



Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship

Exceed the Seed

2014 CSS & Seed Expo

Chicago, IL – Dec. 12, 2014





Initiative Goals

Conduct outreach and education to growers, pesticide applicators and seed treaters to demonstrate industry commitment to good stewardship





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Seed treatments have been used for decades

- Farmers identify particular risk factors and select appropriate seed treatments to address them.



Key Takeaways for 2014-2015

- **Benefits of seed treatment**
- **Improvements in technology**
- **Key stewardship steps**





Plans for 2014 - 15

- **Enhanced guide for specific audiences**
- **Continue outreach to growers, seed treaters & retailers through state assocs.**
 - Looking for speakers/amabassadors
- **Spanish language version**
- **Portuguese version?**



The industry is constantly evolving improving processes

- **Better application of active ingredients**
- **Enhancing seed coating polymers**
- **New flow agents for use in planting equipment**



Key Stewardship Principles for Farmers

1. Proper handling/storage practices for a pesticide treated product (see label).
2. When planting be aware of – pollinators and hives, flowering habitats, wind direction and speed.
3. Proper disposal of treated seed and empty seed containers.
4. Ensure no treated seed enters commodity grain channels.



Key Stewardship Principles for Seed Treatment Applicators

1. Comply with regulations for registered pesticide products and ensure proper employee training.
2. Establish written application protocols using best practices to ensure high quality seed treatment application to minimize dust-off.
3. Adopt stewardship documentation for the full life-cycle of seed treatment products.



Key Stewardship Principles for Seed Treatment Applicators (cont'd)

- 4. Properly discard of treatment, treated seed and rinse water to minimize environmental impact.**
- 5. Ensure that all required and pertinent seed treatment information is conveyed to customers through product labels and education.**



<http://seed-treatment-guide.com/>

- **Guides**
- **Brochures**
- **Videos**
- **Links to regulations and other resources**





Neonicotinoids Under Pressure

- **White House Pollinator Initiative**

- EPA to assess neonicotinoid pesticides for impact on bee health - Timeline uncertain – 2016-2017

- **EPA study**

- Benefits of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments to Soybean Production



Neonicotinoids Under Pressure

- Highly unusual for EPA to publish a paper on a single crop in the middle of such a review.
- *“Concludes that these seed treatments provide negligible overall benefits to soybean production in most situations.”*
- Comments due December 22



Seed Industry Responses

- **Growing Matters**

- Comprehensive analysis of benefits of neonicotinoids by AgInfomatics
- Presentation on Wednesday

- **Ag Voice 4 Choice**

- Outreach to growers etc.



Saving America's Pollinators Act

- Would ban neonics
- 73 House co-sponsors





THANK YOU!

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