

# **ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES IN THE U.S. AND CANADA**

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**8<sup>th</sup> International IPM Symposium**

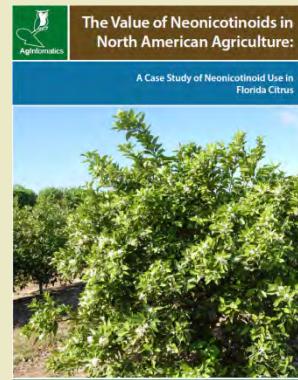
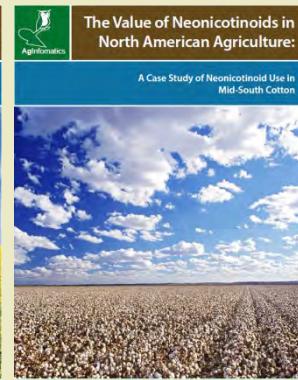
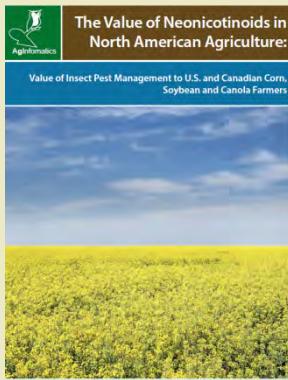
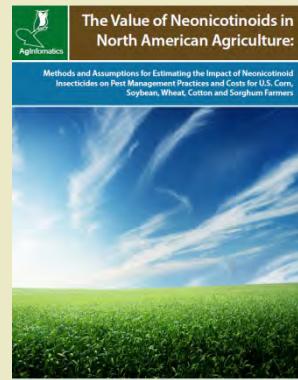
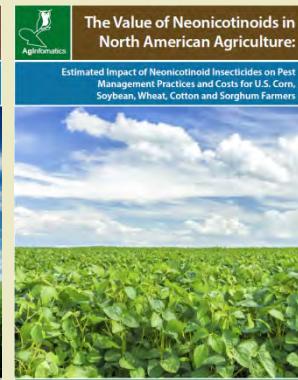
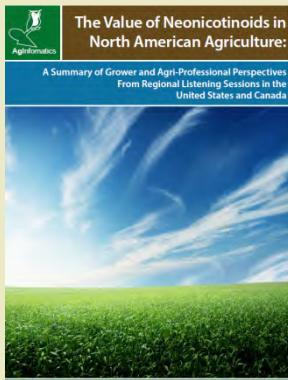
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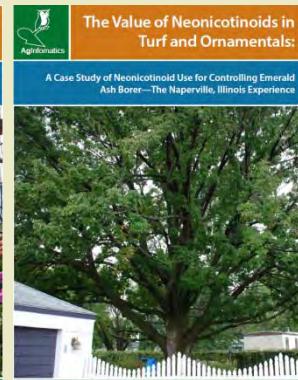
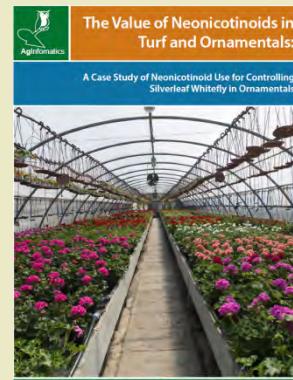
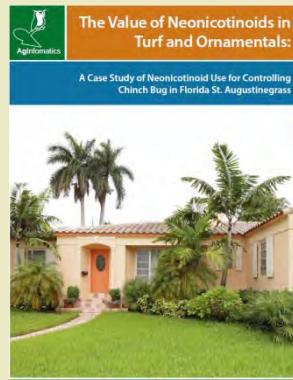
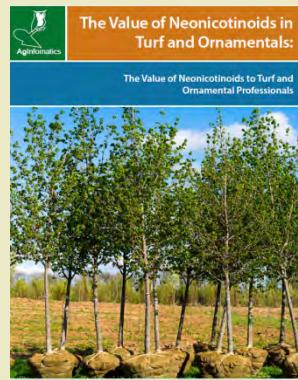
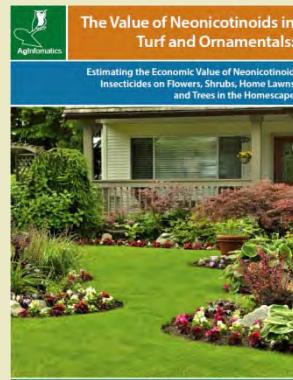
# Neonicotinoid Benefits Study Reports

