through that a little bit.

So it's the we have to provide a recommendation.

Do they see of agriculture?

For rules, the MP's for the use of nutrients seeds so that we have, but also Munich pesticides when they're used under an exemption order or the neonics that are used in agriculture that are not prohibited.

And then in developing the rules, we shall address our seven required topics.

So of course you guys know me.

I pulled out our old trustee work plan.

So this is what we how we organize ourselves for the last you're in 1/2 of how we decided who we listened to and what information we didn't have yet.

So the overall goal is to make a recommendation for drafting rule for the use of Munich, two disease and Munich pesticides in Vermont.

So then there's these seven required topics.

So the overall goal, so this is in yellow, so.

We don't have a specific date in the act.

Because it already passed.

So the date that we're tentatively working off of is OK, well, we know the first prohibition is going to take effect July 1st, 2025.

That's when we can't use neonics on ornamentals.

And then we can't use on foreign or CEO, cereal, grains or soybeans, and we can't use on those plants, those crops that are harvested after bloom.

So rulemaking process is not.

Speedy process.

But also we wanted to be able for the AIB to do due diligence and hear enough information.

So we're gonna and to the ugly.

We're trying for OK, if the IBM can give a recommendation by fall.

So we just put November 1st.

Umm.

Uh.

Then that will can help inform the agency of AG to then hopefully start the rulemaking process and justify the rules that have put forth for all those BMP's put together.

For those four things.

So that's what I'm organizing our meetings towards is this like November 1st.

Fine line.

So we gotta get cracked.

So the first topic is topic A is the.

Threshold levels for pest pressure required before you use either in unit treated seeds or neonics pesticides.

We often the way that we looked at it, we this past year and a half, we wimped A&E together so EI can make this bigger.

I'm sorry.

He is the monitoring, so the surveillance and monitoring techniques.

Oh, go ahead when you too.

WH **Wendy Sue Harper** 50:49

I don't know if other people are seeing a black screen with a G it looks like a person in it instead of anything that has ABC on it.

50:57

Umm yeah, I am sharing an excel sheet.

WH **Wendy Sue Harper** 50:58

So I just thought I should tell you that.

51:02

Can other people see that?

DL **DiPietro, Laura** 51:04

I see the excel sheet.

WH Wendy Sue Harper 51:06
Uh.

51:07
Well, bummer.
I'm sorry when you see, I don't know.

WH Wendy Sue Harper 51:13
That's OK.

51:26
Uh.
I I'm sorry.
I don't know how to help that.
So A&E, so we've started this our idea and I'm asking for feedback from members.
So basically it's like about Scott scouting and monitoring in the process of I PM.
When you know when is in the unit pesticide needed.
So we've started conversations with UVM extension, in particular the vegetable,
umm.
Specific group that targets vegetable growers for VM extension and we had a
meeting with them in this past week and they mentioned that basically kind of like
the Bible for vegetable growers, vegetable producers in Vermont is the New England
Vegetable Management Guide.
Uh, which is put on by many states in New England.
And so our hope is to review this guy.
So and ask for any I basically to put in there what this law means for Vermont
growers.
So then they're going to their management guide.
They can see their requirements that are needed in this regulation so they'll
understand when they can use an Internet pesticide.
So if we want to, if the FBI wants to hear more about this, but it's basically we've
heard about I PM, we kind of know the principles of IPM.
Umm and maybe we can walk through after infancy of egg reviews this and proposes
it.

Kind of edits and we can review that with the ID so that you guys understand kind of how we're tackling this, this topic.

But does anybody have anything else that they are feeling like is in a gap of of what we've heard?

Are ready for anything more that they wanna know about.

You said I PM or use of neonics.

So require topic B is the availability of non treated article seeds and nonionic treated article seeds.

I am saying that is complete.

We have heard about that.

We don't need to talk about it anymore.

Umm.

See it required topic.

See determine economic impact from crop losses compared to crop yield.

When Munich treated article seeds or nunit pesticides are used?

We her just a little bit from Jill now about how.

What the proportion of treated seeds are in Vermont right now?

In all the categories and so we have heard that, umm, we do have only one more year of Munich data.

So last year we presented about the usage that gets reported to the Agency of Agriculture and then we could tease out the NEO next.

So we did that through 2021 usage that is reported.

We do have 2022 usage in there so I can update that.

Umm, that does have the caveat.

It doesn't include treaty needs.

It also is only commercial and noncommercial growers, umm, or certified applicators.

So we're missing the private applicator reporting, so the usage data that we have will not capture.

The kind of larger and smaller vegetable producers or fruit producers in Vermont, because they are likely.

