



Northeast
Agribusiness
& Feed Alliance

Legislative Bans of Pesticide Products

Background:

Several legislative proposals would prohibit the use of pesticide products in New York State. These bills threaten significant harm to New York's agriculture industry and ignores the science-based decisions rendered by the NYS Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation.

The following bills would ban the use of one or more pesticides in New York:

- S.699 (Hoylman) bans neonicotinoids, fipronil.
- S.1001 (Hoylman) bans glyphosate and products containing glyphosate.
- S.1002 (Hoylman) bans glyphosate until a taskforce study studies safety.
- A.4082 (Colton) ban neonicotinoids.

The Department of Environmental Conservation is charged with reviewing and registering pesticide products before they can be used in New York (Article 33, EnCon Law). The extensive review process requires determinations of no unreasonable threats to water quality, wildlife, and humans. The review and evaluation process involve experts from the NYS Water Resources Institute, the Department of Health, the Division of Wildlife, in addition to the experts from DEC's Bureau of Pesticides.

The economic impact of pesticide bans to New York's agriculture industry would be significant. Loss of neonicotinoids and glyphosate, both newer chemistries that are more environmentally benign than the products they replaced, are used extensively throughout the spectrum of agricultural crops. Loss of these products will force growers to resort to older more hazardous products.

Imidacloprid, which is included in the neonicotinoid class of insecticides, is widely used for the control of insect damage to fruit vegetables and field crops. It is also an excellent product for treating maple trees for the invasive Asian Long Horned Beetle and in treating ash trees for a newly introduced invasive insect, the Emerald Ash Borer.

Banning a pesticide does not mean an alternative product is available. It is important to weigh the possible alternative products that could be used in replacement and determine if such a ban will do more harm than good.

Request:

Legislative bans of pesticide products, previously reviewed and approved by DEC, usurp science-based policy decision making process and set a bad precedent for New York State. New York's agriculture industry is placed in a significant competitive disadvantage to compete for markets from other states and countries.

New York is only one of two states that extensively reviews and evaluates pesticide products before permitting their use. This unique program, which consists of a partnership between DEC and DOH, must be maintained and supported.

IPM's use of best management practices (BMPs) for pest control provides for science-based state of the art pest control practices which may not involve pesticides. Nevertheless, pesticides must remain part of the IPM "toolbox" as they can be the best practice for specific pest control situations.