## GrowingMatters.org

### Agriculture

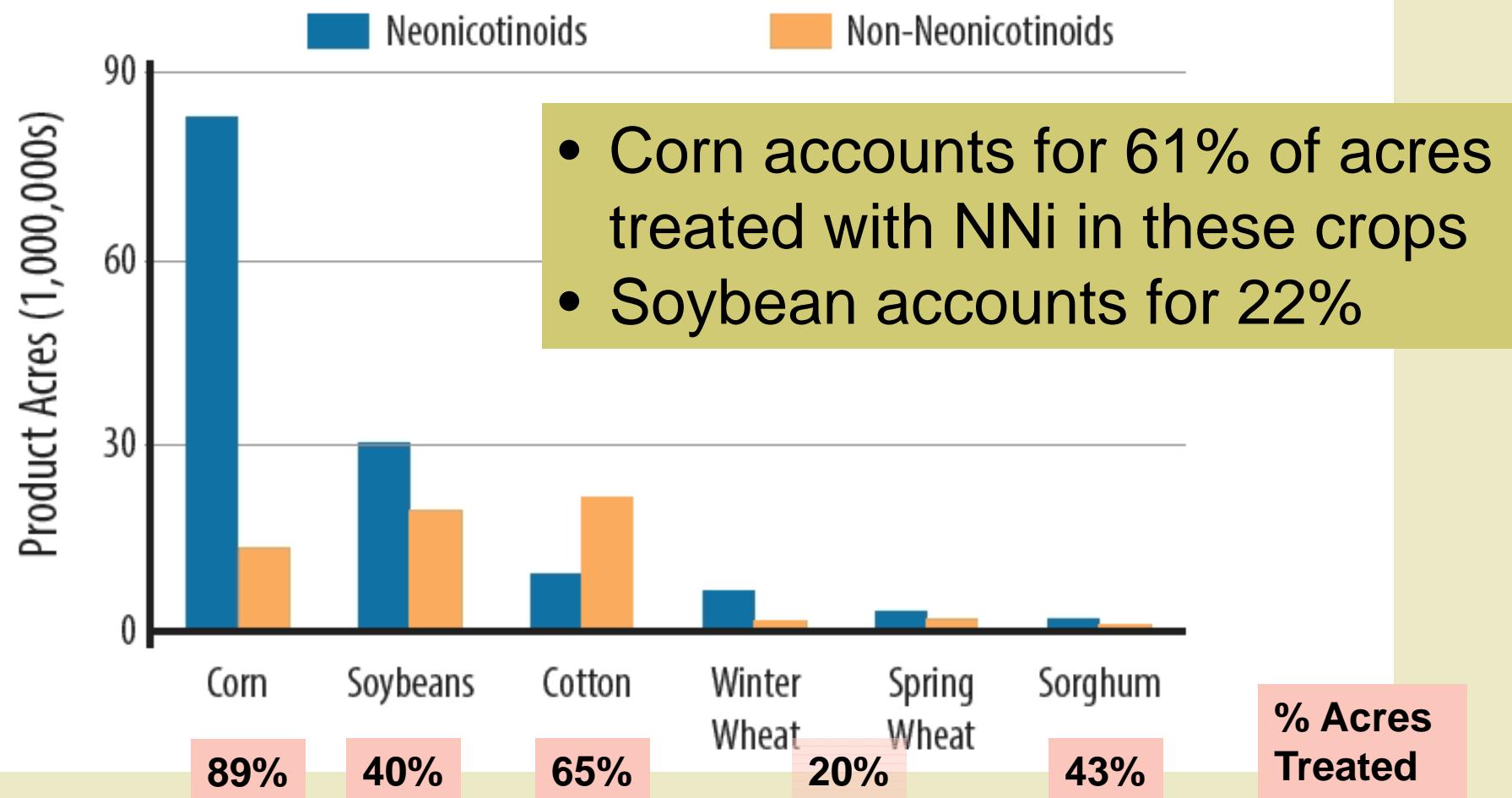


### Turf & Ornamentals



The most popular insecticide class for these crops (Mitchell) (GfK Kynetec 2010-2012 avg)

