HEALTHY BEES, HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY PLANET.™
A diverse, collaborative, private-public partnership addressing the multiple factors impacting honey bees
WHY
the Honey Bee Health Coalition?
THE WORLD RELIES ON THE HONEY BEE

Honey Bees Are a Key Component to Sustainable Agriculture, Healthy Diets, the Global Food Supply, and the Economy

A Healthy Diet

1/3 of global food production volume relies on pollinators to some degree

Source: Klein, 2007

80% of flowering plants are pollinated by honey bees and other insects

Source: Calderone, 2012

U.S. Agriculture

$\sim 18$ Billion Per year

The amount of dollars of U.S. agricultural production supported by honey bee pollination

Source: USDA

Canadian Agriculture

$\sim 4$ Billion

The annual value of honey bee pollination in Canada.

Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

"The future security of America’s food supply depends on healthy honey bees"

Tom Vilsack, Agriculture Secretary
Agriculture, healthy lifestyles, and worldwide food security depend on honey bee health. U.S. overwintering losses for managed honey bees between 2006 and 2015 ranged from approximately 23-36%, compared to a historical rate of overwintering losses of 10-15%.*

*Source: Survey data generated by USDA

Impacts on bee health have been linked to a variety of factors, including those influenced by the activities associated with both beekeeping and crop production.

- Pests & Disease
- Lack of Forage & Nutrition
- Lack of Genetic Diversity in Breeding
- Incidental Pesticide Exposure

The Challenge

Of honey bee population lost each winter, compared to 10-15% historically

APPROX. 29%
**A SHARED FOOD VALUE CHAIN**

Honey Bees Play a Foundational Role in Our Food Value Chain

**MANY STAKEHOLDERS, ONE AGRICULTURE**

- **Producers**
  - Farming
  - Beekeepers, honey producers, and honey bees

- **Consumers**
  - Shopping
  - Consumption

- **Agribusinesses**
  - Inputs (seeds, fertilizers, crop chemicals, equipment)
  - Trading
  - Processing

- **Manufacturers & Brands**
  - Restaurants
  - Consumer brands
  - Retail

**Researchers, Government Agencies, & Academia**
- Research, Education, Extension, Regulation
WHAT’S AT STAKE?

If a diversity of stakeholders do not effectively collaborate on this issue to identify solutions that work, we risk:

What’s at Stake?

A decline in the health of honey bees and other managed and native pollinators

Economic impacts on the beekeeping industry, growers and producers whose crops are pollinated by bees, rural economies, and North American agriculture

Impacts to our global food supply, biodiversity and healthy ecosystems
WHO and WHAT
is the Honey Bee Health Coalition?
Collaboratively implement solutions that will help to achieve a healthy population of honey bees while also supporting healthy populations of native and managed pollinators in the context of productive agricultural systems and thriving ecosystems.
Coalition members work across the full food value chain:

- Beekeepers and Honey Producers
- Crop Producers
- Agribusinesses
- Manufacturers and Brands
- Agencies and Universities
- Conservation Groups and Bee-Focused NGOs
HOW THE COALITION OPERATES

How does the Coalition operate?

• Launched during Pollinator Week in June of 2014
• Governed by a charter and ground rules
• Every member organization has an equal voice in the Coalition’s consensus-based decision-making process.
• Member funded; level of financial support does not influence an organization’s role in decision making
• Third party, independent facilitation by Keystone Policy Center, a nationally recognized nonprofit
WHAT IS THE COALITION?

A collaborative, science-based, cross-sector effort to improve the health of honey bees.

Principles

Cross-sector, collaborative
Recognizes multi-factorial problems
Outcome and solution-oriented
Science-based
WHAT
is the Coalition doing?
BEE HEALTHY ROADMAP

Shares the Coalition’s mission, vision, and strategic goals

Identifies 4 top priorities that need collective action and collaboration

www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org
The Coalition is focusing on accelerating collective impact to improve honey bee health in four key areas.