Private applicators.

But any other?

Any other topics?

Any other people you want me to look into to get to hear about?

Economy next of related to this ban.

It do you want us to reach out to Vienna, LA again?

Vermont Nursery and landscape.

Ohh yeah.

Ohh yeah, we.

Showed you. There's someone who could speak to an economic impact and production.

Uh.

From an ornamental.

Endpoint.

I'm Becky's hand went up and Laura's hand went up.

Guess we'll start with Becky.

Sorry, just you're typing.

BL **Becky Langer-Curry** 56:42

I I that's fine.

56:42

I'm looking at the screen.

BL **Becky Langer-Curry** 56:44

I was just gonna share.

It's a little bit older information, but they did some case studies which may highlight some places in the Northeast, but growingmatters.org has quite a bit of economic information.

Posted again.

Not sure if they had Northeast case studies, but it might be worth checking.

57:02

Thank you.

Thanks, Vicky.

Laura.

DL **DiPietro, Laura** 57:09

Maybe irrelevant, but it just one thing that struck me.

And again, the data that's reported for the report that Jill did.

Umm, you know, it's not the total universe, but it did seem like on year to year it was about 5050 with soybean people who are using treated seed versus not. And I just don't know if there's some some analysis in there to look at yields and and productivity between the users that do and the users that don't within Vermont.

57:43

Be able to figure that out.

They all get treated.

They're treated treated state, yeah.

It created it state for.

They're treated after the purchase, so yeah.

Anything else?

Any brain script also if you think of something after the fact, just let me know.

Shoot me an e-mail, so I'm trying to book all of our meetings now through October.

So if you, even if we find a study or something so that I can reach out to the author just.

Umm.

Send it over and I can see what we can do.

The next required topic is about the toxicities.

So this we previously did kind of through the lens of treated seeds only.

So our Member, Sarah own wasn't that.

Available to join us today and then myself reviewed the EPA risk assessments for kind of those top three neonics and we made presentations to the AIB so on on the health one Sarah talked about in March of 2023 and then ecological risk assessment I talked about in April of 2023.

So we did focus mainly on treated seeds, but in particular for the ecological one, we did talk about everything that the risk assessment talked about for environmental risks.

So I was leaning towards unless someone wants to know more about the environmental risk or the human health risk of these active ingredients.

I was thinking that we and call this required topic complete, but someone wants to know more or look at it.

From a different perspective, let me know.

It's sorry.

I was just thinking cause neonics area systemic, right?

Yeah.

And so the use of like the the of it versus a foliar application in terms of like a comparison of the toxicity across pesticides, does that make sense?

Between between the units.

If you if you had to use an alternative product, uh and you.

Had to do it via a different application method rather than using it as a systemic, which is potentially a different kind of application method.

Is that something that?

I don't know my.

I think right now, but I will brainstorm, I get so it's like.

Don't know my.

Yeah, it's.

It's like, OK if I can't use if I have to use a foliar spray and I'm a agricultural worker, I got it done.

Any number of PPE and there's a risk to my health, potentially, I'm just making a scenario up to explain the point versus.

Maybe if it's systemic, it could potentially be less, less toxic to the worker because of the application I'm in.

You don't really get dripped with the seed treatment with the seed treatment.

Yeah, yeah.

Guess it's does the previous risk assessment, especially the environmental risk assessment over and see.

Transferring the environment.

We can go back.

I believe we did it.

Doing the summarized.

But even into the alternatives.

Let's say it's not a neonet, but right.

I didn't have other alternative.

I don't have other industries.

Right.

Yeah, tries other chemistries.

Yeah, that's what I was thinking too.

OK.

E goes along with a for scouting, monitoring threshold levels.

So we're.

And F is that's outline ways to reduce pest harborage from conservation tillage practices.

This is very specific to.

Fitted with.

Is safe with it to if we choose preference, I guess we could look at it from the Unix in general.

Also umm I was marking it as complete but maybe that?

Was wishful thinking.

What we learned is that conservation tillage helped to reduce so.

The way this was written was the opposite of what we learned was and correct me if I'm wrong.

Anybody who remembers?

So what we learned was that.

Conservation tillage helped reduce pest pressure, so instead of ways to reduce pest harborage from conservation tillage, conservation tillage actually helps.

Yeah.

Reduce.

That's what we've heard.

But yeah, it's a month.

Ohh capsulation tillage though, can decrease the risk.

Hey.

Not sure we heard that we did.

Hello.

That was the whole point.

You know the cover crop until the cover crop in it.

That creates right?