**98% of NNi applied as seed treatments**



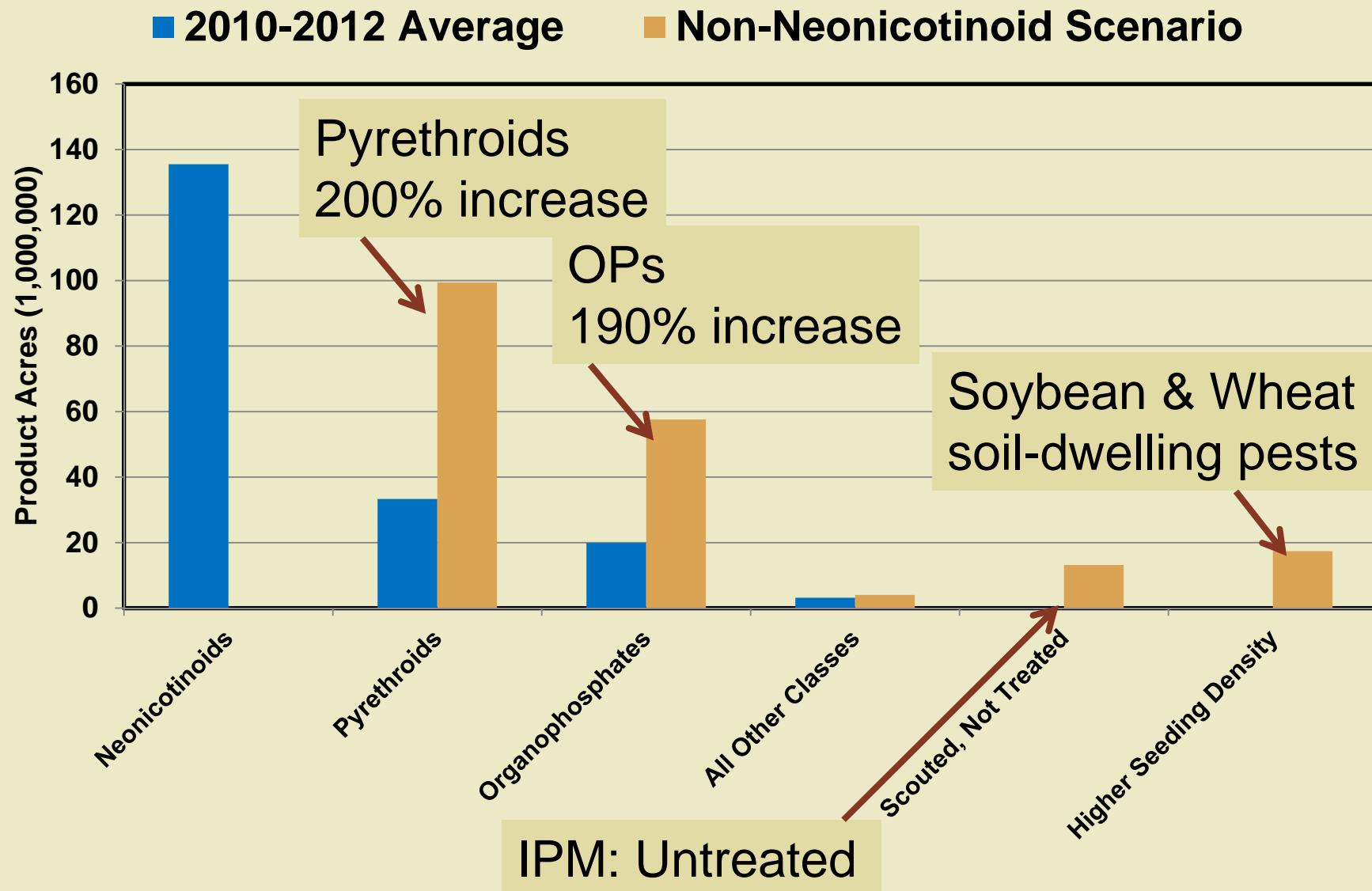
# Neonicotinoid Target Pests

- Reported targets by farmers/consultants/retailers (% acres targeted) (2010-2012 GfK Kynetec average)
  - Wireworm (29%)
  - Seed Maggot (16%)
  - Corn Rootworm (15%)
  - White Grub (10%)
- **70% of neonicotinoid acres targeted at soil-dwelling pests**

# Non-Neonicotinoid Counterfactual

- Reallocated neonicotinoid treated acres to non-neonicotinoid alternatives
  - based on market shares for other insecticides
  - by management system and target pest
  - GfK Kynetec data for 2010-2012
- **Issue: essentially no practical non-neonicotinoid alternatives to manage soil-dwelling pests in soybean & wheat**
  - Soil-dwelling pests are the reported targets for 31% & 73% of neonicotinoid acres respectively