**Nutrition & Forage**
Ensure honey bees – especially those in and around production agriculture – have access to a varied and nutritious diet.

**Hive Management**
Put the best available tools, techniques, and technologies in the hands of beekeepers so they can better manage their hives.

**Crop Pest Management**
Control crop pests while safeguarding pollinator health.

**Outreach, Education and Collaboration**
Work together to improve honey bee health; develop outreach materials; and develop future research and demonstration projects.
OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Recent deliverables

VARROA VIDEOS
The following videos demonstrate techniques for combating Varroa mites

VARROA MANAGEMENT RESOURCES
Check out our practical tools for combating Varroa mites!

HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION

BEE HEALTHY ROADMAP
IMPROVING HONEY BEE HEALTH
HEALTHY BEES, HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY PLANET!

HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION

Quick Guide to Reporting a Pesticide-Related Bee Kill Incident

1. First contact your state lead pesticide agency to begin investigation and determine when the inspector will come to your site. (A list of state lead agency contact information is provided on the reverse side of this guide.) If you do not want to begin an investigation, you should still collect information and file a report with EPA (see below).

2. Take photos/videos of honey bees and incident as possible on conditions surrounding the load.

3. Consider collecting your own evidence for lab analysis or blooms from plant on which bees are foraging.

THE GROWER'S ROLE
ENSURING HONEY BEE HEALTH ON WORKING AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Proactive communication between growers, applicators and beekeepers is essential to protect honey bees from unintended pesticide exposure. Beekeeper and landowner cooperation based on mutual interests is important to mitigate risks of pesticide exposure to pollinators.

BEE HEALTH COALITION

March 16, 2015

To: Pollinator Health Task Force and US Department of Agriculture

From: Honey Bee Health Coalition

Subject: Recommendations regarding actions to increase and improve forage and habitat for honey bees and other pollinators through USDA conservation programs, public-private partnerships, and research investments.

On February 10, 2015, the Honey Bee Health Coalition (the Coalition) shared with the Pollinator Health Task Force (Task Force) and US Department of Agriculture
**FORAGE AND NUTRITION**

**Goal:** Ensure honey bees – especially in and around production agriculture – have access to a varied and nutritious diet throughout their lives.

**Activities:**
- Providing recommendations to improve and increase forage in USDA conservation programs
- Engaged in demonstration projects to get forage on the ground
- Conducting beekeeper interviews to identify recommendations for nutrition supplement research and development
Goal: Control crop pests and safeguard pollinator health

Activities

- Supporting BMP development, training and adoption, including through development of pollinator best management practices for soybeans and for pesticide applicators
- Supporting State MP3 conversations by convening a national symposium
- Developed an incident reporting guide for incidental pesticide exposure
**Goal:** Put the best available tools, techniques, and technologies in the hands of beekeepers so they can better manage their hives

**Activities:**

- Developed a guide to Varroa control methods and accompanying educational videos
- Research and testing into new varroacides
- Support of Bee Informed Partnership’s Tech Transfer Teams
Outreach, Education, and Collaboration

**Goal:** Work together to improve honey bee health, develop outreach materials; and develop future research and demonstration projects.

**Activities:**

- Promoting public-private education, communications, outreach, and collaboration across diverse stakeholders, through experiential learning and other platforms.
- Develop outreach materials and opportunities.
Bee Integrated Demonstration Project

- Will demonstrate how honey bee health can be improved using a portfolio of tools together in the same agricultural landscape to address multiple factors.

  - Forage establishment
  - Varroa monitoring and treatment
  - Crop pest management BMPs
  - Outreach and education
IN SUMMARY

• A Collaborative network of diverse, private and public sector stakeholders to unpack these complex issues and find solutions to honey bee health.

• The Honey Bee Health Coalition is engaging a variety of public-private partners throughout agriculture, research, government, and conservation to promote multi-factor solutions for honey bee health.
‘To go fast, go alone. To go far, go together.’
- African Proverb

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