Pollinator Stewardship Council

Beginning Our Fifth Year

The Pollinator Stewardship Council is dedicated to defending managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides. During our first four years our accomplishments were made possible by the support of members and donors like you.

Working together is how we make change for our honey bees and native pollinators. In service to our members, beekeepers, and our donors we:

- Collected and filed 77 bee kill reports for beekeepers
- Provided education outreach to 127 groups across the U.S.
- Strengthened our local and state beekeeping associations through nonprofit management and strategic planning services to 8 beekeeping club member groups.
- Represented beekeepers on EPA committees (PPDC, PPDC-MP3 metrics, MP3 Symposium planning committee).
- Secured Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant to create model habitat projects with corporations: the Dayton VA, Fairborn Cement, and Professional Psychological Services.
- Created collaborative project to bring beekeeping and pollinator habitat to the Boy Scout Camp in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
- Shared beekeepers’ concerns nationally through Regulations.gov for 23 national, and 5 state public comment opportunities.
- Challenged the registration of the pesticide Sulfoxaflor in the Ninth Circuit Court, winning the case to make changes to the label to protect pollinators and crops.
- Created a Pollinator Week Collaborative education event with destination venues in Ohio in partnership with the Ohio State Beekeepers Association and Scotts MiracleGRO Foundation.
- Partnered with Scotts MiracleGRO Foundation to remove neonicotinoids from their Ortho home garden products by 2019 (two years ahead of schedule).
- Executive Producer of the short film documentary of the “Keep the Hives Alive Tour,” a partnership of 30+ nonprofit groups focused on sustainable agriculture.
- Collaborated with fellow pollinator/food/farmer advocates contributing to national legislation to protect pollinators.
- Supported the work of our members through education, advocacy, and action on their local and state pollinator concerns.
As we enter our fifth year of defending managed and native pollinators from the adverse impact of pesticides we need your financial support. We need to gain greater understanding of the value of honey, the value of honey bees and native pollinators, and show value in our state and local beekeeping associations through research, education, advocacy, and action.

You can support needed RESEARCH:
- Conduct a comprehensive Exposure Assessment of pesticides at field-realistic exposures
- Conduct a comprehensive crop and environmental value of beneficial insects cost-benefit / efficacy analysis before pesticide registrations are approved
- Examine the effects of fungicides, herbicides, and insect and plant growth regulators on the honey bee microbiome.

You can support ADVOCACY:
- Protect the reputation of honey as it is under threat due to reports of pesticide residues in the product
- Develop a body of nutritional evidence to support more honey health claims
- Provide advocacy, education, and support to local and state beekeeping associations for their local solutions

You can support EDUCATION and ACTION:
- Take action with your legislators and policy makers when we seek your support.
- Implement collaborative projects with our members and fellow stakeholders to educate, advocate, and support local pollinator activities.
- Providing training and support for local and state beekeeping associations in nonprofit management, and strategic planning to support local solutions for local pollinator issues.

By becoming a member, renewing your membership, or making a donation today, you join us in defending managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides. Working together for pollinators, agricultural stakeholders, scientists, regulators, and food consumers all benefit from healthier bees, increased pollination services, and diversity of plant life due to the healthy diversity of native pollinators who are supporting our quality of life.

With your financial support we can support research, conduct advocacy, provide and support pollinator education, and take action for our members, for beekeepers, for non-beekeepers, and for our managed and native pollinators.
State medical society voices concern over pesticides’ safety

By Cyrus Moulton, Telegram & Gazette Staff

Posted May 14, 2018 at 8:01 PM Updated May 15, 2018 at 8:51 AM

The Massachusetts Medical Society has passed a resolution expressing concern that neonicotinoid pesticides, which have been blamed for honeybee colony collapse, also harm human health. The resolution also calls for research to develop less hazardous alternatives to the pesticides and - although it does not mention any proposed legislation - comes as the Massachusetts Legislature is considering a bill to restrict the use of neonicotinoids to licensed applicators.

“If this were a medication that were being proposed to the market, to the (U.S. Food and Drug Administration), and it had shown it to be a neurotoxin, mutagen, and an endocrine disruptor in animal studies, it would not likely be approved,” said Dr. Brita E. Lundberg, a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society Committee on Environmental and Occupational Health and Mass Health Professionals for Clean Energy. Dr. Lundberg was a sponsor and author of the resolution.

Neonicotinoids - or neons - are common pesticides chemically related to nicotine that are taken up and systemically distributed through a plant, eventually appearing in its pollen and nectar.