# Reallocation Impact on Insecticide Use



# Cost Impacts

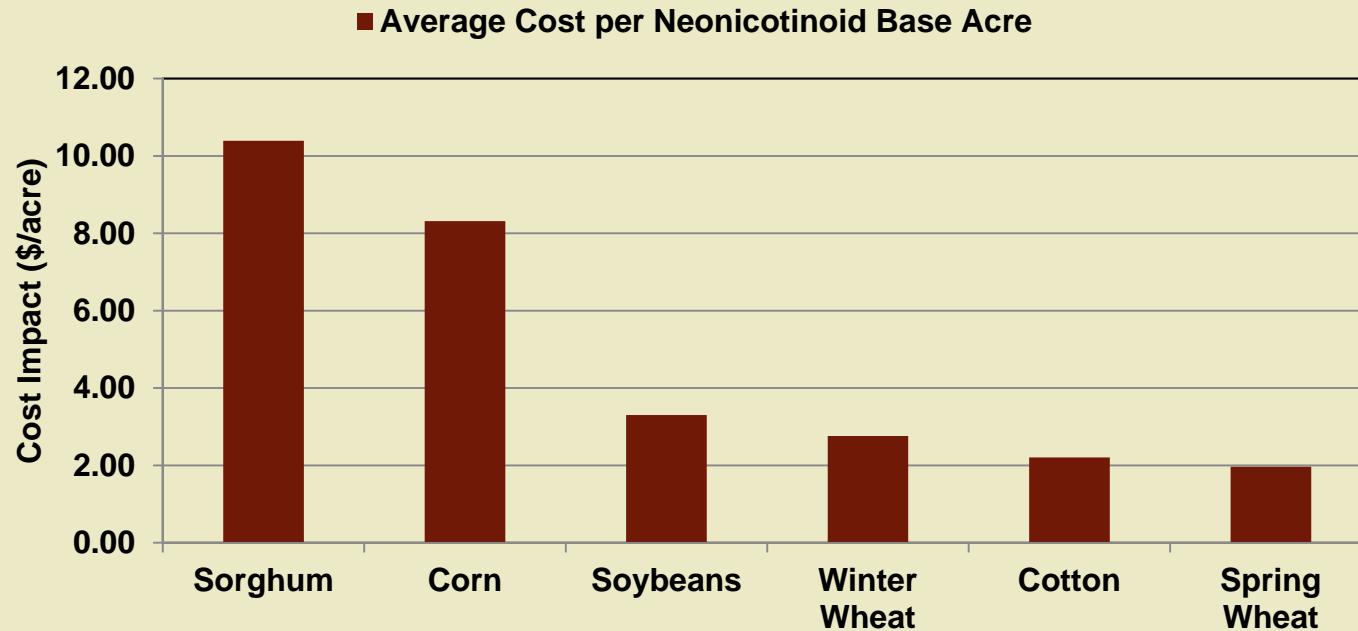
**Projected net cost increase of \$848M per year**

Increased spending