

A photograph of a lush green cornfield in the foreground. In the background, there is a large green industrial facility with several silos and a central building. To the right, a white wind turbine stands against a clear blue sky. A small yellow horizontal line is located at the top left of the image.

Treated Seed Disposal - Indiana

We will take the corn,
but you're stuck with
the Soybeans

- BASF seed agronomist Greg Ury said that while most companies accept returned seed corn, soybeans can be a different matter. “Farmers with seed they don’t want will either dump them or do something else with them,” he said. “If they’re treated, we have to figure out a way to get rid of them. **We don’t keep soybeans from one year to another.**”
- Pioneer representative Sarah Strutner said the company willingly takes returned seed corn, regardless of treatment. “**We will not accept treated soybean seed,**” Strutner said. “That’s our policy.”
 - Illinois Farmer Today
 - Nat Williams Jan 10, 2020, Updated Jan 13, 2020
- "Growers need to know that if they order treated soybean seeds, those seeds are theirs," explained Kris Ehler, a sales agronomist with Ehler Bros., a family seed and crop consulting company in Illinois. "**Even if they don't put them in the ground, they still own them.**"
 - Progressive Farmer
 - Emily Unglesbee June 20, 2019

Current Disposal Option

- Landfill (\$\$\$) \$.80 per pound
 - Not all accept treated seed
 - Filling landfill with organic material
- Fuel Source
 - Cement Kiln
 - Power Plant
 - Ethanol Plant
 - **None in Indiana are permitted to use or do not accept treated seed.**
- Incineration (\$\$\$) \$1.73 per pound
- **Apply to a label approved use site**
- Researching other state regulatory and industry disposal options these are the only options I could identify.



Seed Exchange

- Main Purpose
 - No cost, environmentally friendly option
 - Puts the seed in the ground where it belongs.
- Website /database connect the treated seed possessor with an end user /use site
- Could be like Field Watch – Eventually
 - Non-Profit
 - Sign Up
 - Agree to terms
 - Instruction / Restrictions
- Organizational Partnerships
 - Environmental
 - Industry
- Agreement with Organization / Public to plant each year.



Possible Disposal Avenues

- Farmers
 - Hay / Silage
 - Personal Use Only
 - Cover Crop
- Hunters
 - Food Plots
- Ag Education
 - Purdue Extension
 - College of Ag
 - FFA
- Non-profits
 - Wildlife Refuge
 - Animal Refuge
 - Hay / Feed
- DNR
 - State Parks
 - Food Plots
 - **Pollinator Habitat**
 - Current studies indicate honeybees actively forage in soybeans – Ohio State, 2022
- INDOT
 - Lost of green space
 - Medians, On/Off Ramps
- City/Towns
 - Parks
 - Education
- Private Landowners
 - Pollinator Habitat
 - Wildlife Food Plot
 - Erosion Control

Prairie Restoration Project – Louisiana

“I had a native prairie restoration project in Louisiana where we planted Roundup Ready soybeans in the area in the first year. We used high rates of glyphosate to control Johnsongrass and bermudagrass, then planted the prairie mix in the fall. It was one of the most successful prairie restoration projects that year. Deer and other wildlife will readily consume soybean forage, and depending on the native diet, may prove critical in supporting yearling deer growth.”

- June 1, 2016 / by MN Soybean Director of Research David Kee

Honey Bees Show a Taste for Soybean in New Study- Ohio State 2022

- “In this study, we found that honey bees actively forage in soybeans in Ohio, and that soybean blossoms play an important role in honey production,” says Chia-Hua Lin, Ph.D., a research scientist at Ohio State’s Rothenbuhler Honey Bee Lab and lead author of the study.
- Results showed soybean pollen in the honey that increased in proportion during the July-August blooming period. Overall, say the researchers, “Soybean pollen was detected ... in 17 (55 percent) of the 31 samples analyzed.”
- The strong preference of honey bees for soybeans was striking. Honey bees studied “preferred soybean fields over other foraging habitats between 0.5 and 1.5 kilometers from the hive,” according to the research.
 - *Journal of Economic Entomology*, Volume 115, Issue 6, December 2022, Pages 1846–1851,

Challenges

- Funding
 - Website
 - Confirming compliance with the program
- Legality
 - Conforming with current laws other regulation
 - Label Language
 - Disposal
 - Some states are currently working on or have already passed treated seed disposal laws.
 - Lawsuit against EPA for treated seed to be classified as pesticide.
 - May be forced to come up with disposal regulation
- Participation
 - Will we have organizations / people willing to take treated seed an apply properly.



Moving Forward

- Regulatory Input
- Industry stakeholder Input
- Industry Organization Input



Questions / Comments
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