

Pollinator Protection: Overview of Ongoing EPA Efforts

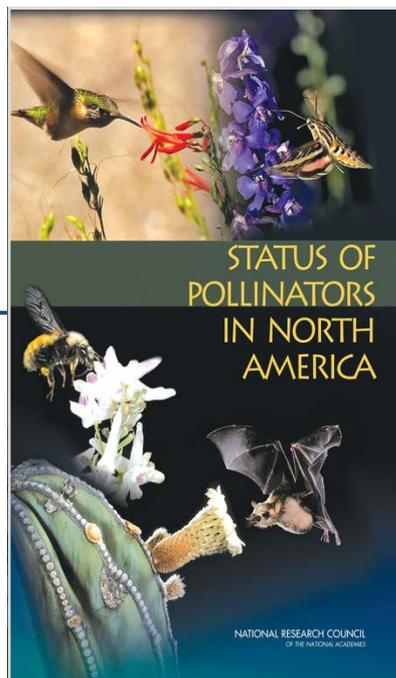
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Outline for the Presentation

- Background
- Recent EPA Actions
- Presidential Memo
- Next Steps

Background

- Multiple federal reports have identified pollinator declines.



http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=11761



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Bee Health: The Role of Pesticides

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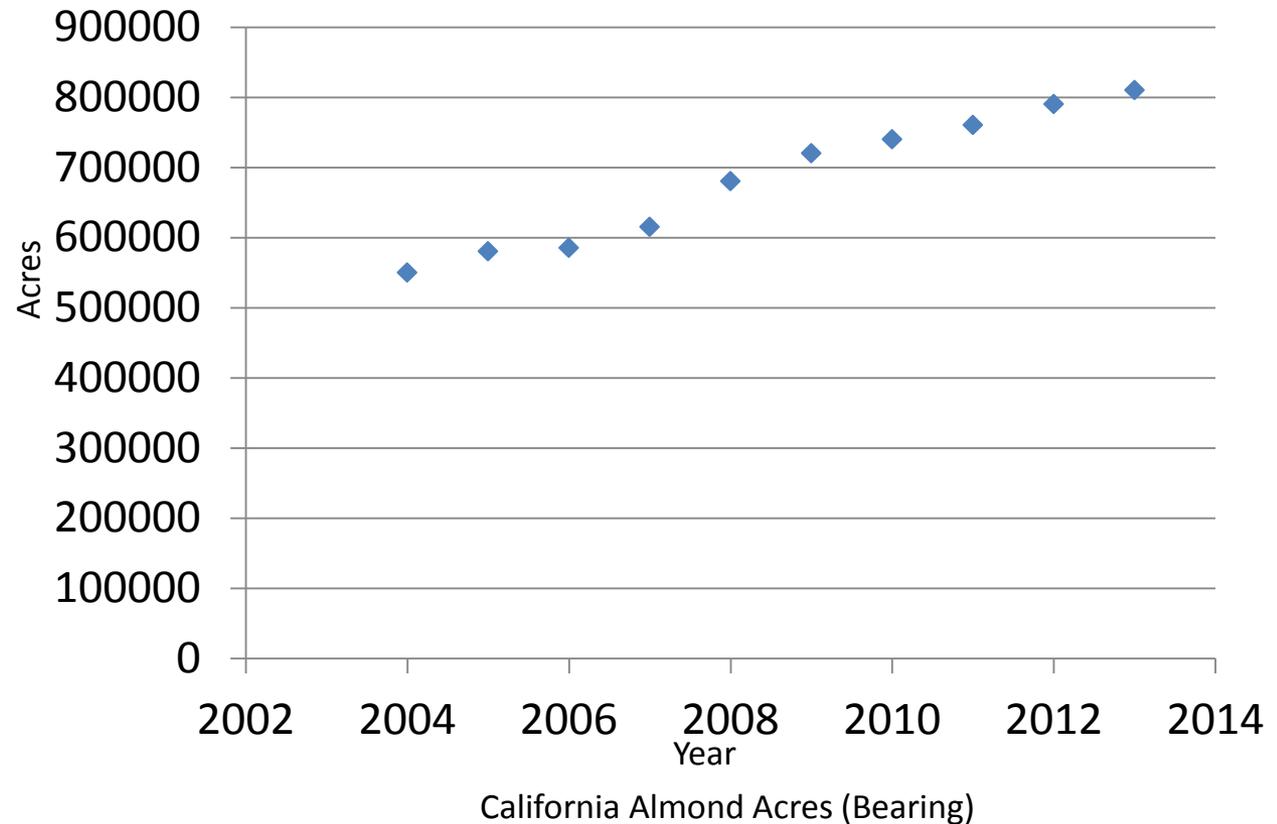
Congressional Research Service
7-5700
www.crs.gov
R42855