on **insecticides**: \$157M

Increased spending on **applications**: \$383M 

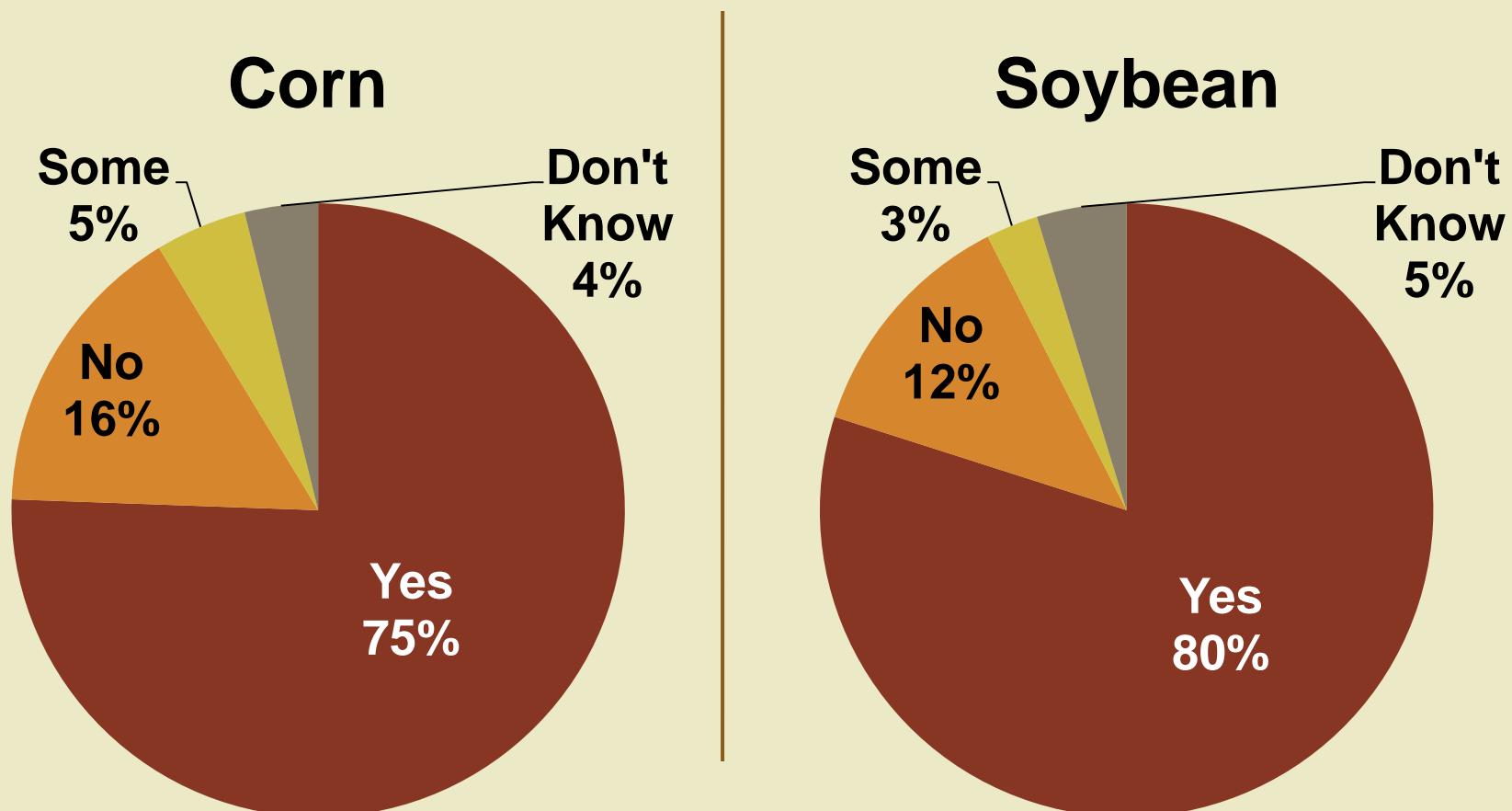
Increased spending on **field scouting**: \$210M 

