

# UNTREATED SEED PILOT PROGRAM (USPP)

## Fall 2024 – Fall 2025

### More Birds, More Options, Fewer Chemicals.

Birds need healthy habitats and plentiful food sources in order to migrate, raise chicks, and provide the ecosystem services we rely on. American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is looking for growers across the country to enroll in our new Untreated Seed Pilot Program for the 2025 growing season. **We are looking to support U.S. growers who want to reduce their use of neonicotinoid seed coatings for major crops.**



White-crowned Sparrow by Teekaygee, Shutterstock



Treated and untreated corn seed side by side.

### The Program

#### Growers Will:

- Source and plant seeds without neonicotinoid insecticide coatings.
- Provide documentation of:
  - Prior use of coated seeds
  - Purchase of seeds without neonicotinoid coatings.
  - Planting conditions.
  - Observations throughout the season.
- Not need to change any other growing practices apart from neonic seed coatings

#### ABC Will:

- **Pay growers on a per-acre basis for using seed without a neonic coating.**
- Provide some technical assistance.
- Provide summaries and guides during and after the Program based on results.



## Program Background

- **We are expanding access to funding for all growers;** enrollment in other programs is not required but also not prohibited.
  - This pilot program is inspired by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) enhancements previously offered to growers.
- ABC and our partners are interested in learning how neonicotinoid-coated seeds are used in current agricultural practices and how pesticide use could be reduced.
  - Less chemicals used in conventional agriculture benefits both wildlife and resistance management.
- ABC is interested in supporting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices and better understanding the seed supply chain.

## How To Apply:

### Email:

[untreatedseedprogram@abcbirds.org](mailto:untreatedseedprogram@abcbirds.org)

### Apply via our form:

<https://www.jotform.com/form/242195444950157>

or scan QR code below.



Red-winged Blackbird by Agami Photo Agency, Shutterstock

Questions? Call or email Hardy Kern: [ehardykern@abcbirds.org](mailto:ehardykern@abcbirds.org) | 202-750-1412