CRS Report for Congress
Prepared for Members and Committees of Congress

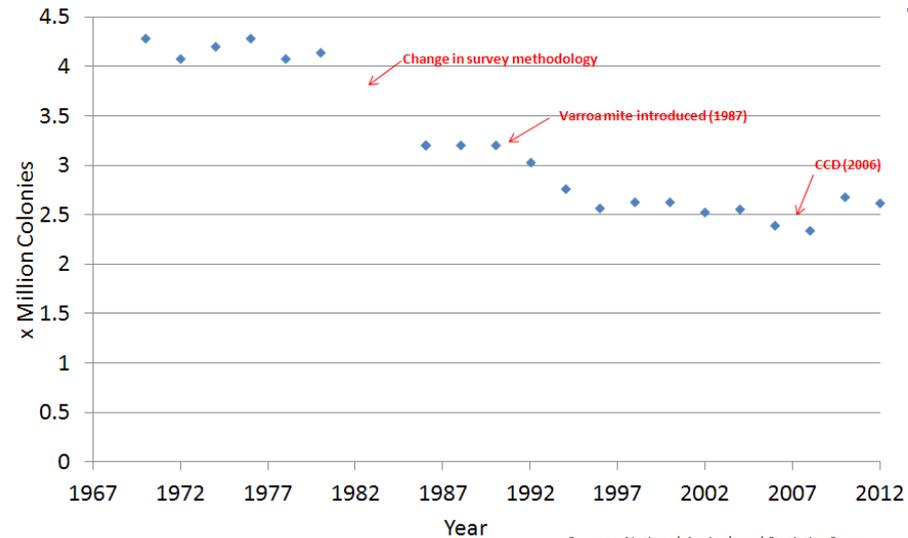
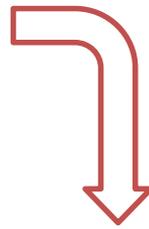
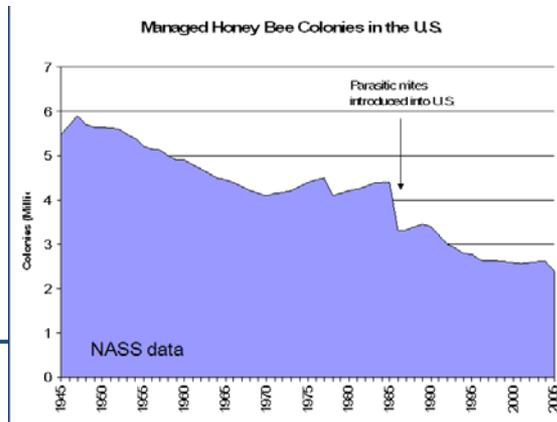
<https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42855.pdf>

Background

- Demand for managed pollinators has continued to increase across multiple crops requiring pollination services.
- Currently, roughly 800,000 acres are planted in almonds requiring roughly 1.6 million honey bee colonies.



