

Pollinator Protection Plans

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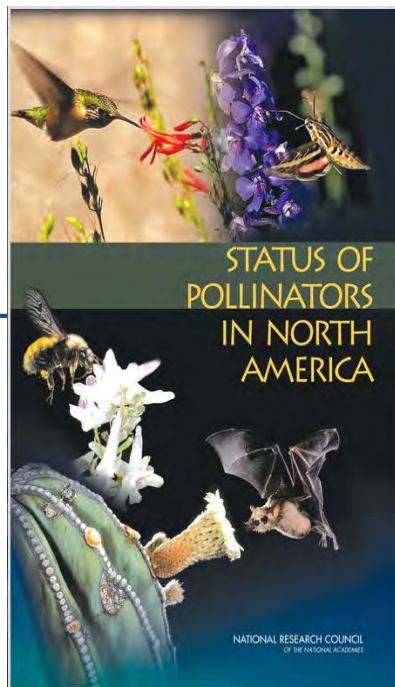
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

May, 2015



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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December 11, 2012

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

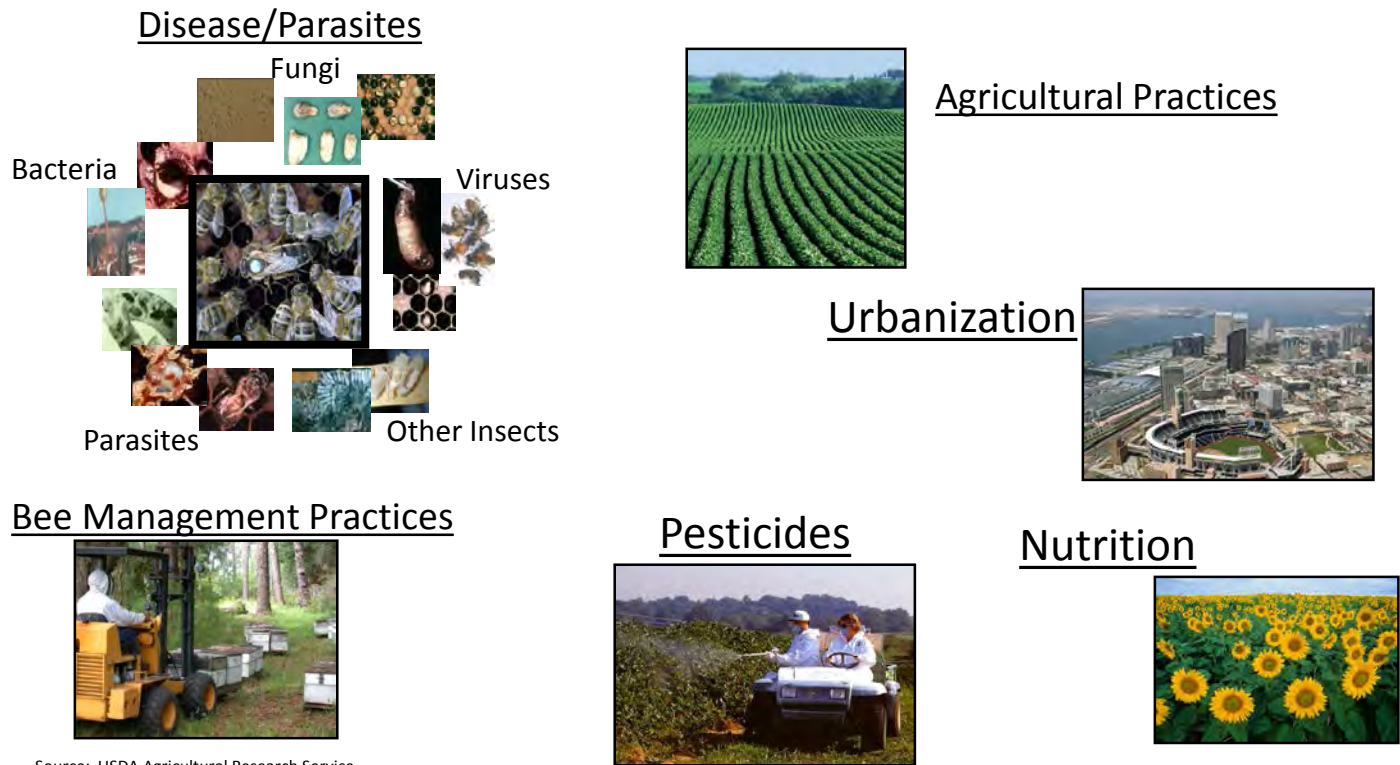
CRS Report for Congress
Prepared for Members and Committees of Congress