So telling your cover crop in creates more organic matter, which makes which makes the best, right, right.

You're talking about not to.

Yeah, correct.

Yeah.

Yeah, we're saying the same thing, yeah.

Umm, but I guess we could hear about it and other things other than, but maybe I can.

Pull our question mark, maybe we can.

In other eggs systems, sides horn right.

So that's corn soy.

Umm to make sure that it's the same.

The same outcome.

Yeah, it's corn, yeah.

I'm not gonna.

Do that front of everyone with their teeth factory.

That's it.

OK.

Have the benefit of just making messy handwriting.

Yeah, right.

Whether it's me or not, OK, uh.

Great.

And the last one is that established criteria for system of approval of Munich period seeds or neuronc pesticides.

So this.

We heard from Gene Harrington in the past.

Who?

I gave us a great update of what other states, umm, have for pending and or pass legislation.

So he's coming right now.

He's available for our October meeting, so we are quickly.

Booking ourselves all the way out, so this is our our hope and.

So in August we have also we have farming practices that support pollinators.

We have Laura Johnson, the pollinator extension specialist from UBM, coming to talk.

So that is basically the amps that are already out there.

Umm, so that's an example locally, what is being?

Umm.

Communicated and educated for our local producers.

And so Laura's come in to talk about that also.

Heather Darby is coming to give us an update on her new Nic research for this growing season.

In August and uh.

So just to mix things up, we are, I had booked this Steve Lee who is an extension

professor from Auburn University, and he specializes in the use of drones in agriculture drones to apply pesticides in agriculture.

So this is kind of just a teaser for the potential next topic for AIB, but I felt badly cancelling him.

I had booked him before.

We knew that the 706 was going to pass again, and so I'm gonna keep him as a kind of a break from Unix for us.

So we're gonna learn about drones and how they can be used in agriculture to reduce overall pesticide usage and exposure.

So he's gonna speak with us in August as well, but so another activity that we have worked on that we're going to talk about now that kind of gets at this required topic for what's already out there, right, like what other systems are already out there and that is what other BMP's for general neonet use are out there.

So.

I'm going to pull out one more, so we've seen.

A list of resources for.

Treated seed best management practices already, so this should be familiar to you so.

When we are thinking about this in the past, we said OK, well, you know who's already published best management practices for use of neonet treated seeds.

And so we had the American Seed Trade Association, we had Health Canada, we had the Honeybee Health Coalition, Minnesota, and then the best management practices for farmers using seeds treated with neonics.

That's from Connecticut.

Basically connect HC bag and then the corn Dust Research Consortium.

So if you remember, we kind of pulled all of those best management practices together and we lumped them into themes and that's where we.

But Paul, where some best management practices could come from, right and reducing dust and things about the perimeter of the field and communication between people who have hives on adjacent properties.

And so we did a similar thing for General Leonick best management practices.

So and I will share this, I'll put this on.

It will be on our website and so we pulled together.

Uh what?

We could find of what was already out there and published of, you know, next best

management practices.

So Minnesota Department of Agriculture has.

She's a great resource for these best management practices, so they had specific ones for water quality, but also for home and residential use and then soil and foliar.

So different application modes.

We went golf courses, so turf was removed from the Vermont law that passed and so.

This is not totally applicable.

Also, golf courses are not considered agriculture, so for that best management practice that's in our rule for AD use of neonics that aren't prohibited.

Doesn't necessarily include applications on golf courses, but the best management practices kind of all get together.

You know, it's all kind of a similar themes and so we decided to keep that in and look at it and pull from it as well.

Umm, we also have uh landscape professionals, turf and ornamental best management practices.

Honey, we coalition has it for I still corn as well, so they have not just treated seeds but more uses of neonics.

So we add that to this list as well.

We have NC State.

Pollinator partnership.

What else?

Cornell had many uh best management practices for just.

To reduce pesticide risk to bees in different crops.

So we looked at all of those.

Uh Purdue also had one for pollinator protection for home and lawns.

So with all of this, I'm gonna pass it over to Zach, and he's gonna explain.

Kind of.

Where?

What we learned from looking at these previously.

Published.

Yeah, go ahead, Pam.

Turn grown for sale is agricultural, but golf courses are not right.

I think so.

So it it doesn't make sense to develop that.

Yeah.

So still yeah.

SZ **Szczukowski, Zach** 1:12:04

Hey everybody.

So as Morgan kind of just explained, we went through each of those documents that described different EMP's and a lot of them.

I'm going to share my screen, hopefully this is the best practices that you're seeing.

Umm, so we did is, you know, Morgan and I together we kind of, you know reviewed all these documents and pulled out.

