

From: Jennings, Henry
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 11:35 AM
To: Schlein, Paul B
Subject: FW: Mass death of bees in Germany: Pesticide approvals suspended

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Oden [mailto:cleaneearth@tds.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 10:23 AM
To: Jennings, Henry
Subject: Fw: Mass death of bees in Germany: Pesticide approvals suspended

Henry - Do you care enough to do anything about this? Or will you just let the bees die and the crops go unpollinated and people go hungry and then say, "Oops!" ? Part of the responsibility for the mass deaths of bees is yours, because you allow these poisons to be used.

What is the point of the Pesticide Control Board if not to protect people and wildlife from being poisoned?

Please bring this to the attention of the Board. I have little hope that they will take any action beyond approving even more poisons for the chemical-dependent growers, but I want them to know what sorts of harm they're responsible for approving. Damage to human beings, birds, bees, and non-gmo crops in Maine is on their heads.

How can you, and the Board, NOT ban these pesticides?

- Nancy Oden, Jonesboro

----- Original Message -----

Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 5:51 AM
Subject: Mass death of bees in Germany: Pesticide approvals suspended

Press Release, May 21, 2008
Coalition against BAYER Dangers (Germany)

Mass death of bees in Germany: Pesticide approvals suspended

“Bayer has to take Gaucho and Poncho from the market worldwide”

The German *Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety* (BVL) has ordered the immediate suspension of the approval for eight seed treatment products due to the mass death of bees in Germany's Baden-Wuerttemberg state. The suspended products are: Antarc (ingredient: imidacloprid; produced by Bayer), Chinook (imidacloprid; Bayer), Cruiser (thiamethoxam; Syngenta), Elado (clothianidin; Bayer), Faibel (imidacloprid; Bayer), Mesurool (methiocarb; Bayer) and Poncho (clothianidin; Bayer). According to the German *Research Centre for Cultivated Plants* 29 out of 30 dead bees it had examined had been killed by contact with clothianidin. Also wild bees and other insects are suffering from a significant loss of population.

“We have been pointing on the risks of neonicotinoids such as imidacloprid and clothianidin for almost ten years now. With an annual turn-over of nearly 800 million Euro (1.25 billion US dollar) imidacloprid and clothianidin are among Bayer’s most important products. This is the reason why Bayer, despite serious environmental damage, is fighting against any application prohibitions”, says Philipp Mimkes, speaker of the *Coalition against BAYER-dangers*. The Coalition demands that Bayer withdraw all neonicotinoids from the market worldwide.

Bayer is the worldmarket leader for pesticides. With sales of 556 million Euro in 2007, imidacloprid is Bayer’s best selling pesticide product. In Germany imidacloprid is used under the brand names Gaucho, Antarc and Chinook, primarily during the cultivation of rape, sugar-beet and corn.

“It's a real bee emergency”, said Manfred Hederer, president of the German Professional Beekeeper's Association. “Fifty to 60 percent of the bees have died on average, and some beekeepers have lost all their hives.” Beekeepers and agricultural officials in Italy, France and Holland all noticed similar phenomena in their fields when planting began a few weeks ago.

In France most applications of imidacloprid were already banned in 1999. In 2003 the *Comité Scientifique et Technique*, convened by the French government, declared that the treatment of seeds with imidacloprid produces a significant risk for bees. Only a few months ago Bayer's application for clothianidin was rejected by French authorities.

Clothianidin is a non-selective poison. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's fact sheet 'clothianidin is highly toxic to honey bees.' Seeds are treated with clothianidin in advance or sprayed with it while in the field, and the insecticide can also be blown onto other crops. The chemical is often sprayed on corn fields during the spring planting to create a protective film on cornfields.

See also:

- Press Release of the *Research Centre for Cultivated Plants* (German):
www.jki.bund.de/cIn_044/nn_813794/DE/pressestelle/Presseinfos/2008/1605_BienensterbenClothianidin.htm
- [Protection of Bees: Open Letter to EU Commissioner of Health](#)
- [Bee-keepers and environmental groups demand prohibition of pesticide "Gaucho"](#)
- [French Institutes Finds Imidaproclid Turning Up in Wide Range of Crops](#)
- 2003 report from the "Comité Scientifique et Technique de l'Etude Multifactorielle des Troubles des Abeilles"
<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/rapportfin.pdf>

Coalition against BAYER Dangers

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please send an e-mail for receiving the English newsletter Keycode BAYER free of charge