Increased spending on **seeds/replant**: \$97M



# Would You Have Used a Seed Treatment If You Could Get the Same Varieties Without It?

**Hurley & Mitchell:** Telephone survey: US: 500 corn, 500 coy, Canada: 500 canola, 120 corn, 120 soy



# Additional Value (US\$ per Treated Acre) Compared to Alternatives (Hurley & Mitchell)

	United States		Canada		
	Corn	Soybean	Corn	Soybean	Canola
Bt Corn	\$19.78		\$20.05		
<b>Seed Treatment</b>	<b>\$13.38</b>	<b>\$11.93</b>	<b>\$12.02</b>	<b>\$14.53</b>	<b>\$12.85</b>
Soil Insecticide	\$12.92				
Foliar Insecticide	\$14.17	\$13.48		\$10.06	

**Seed treatments worth about \$12-\$14.50/A to US and Canadian corn, soybean and canola farmers**

**Neonicotinoid seed treatments the most valued insect control method in North America:  
\$1.4 B for seed treatments, \$1.3 B for Bt corn**

# Total Value (US\$ Million)

Control Method	U.S.	Canada	Total
Seed Treatment	\$1,130	\$301	\$1,431
Bt Corn	\$1,248	\$56	\$1,304
Foliar Insecticide	\$249	\$57	\$306
Soil Insecticide	\$175	---	\$175

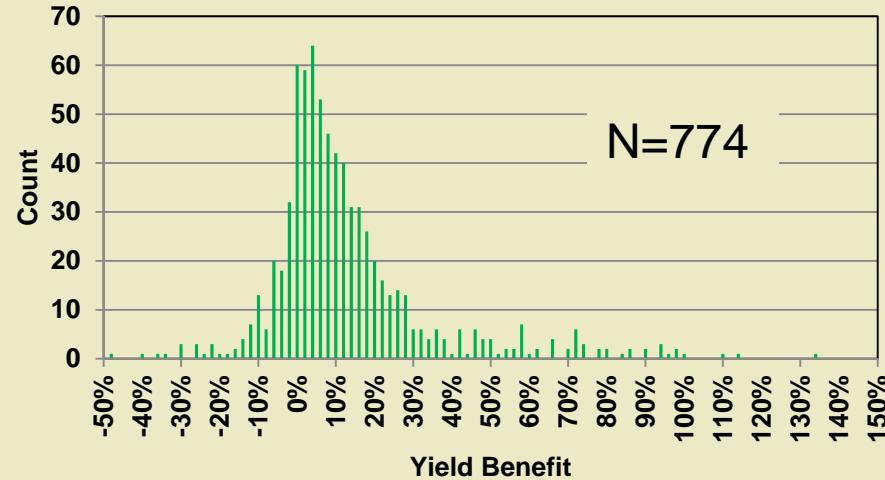
**Neonicotinoid seed treatments are the most valued insect control method in North America**

# Yield Meta-Analysis (Mitchell)

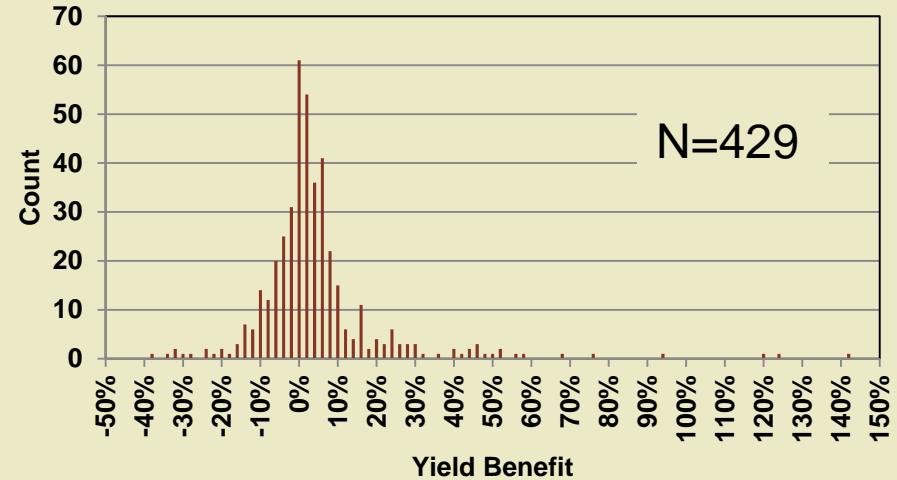
- Data from replicated small plot field experiments
- 1,500+ site-years generating 3,300+ observations of yield with and without neonicotinoid
- ~1,000 site-years generating 1,600+ observations of yield with neonicotinoid versus an insecticide alternative
- An observation is a paired comparison of average yield by treatment: NNi vs UTC or NNi vs non-NNi
- Corn, soybean, wheat, cotton, sorghum, potato, tomato
- Source: Journals, AMT, online extension/research reports, registrant studies by universities & outside researchers