Global Glyphosate Study

The pilot study was a single-dose study on glyphosate based herbicides (GBHs) in rats, using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s acceptable daily dietary exposure level of glyphosate (cRfD) (1) – 1.75 mg/kg/day. (a single-dose study means that the same concentration was given to the rats daily over a 3 month period). The study was focused on the newborn, infancy and adolescence phases of life. The results reveal that glyphosate based herbicides (GBHs) were able to alter certain important biological parameters, mainly relating to sexual development, genotoxicity and the alteration of the intestinal microbiome. “Although glyphosate has been around for decades, it has not been well studied, and we know surprisingly little about its human health effects. This study was designed to use doses that compare to what humans are exposed to in their everyday environments including from the food they eat. This study will provide valuable information to more clearly assess the health risks to humans”. Prof. Melissa J Perry, George Washington University


Envisioning the Future of Beekeeping- a 3 part series

Tammy Horn Potter, Kentucky State Apiarist, and Michele Colopy, Pollinator Stewardship Council collaborated on a series of articles discussing the future of beekeeping. The co-authors interviewed a dozen beekeepers across the US for the June, July, and August issues of the American Bee Journal. To continue the discussion begun by these interviews, go to Envisioning the Future on the Pollinator Stewardship Council Facebook page and select FORUM from the menu on the left side of the page.
The Bee Informed Partnership (http://beeinformed.org) recently conducted the twelfth annual survey of managed honey bee colony losses in the United States. This year, 4,794 beekeepers collectively managing 175,923 colonies in October 2017 provided validated survey responses. This represents 6.6% of the estimated 2.67 million managed honey-producing colonies in the nation (USDA, 2018).

During the 2017-2018 winter (1 October 2017 – 1 April 2018), an estimated 30.7% of managed colonies in the United States were lost (Fig. 1). This represents an increase of 9.5 percentage points over that of the previous year, and an increase of 2.8 percentage points over that of the 10-year average total winter colony loss rate of 27.9%.

Similar to previous years, backyard beekeepers lost more colonies in winter (46.3%) compared to those lost by sideline (38.0%) and commercial (26.4%) beekeepers. Backyard, sideline, and commercial beekeepers are defined as those managing 50 or fewer colonies, 51 – 500 colonies, and 501 or more colonies, respectively.

Interestingly, the self-reported ‘level of acceptable winter colony loss’ increased from 18.7% last year to 20.6% this year. Sixty-nine percent of responding beekeepers lost more of their colonies than deemed to be acceptable.

During the summer 2017 season (1 April 2017– 1 October 2017), an estimated 17.1% of managed colonies were lost in the U.S. This level is on par with summer colony loss estimates of 18.2% that were reported the previous year, and lower than the 20.9% average experienced by beekeepers since 2010-2011, when summer losses were first recorded by the Bee Informed Partnership.

For the entire survey period (1 April 2017 – 1 April 2018), beekeepers in the U.S. lost an estimated 40.1% of their managed honey bee colonies. This is 2.7 percentage points greater than the average annual rate of loss experienced by beekeepers since 2010-2011.
Empire State Honey Producers Assn. http://www.eshpa.org/
Smith Farm Pure Honey www.smithfarmpurehoney.com/
Randy Oliver http://scientificbeekeping.com/
Browning’s Honey Co., Inc. http://www.browningshoney.com/
Hackenberg Apiaries http://hackenbergapiaries.org/
Delta Bee Club http://www.deltabeeclub.org/
Heartland Apicultural Society http://www.heartlandbees.org/
Beekeepers of Middle Tennessee http://bomtn.org/
Old Mill Honey Co.
Foothill Honey Farm
Wind River Honey Co.
Miksa Honey Farms
California-Minnesota Honey Farms
Rick Smith
Bob McDonell
Samuel Hall
Headwaters Farm
Hiatt Honey, LLC
South Dakota Beekeepers Assn.
Bret Adee
Indian Run Apiary
California Apiaries, LLC
Harmony Honey Co.
Red-Headed Honey https://redheadedhoney.com/
Sunrise Feed & Supply http://sunrisefeed.com/
Kentucky State Beekeepers Association http://www.ksbbeekeeping.org/
Los Angeles County Beekeepers Assn. http://www.losangelescountybeekeepers.com/
The Studio Digital http://www.thestudiodigital.com/
Beekeeping Insurance Services http://www.beekeepingins.com/
Cox Honey of Utah
Michigan Commercial Beekeepers Assn.
Lee’s Bees
Bob Brandi Honey & Farming
The Beekeepers of Indiana http://indianabeekeeper.com/
Stephen Wilson
The Organic View https://www.theorganicview.com/
Bee Squared Apiaries https://bethsbees.com/
The Pollinator Stewardship Council is a 501c3 nonprofit organization; donations are tax deductible.