Umm best practices and you know, as Morgan alluded to, a lot of them kind of say the same things.

So you have a best practice and then you know all the documents that you know refer to it either the same or similar practice.

And then we categorize them by the FTMP type.

More often than not, most of them are general I PM kind of practices.

Umm, but you know, some of them are a little more specific for pollinator protection, for example.

Umm.

And then likewise, some of them are kind of more targeted towards the off target movement of getting to know what pesticides or just pesticides in general.

And so all those are in this document.

But the idea that we're we're hoping to do is to provide you all with a survey.

Hmm, so all those have been, you know, put onto a Microsoft forms form.


Uh to use a survey to members.


So you know, it'll each question's gonna a list like a best management practice and then Members will have the opportunity to rank these one being high priority BNP and five being the lowest priority.


And can just look over, always be in peas, and then you can just assign a number to those and then you know lastly we have, you know, kind of a catch all at the at the end just to gauge whether any members have any other best news or practice ideas now that they would that we're not included and that they would like to include.


And just to reiterate, these are largely all you know, they're kind of generalized practices somewhere a little more specific, but umm, they are kind of just overarching themes and some of them do kind of fall into 1/2 or the other.


But that is the idea that we're gonna try to go forward with.
So then you know, once we get information back from Members, we can start, you know, differentiating.
These and kind of honing down the process into potential draft rules.
So that is the idea.

 1:15:40
But Steve?

 **Szczukowski, Zach** 1:15:41
Or.

 1:15:41
Ohh how will this be pushed out to the members?
So it will be shared with members through e-mail.
So there will be a link in in an e-mail, correct? Yep.
Umm, so we were hoping to send it will send it out this week.
And we will.
We're hoping basically just to get your feedback before the next meeting, so we'll send out some reminder emails as well.
Umm but.
We're not asking for a extremely quick turn around, but so think about it and because we really valued remember input on this and umm.
We thank you and we'll kind of compile what everyone's thinking and I'll be away prioritizing things.

 **Szczukowski, Zach** 1:16:43
Export.

 1:16:43
Zach, I don't.
I didn't know if you wanted to.
Give a really brief overview of all I said was that the rulemaking process was long.
Umm, so I don't know if you wanted to just.
I know I'm putting you on the spot, but give like a really brief like tick mark of kind of

what the agency value is looking at for these people.

Cool.

SZ **Szczukowski, Zach** 1:17:12

Yeah, I can give them a brief overview.

Yeah, I'll talk my head. UM.

So I would believe for this case and I I don't think it's gonna be changed, but.

Uh, we have to because it's required by specifically under Title 6 under whatever chapter.

I can't think about top my head, but we have to, you know, we have to draft the rules and then we have to submit those and to the no committees agriculture committees. But the Senate and the House, I think that's it.

There might be other committees I don't fully remember.

Umm, so that's like kind of like step 0 for these we did it with the communicatory treated article seeds BMPS in March, but I would I would imagine we have to redo this altogether again.

So step zero, submit those draft rules to be relevant committees, and then afterwards I would imagine they might, you know, provide some feedback.

We need to, you know, decipher.

Yeah.

Incorporate feedback.

I would imagine if necessary and then step next step would be.

Uh submitting the draft rules to the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules.

Umm.

And they kind of are tasked with.

Looking at how an agency can uh maximize public input and then we're making process, and so we'll submit the draft rules to that committee.

Who will then hold hearing discuss.

You know how we can maximize public input on?

This will making process as well as how the rule might affect other agencies.

Afterwards we get that you know everything in shape with our filing forms cause it's in addition to the draft rules you have to fill out.

Filing forms that are, you know, this is all required under the Vermont Commission Procedure Act and you know, we get to go ahead from ICAR, which is that marriage and synchronicity we submit to the Secretary of State, we submit a proposed uh draft

pool and UM and then subsequently opens the public comment period.

Umm, there's some timelines involved in that.

That's at, I think, at the very minimum that can be a month or two.

I would imagine that you're going to be open for public comment for a little more than that.

Maybe, umm.

And we will most likely hold at least one hearing.

I would imagine during that time after the public comment period ends.

Then we will incorporate any receive public comments regarding the draft rules.

Uh.

Possibly make edits to the draft rule, umm, and then resubmit a final proposed rule.

Ohm and then.

Subsequently, is the uh, we need to meet with the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

Uh, which is another thing.

And that, yeah, should only take one time, but sometimes it takes a couple meetings with them and then.

You know, I think once they give their blessing, we are able to submit an adoptive rule, the Act Administrative Procedure Act also.