Background

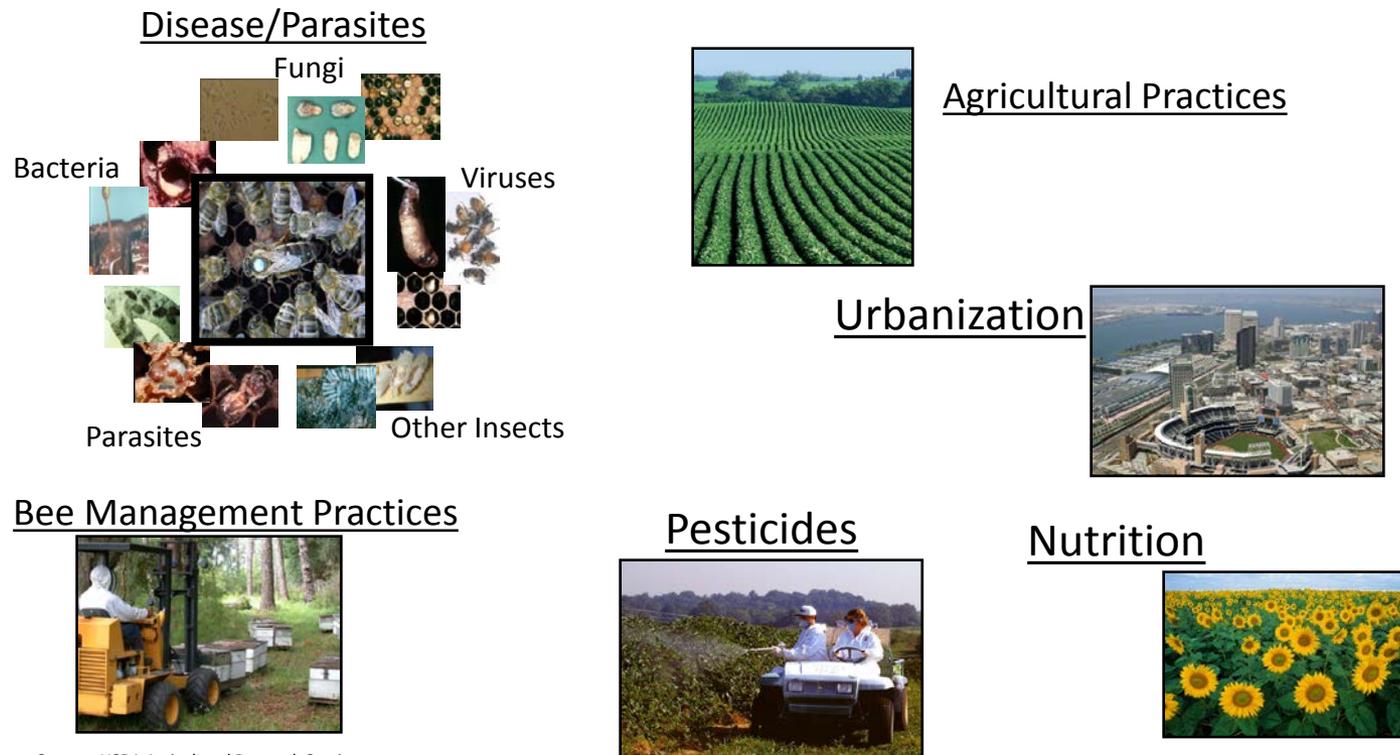


Source: National Agricultural Statistics Survey

- National Agricultural Statistics Survey (NASS) data indicate declines in managed honey bee colonies; peak of approximately 6 million colonies in 1947 to roughly 2.5 million in 2012 (USDA 2008).
- Change in survey methodology in mid-1990s
- Varroa mite introduction (1988) followed by decline in managed colony numbers.
- Numbers have leveled off since 1996.

Background: Factors Associated with Bee Declines

- USDA has identified multiple factors; no single factor identified as “cause”.



Source: USDA Agricultural Research Service

EPA Actions: Risk Assessment Actions

- Interim registration review guidance on exposure and effects data used by EPA to assess potential pesticide hazards on bees (2011)
- Risk Assessment Framework Revisions (2012)
- Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) actions (2011)

EPA Actions: Regulatory Responses

- Bee Kill Incident Inspection Guidance
 - <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/monitoring/fifra/bee-inspection-guide.pdf>
- Bee Kill Incident Reporting
 - beekill@epa.gov
 - <http://pi.ace.orst.edu/erep/>
- Improved Labeling

Improved Labeling

- In response to stakeholder concerns regarding improved label language, EPA developed pollinator protection language that has been applied to the neonicotinoid insecticides
- Pesticide labels on these products will continue to retain more restrictive language
- EPA committed to evaluating whether similar measures should be taken for other pesticides acutely toxic to bees

THE NEW EPA BEE ADVISORY BOX
On EPA's new and strengthened pesticide label to protect pollinators

PROTECTION OF POLLINATORS

APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS EXIST FOR THIS PRODUCT BECAUSE OF RISK TO BEES AND OTHER INSECT POLLINATORS. FOLLOW APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS FOUND IN THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE TO PROTECT POLLINATORS.

