



MP3 Symposium

MP3 Tools for Tracking and Mapping – Breakout Session Summary

March 10, 2016

USDA Federal Building “Patriot Plaza III”

355 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20024

Objectives

Attendees will learn about different types of tracking and mapping software in use to identify hive and sensitive crop locations to inform pesticide application. Presentations will focus on how programs can facilitate communication between beekeepers, growers and pesticide applicators.

Presentations (see presentations available on the MP3 Resources webpage)

- **Mark Dykes**, Texas Apiary Inspection Service/Apiary Inspectors of America and **Steve Dwinell**, Florida Department of Agriculture, presented on utilizing GIS to help facilitate better communication and referenced Florida’s Citrus Mapping technology including a web platform that helps to facilitate beekeeper/public landowner relationships.
- **Reid Sprenkel**, FieldWatch, presented on their specific area include Iowa and the Midwest region and how they have specific interactive web pages for beekeepers and applicators with a mobile site option.
- **Guest**, Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry, reported out on their methods for tracking and mapping highlighting it’s success with over 900 applicators, beekeepers, and growers registered. They also mentioned that this is used by agriculture only, not personal or residential use.
- **Maria Trainer**, CropLife Canada, talked about “BeeConnected” and emphasized that communication is a key BMP. This program was developed in partnership with the Australian Honey Bee Council and it is easy to use for farmers, beekeepers and applicators. It has multi-language options and has an “instant messaging” option for beekeepers and growers to communicate easily.

Discussion Summary

The group asked about the following themes:

- Data: specific programs and their ability to collect information from the back end dashboards for State Departments of Ag to use.
- Systems/programs and their functionality: these systems are not one-size-fits-all and there are different needs across different states.
- Privacy: all apps help to protect privacy and they are voluntary.
- Buy-in: target leaders in the industry to use these apps/programs and then others will follow.