Prescribes that the rules the whole process in totality, should only take eight months.

But there are provisions, you know, with consent from the legislature, that this process can be extended.

So we're looking at 8 months less than eight months.

Uh, ideally, but you never know.

Things things didn't get tested and that's my off the top.

Take my head UH-80A reduced.

1:21:51

That was pretty good.

Thank you.

Then I have a flow chart from the Secretary of State's website that I'll put in the chat and it it just reaffirms what Zach said.

SZ

Szczukowski, Zach 1:21:54

Yeah.

Right.

Great.

Thanks, didn't have it up.

1:22:04

But it but in a graphic.

SZ

Szczukowski, Zach 1:22:06

Yeah, it's yeah, it it tells you everything you need.

1:22:13

Passed with flying colors, Zach.

Thank you.

Have any questions?

The constitution.

That is, anybody have any questions or comments?

So we will send out that survey for best management practices and that's kind of our first.

Attempt.

I think it falls under that required topic G as far as yeah, let's see what's already out there.

What one should we incorporate?

Umm, but please speak up if we have any other ideas of things that we wanna hear things that we want, ways that we want to approach our responsibilities.

So that's I know we're a little short.

We're, but we are pretty full for the August meeting.

So we will probably not end early in August, but so before.

That I do want to open it for public comment.

So does any ohh sure.

First, Laura, go ahead.

DL

DiPietro, Laura 1:23:44

I guess I'm just curious.

Thank you for going through everything.

It's great to hear it again if you write these rules and the New York repeals, what happens to the rules?

1:23:57

Being good question for.
For.
Yeah, great.

DL DiPietro, Laura 1:24:03

OK.

1:24:04

Thank you.

DL DiPietro, Laura 1:24:12

It seems you should probably build some repeal into them, right?
So that it's just straight up in there if that's a possibility, if it makes sense.
I mean you all AIB discuss it, but it seems like if you don't have a lot of back it up, it'll be harder to support a rule and enforce it.

SZ Szczukowski, Zach 1:24:30

Yeah, I mean, I would double check with general counsel, but I you know, at the enabling legislation doesn't exist then yeah, it will be and yeah not effective but very good point.

DL DiPietro, Laura 1:24:47

Yeah.
And I'm sure you have the file.
Something with the Secretary of State to withdraw it, but just things to check into and understand cause you could do all this work and then nothing could happen.
So yeah.

1:25:07

Sorry, I'm just trying to write that so we make sure that we.
And the other questions?

*****, any public comment?

Any members of the public that joined us today.

Well, well, I think that we can give you back some time.

Top Nope.

She's got a hand up.

You can go to.

You can go with the dates for the next several meetings.

Yeah.

So I can pull that up again.

So the dates of the next couple meetings are.

So we have August 26.

September 23rd and October 28th.

I think those are set in stone.

After that, our schedule gets wonky as you can see right now, if I'm just going by the 4th Monday of the month in November and December, we start screwing with holiday schedules.

So we'll probably.

Modify those states.


Yeah.


Follow up later.


OK.

When did you go ahead?

 **Wendy Sue Harper** 1:26:49
OK.

 1:26:56
Yeah, we can hear you.

 **Wendy Sue Harper** 1:26:58
Can you hear me?

 1:27:00
Yep, Yep.

WH Wendy Sue Harper 1:27:01

OK, I have that we move the 25th to the 18th for some reason of November.
Is that incorrect?

1:27:13

That may have been for 20/23.

WH Wendy Sue Harper 1:27:16

OK.

1:27:16

But I don't think we went through that exercise yet for 2024.

WH Wendy Sue Harper 1:27:20

OK.

1:27:23

If I mean we could try and do it right now, but I was.

Think we have more Members?

Yeah, I was thinking let's maybe.

Let's try and umm.

Or maybe I'll do a doodle poll, like a poll for members to say during that time.

That kind of November, December.

But we have done it where we truncated those into one meeting.

Umm but yeah, so I'll do that when you see how that I will do a poll to members.

WH Wendy Sue Harper 1:27:44

OK.

1:27:52

To find out, I'll give a couple available afternoons for that kind of combined holiday time ish.

One, but thanks for bringing that up.

That's good.

OK, I think if there's nothing else, I think we can.


The there.


Give you guys your afternoon back.

Thank you very much for dissipating and people look out for that BMP survey in your e-mail.

Thanks all.

Thank you.

 **DiPietro, Laura** 1:28:43
Nice shot, Morgan. Bye.

 1:28:45
Yeah, right.

□ **Griffith, Morgan** stopped transcription