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-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Oden [mailto:cleaneearth@tds.net]
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 10:49 AM
To: Jennings, Henry
Subject: Fw: Emergency Pesticide Ban for Saving the Honeybee

Please let me know that you received this email and that you will give it to the Pesticide Control Board members. I keep hoping for some sensible action from them, and perhaps this might help. thank you. - Nancy Oden

----- Original Message -----

From: <press-release@i-sis.org.uk>
To: <cleaneearth@acadia.net>
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 8:06 AM
Subject: Emergency Pesticide Ban for Saving the Honeybee

> The intended recipient for this message is cleaneearth@acadia.net The
> Institute of Science in Society Science Society Sustainability
> <http://www.i-sis.org.uk>
>
> This article can be found on the I-SIS website at
> <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/honeybeePesticideBan.php>
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> =====
> ISIS Press Release 09/06/08
>
> Emergency Pesticide Ban for Saving the Honeybee
> *****
>
> Prof. Joe Cummins' warning against neonicotinoid pesticides in the
> killing of honeybees was dramatically confirmed, resulting in swift
> action on the part of the German Government. Dr. Mae-Wan Ho
>
> Germany's emergency ban
>
> The German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)
> suspended the registration of eight neonicotinoid pesticide seed
> treatment products used in oilseed rape and sweetcorn. a few weeks
> after honeybee keepers in the southern state of Baden Württemberg
> reported a wave of honeybee deaths linked to one of the pesticides,
> clothianidin [1, 2]. Prof. Joe Cummins had warned specifically against
> this class of new pesticides [3] (Requiem for the Honeybee, SiS 34),
> widely used in dressing seeds and in sprays, and "highly toxic to
> insects including bees at very low concentrations." His contribution
> to ISIS'

> Briefing in the European Parliament in June 2007 [4] (Scientists and
> MEPs for a GM free Europe, SiS 35) drew attention to the danger of
> sub-lethal doses of neonicotinoids and Bt biopesticides in GM crops,
> which could act synergistically with pathogenic fungi in causing
> Colony Collapse Disorder in the honeybee, and resulted in a question
> to the European Commission by German MEP Hiltrud Breyer [5] (Emergency
> Motion on Protecting the Honeybee, SiS 35), shortly after she has
> submitted an emergency motion to ban the neonicotinoids.
>
> Unequivocal evidence of pesticide poisoning
>
> Walter Haefeker, president of the European Professional Beekeepers
> Association, reporting to Chemical and Engineering News said [1],
> "Beekeepers in the region started finding piles of dead bees at the
> entrance of hives in early May, right around the time corn seeding
> takes place."
>
> It's a real bee emergency," said Manfred Hederer, president of the
> German Professional Beekeepers' Association told The Guardian [2],
> "50-60 percent of the bees have died on average and some beekeepers
> have lost all their hives."
>
> The incriminating evidence was so convincing that a press release from
> the Julius Kuehn Institute (JKI), the German federal agricultural
> research agency, stated: "It can unequivocally be concluded that a
> poisoning of the bees is due to the rub-off of the pesticide
> ingredient clothianidin from the corn seeds."
>
> Read the rest of this article here
> <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/honeybeePesticideBan.php>
>
> =====
> This article can be found on the I-SIS website at
> <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/honeybeePesticideBan.php>
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-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Oden [mailto:cleaneearth@tds.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2008 4:42 PM
To: Jennings, Henry
Subject: Emergency Pesticide Ban for Saving the Honeybee

Henry - This - and below article - should be attached to the piece for the Board I sent earlier about the death of honeybees from certain pesticides. This is REAL SCIENCE, which the chemical-dependent growers are always demanding. Here it is.

I'm certain virtually all pesticides harm bees, including pollen from GMO plants containing pesticides. This from my personal, real-life observations as a former beekeeper, who would still be one if not for Guthion sprayed on my bees - and me - killing them and doing permanent damage to my lungs.

Time for the Board to do SOMETHING to protect Maine's people and our honeybees, which will also protect their clients (obviously not Maine's people or wildlife or fisheries), Maine agribusiness.

It is WAY past time the Board demand that growers stop spewing poisons around into Maine, harming all extant life. So suicidal to continue poisoning us all, and so easy to go organic. Is there no common sense or survival instinct among them?