Look for the bee hazard icon  in the Directions for Use for each application site for specific use restrictions and instructions to protect bees and other insect pollinators.

This product can kill bees and other insect pollinators. Bees and other insect pollinators will forage on plants when they flower, shed pollen, or produce nectar.

Bees and other insect pollinators can be exposed to this pesticide from:

- Direct contact during foliar applications, or contact with residues on plant surfaces after foliar applications
- Ingestion of residues in nectar and pollen when the pesticide is applied as a seed treatment, soil, tree injection, as well as foliar applications.

When Using This Product Take Steps To:

- Minimize exposure of this product to bees and other insect pollinators when they are foraging on pollinator attractive plants around the application site.
- Minimize drift of this product on to beehives or to off-site pollinator attractive habitat of this product onto beehives can result in bee kills.

Information on protecting bees and other insect pollinators may be found at the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship website at:
<http://pesticidestewardship.org/pollinatorprotection/Pages/default.aspx>

Pesticide incidents (for example, bee kills) should immediately be reported to the state/tribal lead agency. For contact information for your state/tribe, go to: www.aapco.org. Pesticide incidents can also be reported to the National Pesticide Information Center at: www.npic.orst.edu or directly to EPA at: beekill@epa.gov

Alerts users to separate restrictions on the label. These prohibit certain pesticide use when bees are present.

The new bee icon helps signal the pesticide's potential hazard to bees.

Makes clear that pesticide products can kill bees and pollinators.

Bees are often present and foraging when plants and trees flower. EPA's new label makes it clear that pesticides cannot be applied until all petals have fallen.

Warns users that direct contact and ingestion could harm pollinators. EPA is working with beekeepers, growers, pesticide companies, and others to advance pesticide management practices.

Highlights the importance of avoiding drift. Sometimes, wind can cause pesticides to drift to new areas and can cause bee kills.

The science says that there are many causes for a decline in pollinator health, including pesticide exposure. EPA's new label will help protect pollinators.

Read EPA's new and strengthened label requirements: <http://go.usa.gov/jHH4>



EPA Actions: Communications

- USDA and other Federal agencies
- State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG)
- Meetings – e.g., Pollinator Summit
 - Focused on pesticide treated seeds
 - Seed coatings
 - Technologies on seed delivery
 - Communications and BMPs

Presidential Memorandum

- In June 2014, President Obama issued a memorandum directing the executive branch to develop a pollinator health strategy
- The memorandum also created a Pollinator Health Task Force chaired by USDA and EPA
 - Membership on the task force includes the State Department, DOD, DOI, HUD, DOT, DOE, Education, FEMA, NASA, the Smithsonian, OMB, and other parts of the Executive Office of the President
- Strategy is to be developed by mid-December 2014
 - Research Plan
 - Education Plan
 - Public-private partnerships

EPA Requirements in the Presidential Memorandum

- Assess the effects of pesticides on pollinator health
- Engage states and tribes in the development of pollinator protection plans
- Encourage the incorporation of pollinator protection and habitat planting activities into green infrastructure and Superfund projects
- Expedite review of registration applications for new products targeting pests harmful to pollinators
- Increase habitat plantings around Federal facilities

State and Tribal Pollinator Protection Plans

- Several states have been working through this issue at the state level by engaging stakeholders (growers, applicators and beekeepers) and developing state pollinator protection plans
 - California, Colorado, Florida, North Dakota, Mississippi
- These plans serve as examples of effective communication and collaboration between stakeholders at the local level

Engaging Co-Regulators - States

- Actively engaged in understanding how they may contribute to and compliment federal efforts on pollinator protection
- Recent meetings with State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) have focused on proposed label changes related to pollinator protection and pollinator protection plans
- Letter to AAPCO President, SFIREG chair expressing interest working with these groups

Engaging Co-Regulators - Tribes

- Meeting with the Tribal Pesticide Program Council
- Letter to TPPC Chair expressing interest working with this group
- Considering formal tribal consultation

State and Tribal Pollinator Protection Plans

- EPA will seek public input on proposed mitigation
- Goal is to have pollinator protection plans available where appropriate in 2015 and potentially labels that reference pollinator protection plans by 2016
- EPA will continue to conduct chemical-specific risk assessment for insect pollinators and will consider additional chemical-specific mitigation as needed based on chemical-specific risk assessment

Questions or Comments?



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