

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



*We are all part of One Agricultural System with Shared Responsibility and Necessary Partnership. 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.*



## BEEKEEPER RESPONSIBILITIES

**Maintain healthy, vigorous colonies**-manage pests and diseases, provide supplemental feed when necessary. Follow best management practices according to your state or provincial apiarist.

**Contact state, provincial or tribal lead agency/extension offices to understand local** apiary regulations or requirements. Review the managed pollinator protection plan (MP3) or other bee health plans for the state or province if available.

**Be prepared to move or protect your hives** if contacted by a landowner.

**Alert the local Mosquito Control office** of the location of the apiary.

**Ensure the apiary location has sufficient** nutrition and a fresh source of water.

**Inform growers**, neighboring landowners, and custom applicators of apiary locations.

**Register apiary** for notification program if available.

To the extent possible **place bees in areas where incidental exposure to pesticides is minimized**. Place hives away from fields and with buffered area between the field and apiary when possible.

**Post** the beekeeper's name and contact information near apiary.

**Notify** grower as soon as possible if any problems occur.

**Report bee deaths** so that causes can be addressed (see: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/quick-guide/>).

## GROWER RESPONSIBILITIES

Always refer to the pesticide label for application requirements.

Review the managed pollinator protection plan (MP3) or other bee health plans for the state or province if available.

Work with beekeeper to determine the best location to place the apiary.

Abide by the agreement - verbal or written.

Protect water sources from contamination by pesticides.

Inform applicators of apiary locations, agreements and pollinator friendly practices.

Notify the beekeeper as soon as possible before an application is planned.

## WHEN BEES ARE PLACED FOR CONTRACTED CROP POLLINATION

- **Discuss** grower's pest management program before agreement is made and apiary is placed.
- **Identify** any risks of pesticides being used and discuss best management practices to protect pollinators.
- **Always refer to the pesticide label** for application requirements and to ensure compliance in the country of application. Check for "Bee Hazard" warnings and pollinator precautions in the Environmental Hazards statement and in the directions for use on the label.



**Develop a written agreement** outlining the:

1. Timing of crop bloom and desired pest treatments;
2. Beekeeper's responsibility to provide strong effective colonies;
3. Landowner's responsibility to safeguard bees from poisoning;
4. Location for apiary placement on the land for access to pollinated crop, clean water, and buffer areas.

## WHEN BEES ARE PLACED ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LANDS, NOT FOR CONTRACTED POLLINATION



**Beekeepers and land manager should consider the following steps:**

- Review the cropping system and pest management practices before the apiary is placed.
- Determine the best location to place the apiary.
- Never place a hive on land without permission and a written agreement.