- Nancy Oden, Jonesboro

----- Original Message -----

Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 5:10 PM
Subject: [sprayno] Emergency Pesticide Ban for Saving the Honeybee

Emergency Pesticide Ban for Saving the Honeybee

<http://www.i-sis.org.uk/honeybeePesticideBan.php>

Prof. Joe Cummins' warning against neonicotinoid pesticides in the killing of honeybees was dramatically confirmed, resulting in swift action on the part of the German Government. Dr. Mae-Wan Ho

Germany's emergency ban

The German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) suspended the registration of eight neonicotinoid pesticide seed treatment products used in oilseed rape and sweetcorn. a few weeks after honeybee keepers in the southern state of Baden Württemberg reported a wave of honeybee deaths linked to one of the pesticides, clothianidin [1, 2]. Prof. Joe Cummins had warned specifically against this class of new pesticides [3] (Requiem for the Honeybee, SiS 34), widely used in dressing seeds and in sprays, and "highly toxic to insects including bees at very low concentrations." His contribution to ISIS' Briefing in the European Parliament in June 2007 [4] (Scientists and MEPs for a GM free Europe, SiS 35) drew attention to the danger of sub-lethal doses of neonicotinoids and Bt biopesticides in GM crops, which could act synergistically with pathogenic fungi in causing Colony Collapse Disorder in the honeybee, and resulted in a question to the European Commission by German MEP Hiltrud Breyer [5] (Emergency Motion on Protecting the Honeybee, SiS 35), shortly after she has submitted an emergency motion to ban the neonicotinoids.

Unequivocal evidence of pesticide poisoning

Walter Haefeker, president of the European Professional Beekeepers Association, reporting to Chemical and Engineering News said [1], "Beekeepers in the region started finding piles of dead bees at the entrance of hives in early May, right around the time corn seeding takes place."

It's a real bee emergency," said Manfred Hederer, president of the German Professional Beekeepers' Association told The Guardian [2], "50-60 percent of the bees have died on average and some beekeepers have lost all their hives."

The incriminating evidence was so convincing that a press release from the Julius Kuehn Institute (JKI), the German federal agricultural research agency, stated: "It can unequivocally be concluded that a poisoning of the bees is due to the rub-off of the pesticide ingredient clothianidin from the corn seeds."

Tests on dead bees showed that 99 percent had a build-up of clothianidin. (sold in Europe under the trade name Poncho) produced by Bayer CropScience, approved for use in Germany in 2004, and with some restrictions in the US in 2003.

The pesticide was applied to the seeds in advance of being planted or sprayed while in the field. The company blamed an application error by the seed company which failed to use a substance that glues the pesticide to the seed, resulting in the chemical getting into the air. Bayer spokesman Dr Julian Little told the BBC Farming Today that misapplication is highly unusual. It transpired that this year's corn seed in Baden Württemberg was coated with a double dose to counteract a corn beetle infestation [2]. Unusual circumstances yes, but the lethal effect of the pesticides has been suspected for a long time.

Beekeepers had pointed the finger for a long time

According to the report in The Guardian [1], a group of beekeepers from North Dakota in the United States is taking Bayer CropScience to court after losing thousands of honeybee colonies in 1995, during a period when oilseed rape in the area was treated with imidacloprid. A third of honeybees were killed by what has since been dubbed colony collapse disorder.

Imidacloprid is Bayer's best-selling pesticide sold under the name Gaucho in France, but has been banned as a seed dressing for sunflowers in that country since 1999, when a third of French honeybees died following its widespread use; the ban on its use in sweetcorn was imposed five years later. A few months ago, the company's application for clothianidin was rejected by French authorities.

Bayer has always maintained that imidacloprid is safe for bees if correctly applied. "Extensive internal and international scientific studies have confirmed that Gaucho does not present a hazard to bees," said Utz Klages, a spokesman for Bayer CropScience. Last year,

Germany's Green MEP, Hiltrud Breyer tabled an emergency motion calling for this family of pesticides to be banned across Europe while their role in killing honeybees is thoroughly investigated. Her action follows calls for a ban from beekeeping associations and environmental organisations across Europe.

As Cummins pointed out [3], these pesticides are nerve poisons and inhibit the brain enzyme acetylcholine esterase. Sub-lethal levels of the pesticide which fails to kill the bee will nevertheless impair its ability to return to the hive. Furthermore, these and other pesticides also impair the bee's immune system, leaving it much more susceptible to attacks by parasitic fungi and other disease agents [6, 7] (Parasitic Fungi and Pesticides Act Synergistically to Kill Honeybees? SiS 35, Mystery of Disappearing Honeybees, SiS 34).