# Yield Impacts for NNi

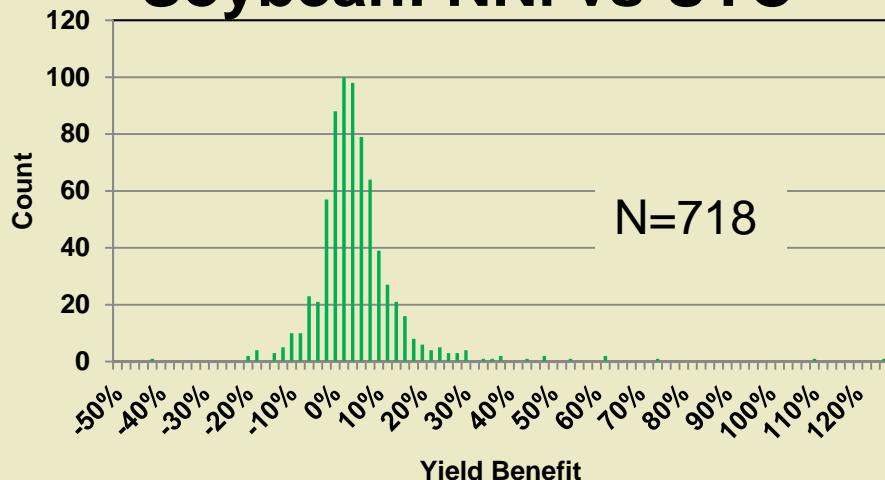
**Corn: NNi vs UTC**



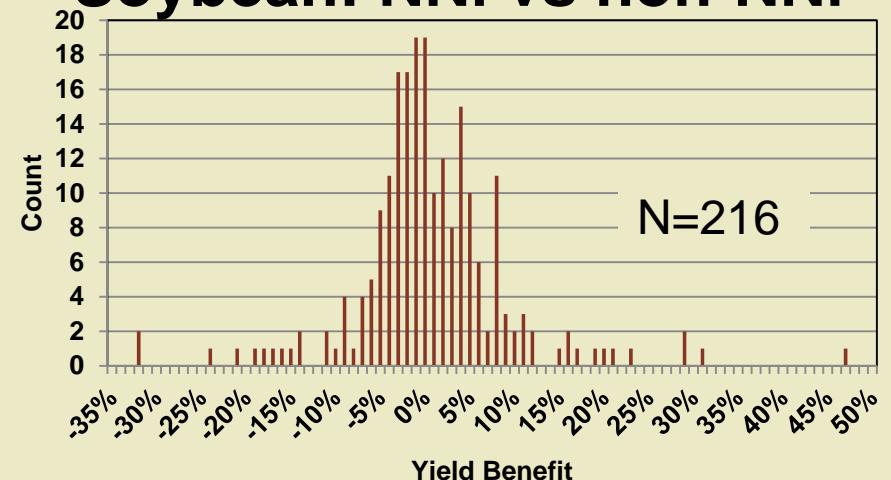
**Corn: NNi vs non-NNi**



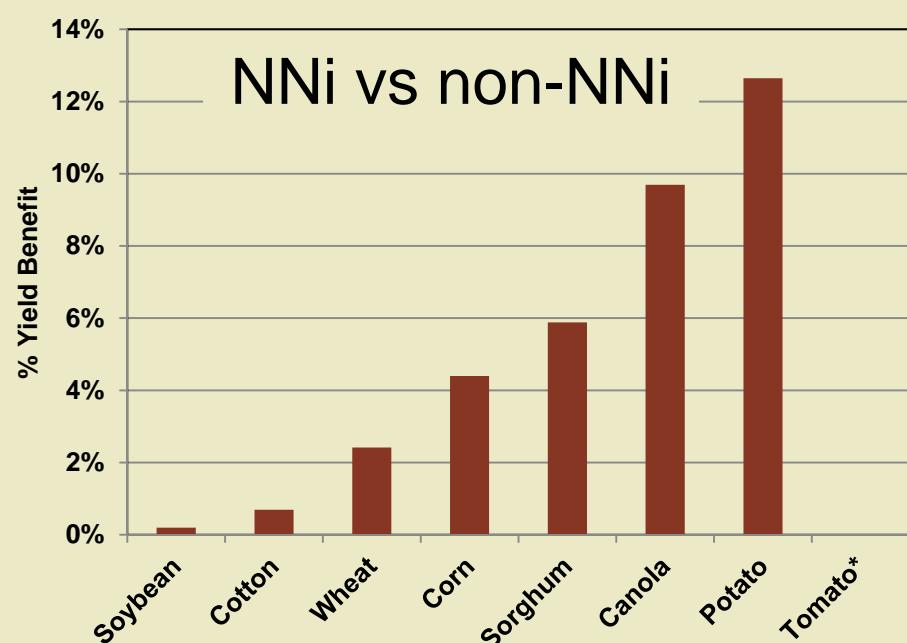
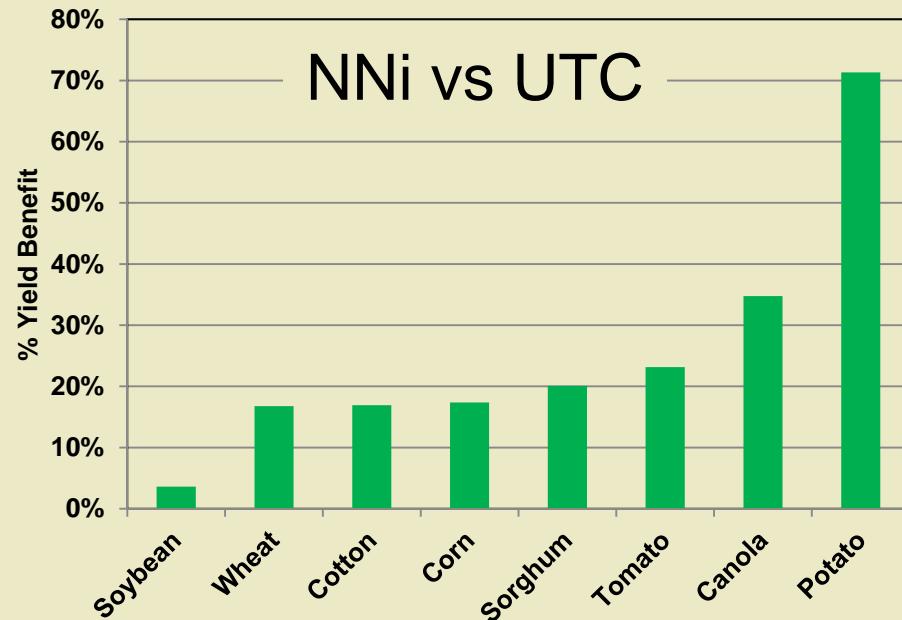
**Soybean: NNi vs UTC**



