

EPA Draft Biological Evaluations Neonicotinoids

References:

- U.S. EPA, Aug 2021, [Draft National Level Listed Species Biological Evaluation for Clothianidin](#)
- U.S. EPA, Aug 2021, [Draft National Level Listed Species Biological Evaluation for Imidacloprid](#)
- U.S. EPA, Aug 2021, [Draft National Level Listed Species Biological Evaluation for Thiamethoxam](#)

EPA Biological Evaluations – 3 Step Process

1. Evaluates if registered uses of chemical will have No Effect (NE) or if registered uses May Affect (MA) an individual of each listed species and each designated critical habitat.
2. Further evaluates the species classified as MA and determines if the chemical is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) or is Likely to Adversely Affect (LAA)
3. LAA determinations initiate a formal consultation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, who will publish a Biological Opinion determining whether the pesticide jeopardizes the species and/or habitat.
 - a. If species or habitats are in jeopardy, then additional protections are proposed

Findings & Next Steps

LAA Determinations Out of 1,821 Endangered Species and 791 Designated Critical Habitats

	Clothianidin	Imidacloprid	Thiamethoxam
Species	67%	79%	77%
Critical Habitats	56%	83%	81%

- All 3 chemicals are highly toxic to bees and other invertebrates, both terrestrial and aquatic
 - 30 out of 49 clothianidin incidents reported (2010-2018) involved clothianidin-treated corn seeds.
 - Exposure to dust created by abrasion to treated seeds that drifted off the treated fields possibly or most probably resulted in bee death and hive collapse.

Next Steps

- Step 3 of process – USFWS and NMFS evaluate the neonicotinoid chemicals to determine if any endangered species or critical habitat is jeopardized and to determine if additional protections are necessary