References

6/11/2008

- 1.. "Pesticides: Germany bans chemicals linked to honeybee devastation", Allison Benjamin, guardian.co.uk, Friday May 23 2008 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/may/23/wildlife.endangeredspecies>
- 2.. "Honeybee Loss", Sarah Everts, C&EN, Chemical and Engineering News 21 May 2008.
- 3.. Cummins J. Requiem for the honeybee. Science in Society 34, 37-38, 2007.
- 4.. Burcher S. and Ho MW. Scientists and MEPs for a GM free Europe. Science in Society 35, 20-25, 2007.
- 5.. Hiltrud B. Collapse of honeybee colonies worldwide. Written Question to the European Commission Science in Society 35, 39 2007.
- 6.. Cummins J. Parasitic fungi and pesticides act synergistically to kill honeybees? Science in Society 35, 38 2007.
- 7.. Ho MW and Cummins J. Mystery of disappearing honeybees. Science in Society 34, 35-36. 2007.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Oden [mailto:cleaneearth@tds.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2008 9:12 AM
To: Jennings, Henry
Subject: Fw: To Bee Organic or not to Bee

Henry - Please attach this related piece to the other material for the Board..... -
Nancy

> ISIS Press Release 11/06/08
>
> To Bee Organic or not to Bee
> *****
>
> Prof. Joe Cummins explains why bees are especially susceptible to
> pesticides
>
> Worsening epidemic of Colony Collapse
>
> Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a growing scourge of honeybees has
> struck again this year. The United States Department of Agriculture
> (USDA) reported a 36 percent loss of colonies in managed hives over
> the winter, up 13.5 percent from the previous year [1]. USDA has yet
> to identify a single pathogen responsible for the disease, and has
> finally begun to study the interaction between pesticides and viruses
> or varroa mites as possible causes [2].
>
> CCD is characterised by the complete absence of adult bees in the
> colonies with little build-up of dead bees in or around the colonies,
> but capped brood and food stores of both honey and bee bread are
> present, and are not immediately robbed by other bees. Attacks by hive
> pests such as wax moth and small hive beetle, if any, are noticeably
> delayed.
>
> In a colony undergoing collapse, the workforce is insufficient to
> maintain the brood, and seems to be made up mostly of young adult
> bees. The queen bee is present, but the cluster is reluctant to
> consume provided feed such as sugar syrup and protein supplement [3].
>
> The Institute of Science in Society has reviewed the evidence on the
> impact of pesticides and the synergistic interaction between
> pesticides (including Bt biopesticides now widely incorporated into
> genetically modified (GM)
> crops) and pathogens such as the fungal parasites [4-6] (Requiem for
> the Honeybee, Mystery of Disappearing Honeybees, SiS 34; Parasitic
> Fungi and Pesticides Act Synergistically to Kill Honeybees? SiS 35).
> That evidence was the basis for question to the European parliament
> urging immediate bans on the pesticides such as the neonicotinoid
> insecticides as well as GM crops containing Bt biopesticides [7]
> (Emergency Motion on Protecting the Honeybee, SiS 35).
>
> In 2008, the German government took the extraordinary step of banning
> neonicotinoid pesticides (see Emergency Pesticide Ban for Saving the

> Honeybee, SiS 39).

>

> Genetics of the honeybee

>

> The honeybee genome has been sequenced, and while rich in genes for

> behaviour and learning relative to other insects, it is deficient in

> genes for immunity and the ability to detoxify toxic chemicals such as

> the pesticides [8]. The genes families involved in insecticide

> resistance in other insects are completely lacking. These shortfalls

> contribute to the sensitivity of bees to insecticides [9]. Bees have

> been found to have immune systems comparable to insects such as flies

> and mosquitoes, but with about one third less genes devoted to

> immunity than other insects. Insects immunity involves inducible

> synthesis of anti-microbial peptides and constitutive

> melanisation-encapsulation response to pathogens The reduced immune

> flexibility of the honeybee may be compensated by social activity such

> as hive cleaning [10]. When bees are challenged by a bacterial

> pathogen, genes in the head of the bee are differentially expressed,

> and show neuroimmune-behaviour interactions similar to those of

> vertebrates [11]. A dysfunction in both its immune response and

> behaviour triggered by exposure to pesticides could easily result in

> CCD.

>

> Read the rest of this article here

> <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/toBeeOrganicOrNotToBee.php>

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