

Together we can make a difference for beekeeping operations, for pollinators, for a sustainable and affordable food supply. ***Please make a donation today to support the Pollinator Stewardship Council. You can complete this form and mail your donation; or go online, and make your donation today at www.pollinatorstewardship.org.***

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 \$1 / hive for commercial beekeepers

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Pollinator Stewardship Council,
P.O. Box 304, Perkinston, MS 39573



One out of three bites of food is due to bees and other pollinators.

Bees hold the third highest value to U.S. agriculture. They contribute \$20-\$30 billion to U.S. agriculture. (Cattle and swine are first and second respectively in value to U.S. agriculture)

A loss of just 200 bee colonies affects the beekeeper and the grower. The beekeeper suffers an estimated loss of \$50,000, while the grower could lose \$4.3M in crops because they were not pollinated.

As honey bees and native pollinators are indicator species their health is key to an affordable and sustainable food supply.

Understanding how the real-world chemical environment interacts, and the impact upon honey bees is vital to maintain a healthy and vibrant agriculture.

Rev. 2-2014



Protection for honey bees & native pollinators



Promote good pollinator stewardship



Encourage good agricultural stewardship with farmers & beekeepers

To defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides.

www.pollinatorstewardship.org



a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

The Pollinator Stewardship Council was begun by members of the American Honey Producers Association in October 2012. We believe in the judicious use of crop protection products. We believe farmers should be able to protect their crops from pests, just as beekeepers must be able to protect their livestock, their bees from harm caused by pesticides.

The Pollinator Stewardship Council will work to:

- Affect regulatory processes of pesticide risk assessment, label, and enforcement.
- Provide advocacy, guidance and tools to document the detrimental effect of pesticides on pollinators.
- Raise awareness about the adverse impact of pesticides on pollinators critical to the supply of food and the ecosystem.

pesticide coated seeds

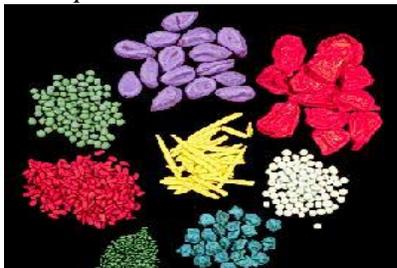


photo www.uky.edu

Pesticide coated seeds are “devices” and not subject to regulation by the EPA. However, *pollinators are exposed to the pesticide through the nectar and pollen of the plant. The pesticide laced dust from planting drifts onto blooming plants.*



EPA’s Biological & Economic Analysis Division (BEAD) stated in a public comment, **“Based solely on the reproductive biology..., EPA concluded that honey bee pollination can increase yields but is not essential...”** EPA acknowledges the value of pollination, but deems it, and honeybees, as **NOT ESSENTIAL!**

The EPA has determined that it is enough that an applicator “attempts” to contact the beekeeper if hives are in harm’s way. The applicator has fulfilled their responsibility according to the Label. Now the applicator is free to apply the pesticide anytime. If bees are killed, it is the beekeeper’s responsibility.

*Pollen contained an **average of nine different pesticides**, with a high of twenty-one pesticides.*

Pollen collected was not always from the crop the bees were to pollinate, yet all of the pollen contained pesticides.

“Nosema infection was more than twice as likely to occur in honeybees that consumed pollen containing fungicides”

*“Crop pollination exposes honey bees to pesticides which alters their susceptibility to the gut pathogen *Nosema ceranae*” (PLOS One, July 2012, Vol. 8, Issue 7)*

Protect honey bees & native pollinators:

- 1) Native and managed pollinators are a national resource needing protection, as pollinators provide an irreplaceable service for our ecosystem in the production of high quality fruits and vegetables for our families.
- 2) Pollinators must be protected all year long in every setting in order to be abundant and healthy for the essential pollination moments.
- 3) Eliminate exposure of toxic levels of pesticides applied to pollinator attractive bloom. Reducing pesticide exposure when pollinators are collecting nectar and pollen would improve pollinator health.
- 4) Pesticide free forage is needed to support healthy and sustainable native and managed pollinators in agriculture, urban, and suburban areas.
- 5) Pesticide labeling is the law, but EPA has removed the mandatory protection language. Without mandatory protective guidelines, pollinators will be killed by pesticide misuse.
- 6) EPA fails to protect pollinators, basing their decisions on politics and economics rather than credible science. Pollinators are indicator species for the health of the environment and require stewardship.
- 7) Accelerate the timeline for the re-registration decision of neonic class of pesticides. A moratorium* must be placed on their use on bee attractive plants, until the science can be reviewed. Treated seeds must be declared a pesticide application. (*definition of “moratorium” -- “a planned activity is postponed.”)