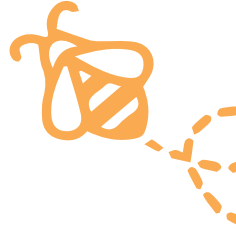


PROTECT MINNESOTA'S KIDS & BEES FROM NEONICS



Support HF2472 | SF1718 and HF2805 | SF1915

Neonicotinoid insecticides, or “neonics,” are likely the most ecologically devastating pesticides since DDT. They are:

- The most-used insecticides nationwide, used on millions of acres in Minnesota.
- “Systemic,” meaning they are highly water soluble and long-lasting. They contaminate Minnesota’s groundwater and surface water — and 94% of the state’s white-tailed deer.
- Extraordinarily toxic to bees and other insect pollinators; just one corn seed treated with a neonic can contain enough poison to kill a quarter of a million bees.

Neonics devastate pollinators, disrupt soil health, and pose serious risks to human health.

- Two decades of research identifies neonics as a leading cause of pollinator declines that are already decreasing food production.
- Neonics harm soil health by harming earthworms and beneficial nematodes and lowering populations of important decomposers.
- Research indicates cause for concern about developmental and neurological harms in people and neonics are commonly found in people’s bodies — including 95% of pregnant women in recent nationwide testing.

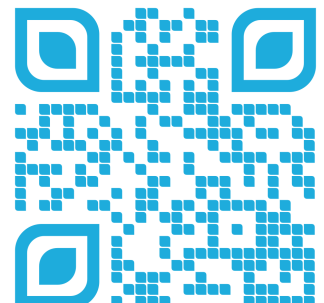
The most common neonic uses are unregulated and unnecessary:

- Neonics are mostly used as a coating on corn and soybean seeds called “treated seeds” that cover upwards of 14 million acres of Minnesota farmland. A legal loophole means treated seeds are not subject to regulations designed to protect the public and environment from pesticides.
- Research shows neonic-treated corn, soybean, and wheat seeds provide no economic benefits to farmers compared with untreated seeds.
- Non-agricultural lawn and garden neonic uses intensely contaminate urban and suburban areas, but are unnecessary or easily replaceable.

Minnesota’s Legislature MUST PASS HF2472/SF1718 to close the treated seed loophole and HF2805/SF1915 to eliminate harmful and unnecessary non-agricultural neonic uses.



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: IN SUPPORT OF HF2472 | SF1718

HF2472/SF1718 (Hansen/Kunesh) would close a regulatory loophole that allows pesticide-treated seeds to escape all tracking or regulation by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and ensure that these products are used only where beneficial. Pesticide-treated seeds are used on upwards of 14 million acres statewide, contaminating Minnesota's environment and posing an ecological and human health crisis. Recent testing across the country finds that 95% of pregnant women have these neurotoxins in their bodies, raising alarms from health experts. [Click here to learn more.](#)

HF2472/SF1718 is a commonsense measure that builds on MDA's own 2016 recommendations (see p. 11) asking for greater regulatory authority from the legislature. But concerns have arisen about how the bill — **which does not prohibit use of treated seeds or any other pesticides** — would impact farmers. We address these concerns below.

Do neonic-treated corn and soybean seeds provide an economic benefit to farmers?

A 2020 analysis by Cornell University researchers, which looked at over 1,100 peer-reviewed studies, concluded that “there is no overall net income benefit to using neonicotinoid treatments on corn and soybean seeds instead of untreated seeds.” More recent research continues to demonstrate that widespread use of neonic seed treatments in corn and soybean is needless, especially in northern climates. See Jocelyn Smith et al. (Oct. 2020), Jacob Pacenka et al. (Oct. 2021). Extension publications by University of Minnesota and other institutions, as well as side-by-side field trials conducted by researchers at Cornell University, are also consistent with these findings.

Would HF2472/SF1718 be an imposition on farmers?

The bill allows MDA considerable discretion to craft a regulatory program and verification of need system that works for Minnesota farmers. It is likely that the program would require only a single, annual conversation between a farmer and a crop advisor or other expert certified by MDA.

Have other places implemented a similar “verification of need” program?

Québec, Canada, has had a successful program for neonic-treated seeds since 2019. Corn and soybean production has remained consistent since the program was implemented. Québec's experience also demonstrates that seed manufacturers can readily change their seed treatment practices in response to changes in the seed market.

Who will benefit from HF2472/SF1718?

In the long term, farmers will benefit from healthier pollinator populations and improved soil health. Neonic seed treatment use is a lead driver of mass losses of pollinators, critical to agricultural production. Researchers estimate that lower pollinator populations reduce global production of fruits, vegetables, and nuts by 3-5%, with U.S. research also confirming that many top crops are pollinator-limited. Non-beneficial seed treatment use also harms soil health, with research showing that neonics harm earthworms and beneficial nematodes, and that neonic-treated fields show fewer plant-decomposing species and slower rates of plant decomposition.

