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A full list of Coalition members is
available at:

www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org

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Honey Bee Health Coalition Support for Partnership Efforts to Promote Bee Forage on and around Agricultural Lands

The Honey Bee Health Coalition brings together diverse private and public sector stakeholders to collaboratively promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators, productive agricultural systems, and thriving ecosystems. The Coalition is focused on four strategic priorities: hive management, forage and nutrition, crop pest control, and cross-industry outreach, education, and communication. These priorities underscore the importance of collective action by beekeepers, farmers, supply chain companies, conservation organizations, researchers, regulators, and other stakeholders. All of these interests have a positive role to play as part of one Agricultural system supporting global food security and the Coalition's common vision of **Healthy Bees, Healthy People, Healthy Planet**.

Within the context of crop production systems, the Honey Bee Health Coalition supports on-the-ground, partner-driven projects at the intersection of honey bee health, conservation, and agricultural production that help to ensure honey bees – especially in and around production agriculture – have access to a varied and nutritious diet throughout their lives. The Coalition also promotes the development and implementation of projects that demonstrate how to control crop pests while safeguarding pollinator health. The Coalition's *Bee Healthy Roadmap* calls for collaborative actions "to promote improved nutrition for honey bees and other pollinators by developing bee-friendly, high-quality, spatially- and temporally-relevant landscapes..." and by identifying, communicating, and promoting "strategies for meeting honey bee forage needs on agricultural lands..."

Establishment of appropriate honey bee forage necessitates the adoption of a variety of bee-friendly practices in agricultural lands. There is no "silver bullet" solution, but rather a need for scaling, leveraging, and innovating to find the most appropriate, context-specific solutions. Any given project must take into account specific geographies, cropping systems, and interests involved, and successful projects demonstrate win-win solutions and co-benefits for a range of diverse stakeholders. Benefits of adopting practices to establish bee forage on and around agricultural lands may include: benefits to other pollinators as well as to other wildlife, benefits for water quality, water retention, and soil health for agricultural lands (for example, through establishment of bee-friendly conservation practices such as grass waterways, buffer strips, and cover crops), economic benefits for farmers (through incentive payments and otherwise), and more.

Projects involving effective partnerships demonstrate collaborative, public-private approaches as called for by President Obama's June 2014 Presidential Memorandum on pollinator health and by the national Pollinator Health Task Force. Further, the benefits of a wide variety of individual public-private efforts will be enhanced by coordination and collaboration to share knowledge and inspire new partnership activities. The Coalition helps partners to achieve this enhanced communication and coordination.

There are many existing examples of diverse and impactful partnership efforts in which Coalition members are currently involved. These efforts can serve as a basis for leveraging and scaling, as well as inspiration for new activities.

For more information on the Honey Bee Health Coalition and its efforts to promote honey bee forage establishment, and to get involved these or related activities, please contact the Coalition's facilitator, Julie Shapiro, jshapiro@keystone.org