



## Pollinator News

March 6, 2015

### State Pollinator Plans

As State's develop their pollinator plans, we have placed the completed and published documents on one page at our website. We hope this will assist State beekeeping groups, and state pollinator stakeholders in developing their plans. Not all mitigation efforts will be transferable from one state to the next, based on each state's geography, crop diversity, and funding for pollinator plan support, administration, and/or enforcement.

As we work to protect our managed and native pollinators we must remember:

- the pesticide label is the law.;
- if a pesticide label states "do not apply to blooming crops or weeds," that is federal law;
- voluntary registrations of bee colonies, sensitive crops, etc. are voluntary with no enforcement mechanism to ensure their purpose;
- moving bee colonies with a 24-48 hour notice is not a reasonable mitigation measure. Migratory beekeepers may not be able to return to that bee yard(s) in order to move hives, as they may be out of state pollinating another crop. Most importantly, where is the safe place for the beekeeper to move their honey bees?
- native pollinators are not notified of pending pesticide applications and instead are sacrificed; reducing crop yield, and reducing the diversity of the landscape.

If your state is developing a Pollinator Protection Plan, beekeepers must be involved. Who knows bees better than beekeepers? In a 2014 letter, the EPA asked the Pesticide Applicators Association ([http://pollinatorstewardship.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Attachment\\_2\\_-\\_USEPA\\_Letter\\_AAPCOSFIREG\\_State\\_Pollinator\\_Plan.pdf](http://pollinatorstewardship.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Attachment_2_-_USEPA_Letter_AAPCOSFIREG_State_Pollinator_Plan.pdf)) to take the lead on creating State Pollinator Protection Plans. State beekeeping associations are integral to any pollinator protection plan impacting the honey bees in their state. Beekeepers must be part of the process in developing these pollinator plans. Find out if your state is developing or revising their pollinator protection plan. Review the published plans from other states at our website. [http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page\\_id=2816](http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=2816) These are your bees, your honey crop, your livelihood. Be there to represent beekeepers and pollinators in your state.

*Reducing pesticide exposure when pollinators are collecting nectar and pollen would improve pollinator health. Eliminating exposure of toxic levels of pesticides applied to pollinator attractive bloom would support the nutritional needs of pollinators.*