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



Background

USDA and EPA have identified multiple factors associated with pollinator declines; no single factor identified as “cause”



Source: USDA Agricultural Research Service

Presidential Memorandum: Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators

On June 20, 2014, President Obama issued a memorandum calling on Federal agencies to increase and coordinate their efforts to improve bee health by developing an integrated strategy.

The strategy incorporates and identifies:

1. Commitments from each Federal agency to promote health of honey bees and other pollinators
2. Pollinator Research Action Plan (PRAP)
3. Public Education Plan
4. Public/Private Partnerships



Photo courtesy of ARS

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

Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3s)

- Several states have been working through this issue prior to the Presidential memo by engaging stakeholders and developing state pollinator protection plans
 - Key stakeholders include growers, applicators and beekeepers
 - Input from researchers
 - Examples of states with pollinator protections plans: California, Colorado, Florida, North Dakota, Mississippi
- These plans serve as examples of effective communication and collaboration between stakeholders at the local level
- Plans can establish local and appropriate agreements and best practices for managing needs of agriculture and beekeepers

Engaging Co-Regulators – States and Tribes

- Letter to AAPCO President, SFIREG chair, TPPC chair expressing interest working with these groups
- Recent meetings with SFIREG have focused on managed pollinator protection plans (MP3s)
- Similar discussions with the Tribal Pesticide Program Council
 - Approaches for tribes to participate in state process where appropriate
- SFIREG drafted guidance document for states to develop plans
 - Identifies elements that are critical for an effective plan
 - EPA provided input to the guidance document
- Further meetings with AAPCO/SFIREG to discuss measures to evaluate effectiveness of pollinator protection plans

SFIREG Draft Guidance - Critical Elements of MP3s

- Stakeholder participation process
- Method to know if managed bees are near the treatment area
- Method of communication between growers and beekeepers
- BMPs to minimize acute risk of pesticides to bees
- Clear defined plan for public outreach
- Process to review and modify plan
- Mechanism to measure effectiveness of the plan

Acute Risk Mitigation Proposal

- Bees likely to be exposed from application of acutely toxic pesticides
 - Different mitigation approaches for exposure scenarios
- EPA is considering label restrictions to protect bees under contracted services at the treatment site
 - Large number of bees are likely to be directly exposed to pesticide spray
- EPA is considering state and tribal MP3s to protect bees in the vicinity of treatment site
 - SFIREG has drafted guidance document for states and tribes to develop MP3s

State Progress

- According to APPCO pollinator committee report
- 5 states have developed and implemented plans (pre-SFIREG guidance)
- ~30 have plans in some stage of the development process
 - Establishing workgroups or committees
 - Identifying stakeholders
 - Convening stakeholder meetings
- Measuring the effectiveness of MP3s
 - Communication, behavior, exposure/risk, overall pollinator health

Next Steps

- EPA will seek public input on proposed mitigation
- Goal is for states/tribes to start pollinator protection plan development where appropriate in 2015
- EPA will monitor the success of these plans in mitigating risk to bees and determine whether further regulatory action is warranted
- EPA will continue to conduct chemical-specific risk assessment according to risk assessment framework for bees and will consider additional mitigation as needed

Questions or Comments?

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For more information on EPA's pollinator protection efforts, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/pollinator-protection>