**Soybean: NNi vs non-NNi**

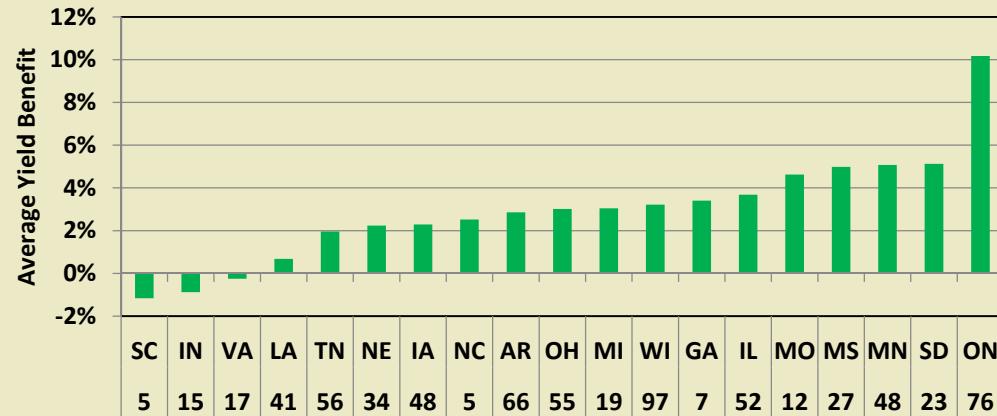


## Average Yield Benefit by Crop

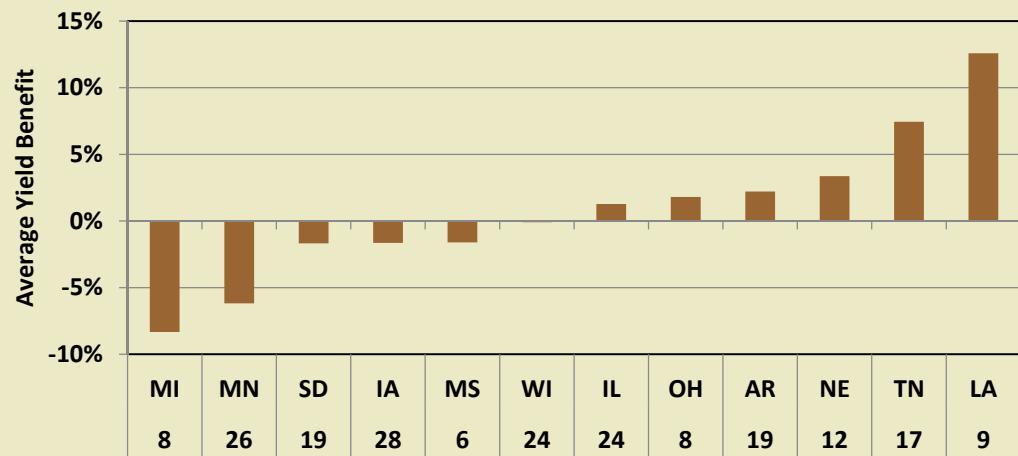


Crop	NNi vs UTC	NNi vs non-NNi
Corn	17.4%	4.4%
Soybean	3.6%	0.2%
Wheat	16.8%	2.4%
Cotton	16.9%	0.7%
Sorghum	20.1%	5.9%
Canola	34.8%	9.7%
Potato	71.3%	12.6%
Tomato	23.2%	---

# Example of Geographic Yield Variation - Soybeans



Average soybean yield benefit for neonicotinoid treatments relative to untreated control treatments by state/province



Average soybean yield benefit for neonicotinoid treatments relative to non-neonicotinoid insecticide treatments by state

# Significance of a 2.8% Yield Benefit in Soybeans

- The Context
  - ✓ 2013 U.S. average soybean yield = 44bu/A
  - ✓ 2013 U.S. average marketing price = \$13 bu
- Quick Calculation
  - ✓  $2.8\% \times 44 \text{ bu} \times \$13 = \$16.02/\text{A}$
  - ✓ Minus average seed treatment cost = \$7.67
- Based on soybean yield histogram and these yield and price assumptions
  - on average a farmer would earn  $\$16.02 - \$7.76 = \$8.26/\text{A}$
  - a farmer would earn back at least the \$7.67/A cost of the seed treatment 59% of the time

# Market Level Analysis (Mitchell and Dong)

- Aggregate these yield & cost impacts to market level
- Allow crop prices & acreage to equilibrate to the new supply & profitability conditions & estimate “surplus”
- Value of neonicotinoids in U.S. ranges **\$4.0 to \$4.3 Billion** per year, mostly for corn
- Value of neonicotinoids in Canada ranges **US\$150- \$275 Million** per year, mostly for canola
- Without neonicotinoids:
  - Corn price increase \$0.25/bu, wheat \$0.22/bu
  - 350,000-400,000 acres move into crop production from non-crop uses, 225,000-250,000 from CRP

## Surplus changes (US\$ M) without neonicotinoids

Market	Surplus	Low	High
US Grains	Consumer Surplus	-\$4,245	-\$4,596
	Farm Income	\$351	\$426
	Net Surplus	-\$3,894	-\$4,170
US Specialty	Consumer Surplus	-\$102	-\$116
	Farm Income	-\$33	-\$45
	Net Surplus	-\$135	-\$161
<b>US Total</b>		<b>Consumer Surplus</b>	<b>-\$4,347</b>
		<b>Farm Income</b>	<b>\$318</b>
		<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>-\$4,029</b>
Canada Grains	Consumer Surplus	-\$284	-\$568
	Farm Income	\$135	\$291
	Net Surplus	-\$149	-\$276

## Quick Summary: Neonicotinoid seed treatments

- Most popular class of insecticides – effective, reduced-risk, safe, convenient
- Farmers target 70% of neonicotinoids at soil-dwelling pests: wireworm, seed maggots, rootworm and white grubs
- Soybean and wheat farmers do not have non-neonicotinoid alternatives for soil-dwelling pests
- Without neonicotinoids, acres treated with pyrethroids and organophosphates would roughly triple
  - Resistance concerns, non-target effects, spray drift

# Quick Summary

- Highly valued by corn, soy, canola farmers, with stated values of \$12-\$14.50/ac
- Most valued insecticide treatment by North American farmers, with a stated value of \$1.4 Billion per year
- 75%-80% of farmers who use neonicotinoid seed treatments say they would continue to do so even if untreated seeds were available
- Meta-analysis finds substantial yield benefits for neonicotinoids, even relative to alternatives
- Market-level analysis finds that the value of neonicotinoids ranges \$4.0 to \$4.3 Billion in the U.S. and \$150-\$275 Million in Canada

# Thanks for Your Attention!

Neonicotinoid Benefits Reports  
[GrowingMatters.org](http://GrowingMatters.org)

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