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**New Film to Promote Pollinator Protection Kicks Off Keep the Hives Alive Coalition's 10th Annual National Pollinator Week**

*Beekeepers, farmers, farmworkers, scientists and bee advocacy groups make a buzz over government inaction on toxic pesticides*

AKRON, OH--A coalition of beekeepers, farmers, farmworkers, scientists and bee protection advocates released a [short documentary film](#) to kick off the start of the 10th annual [National Pollinator Week](#), June 19-25, 2017.

The film shares the stories of beekeepers whose livelihoods have been jeopardized by the continued use of bee-toxic pesticides and urges the government to take action to protect the health of pollinators. Further, it features stories from the nation's commercial beekeepers as they speak out about issues the bee industry is facing, including James Cook, who drove a truck full of 2.5 million dead bees from his farm in Minnesota all the way to the steps of the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

American beekeepers report annual losses nearing 50 percent of their hives, with some beekeepers reporting as high as 100 percent losses; yet the EPA, the USDA, and Congress have not properly regulated the use of bee-toxic pesticides to prevent further pollinator losses.

"It is fitting that we share this [film](#) and the stories it tells about pesticides and pollinator loss on the 10th anniversary of Pollinator Week," said Michele Colopy, Program Director of the Pollinator Stewardship Council. "This anniversary also marks 10 years of government regulators failing to address severe pollinator declines here in the United States, 10 years of beekeepers' pleas for stronger pollinator protections going largely ignored. And, 10 years of the environment and farming economies put at risk by toxic pesticides and the loss of critical pollinator species."

*The Pollinator Stewardship Council's mission is to defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides.*

To view the [full documentary film](#) , or the [shorter summary version](#) , select those links or view both at [www.KeepHivesAlive.org](http://www.KeepHivesAlive.org). Keep the Hives Alive is planning screenings throughout the summer, and welcomes communities and individuals who would like to spread the word about pesticides, pollinators and sustainable agriculture by [hosting a screening](#) to reach out via [KeepHivesAlive@gmail.com](mailto:KeepHivesAlive@gmail.com) .

The film relives and delivers the messages of last year's epic national Keep the Hives Alive Tour, which made stops across the country to educate the public of the dangers of bee-toxic pesticides. The Keep the Hives Alive Tour was a joint effort of beekeepers, farmers, farmworkers, scientists, advocates and policymakers to raise awareness about the plight of pollinators and the role bee-toxic pesticides play in their decline. The tour also celebrated local initiatives to protect these critical species by supporting sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices.

For more information, visit [www.KeepHivesAlive.org](http://www.KeepHivesAlive.org) or [www.PollinatorStewardship.org](http://www.PollinatorStewardship.org) .