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## Press Release

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### **Beyond Toxics and People's Food Coop join to highlight link between pesticide threat to bees and potential for diminished food supply**

**Portland, OR (8/15/2013)** In honor of this year's [National Honey Bee Day](#) on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, Beyond Toxics has teamed with People's Food Coop in Portland (3029 SE 21st Ave, Portland, OR 97202) to raise public awareness about the plight of native and honey bees which are dying from Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). On Saturday morning at 10 am, People's Food Coop will provide a visual demonstration of what their produce section might look like if bees were not around to pollinate crops: the produce manager will temporarily conceal the produce that would be directly affected by the loss of the native and honey bees. (See list on p. 2)

For the past few years, bees all around the nation have been dying in large numbers. The recent [mass die-off of 50,000 bumble bees in a Portland suburb](#) was a case in point. That tragedy in Wilsonville, Oregon was directly tied to the use of Safari, a neonicotinoid pesticide that attacks the bees' central nervous system and causes confusion, paralysis and death.

From flowers to cashews, cherries to squash, cardamom to buckwheat, pollinators are integral to Oregon's economy. In fact, *the USDA estimates that about one in every three bites of food and two-thirds of crops overall are made possible because of bee pollination.* Both our environment and much of our food supply are closely tied to the welfare of bees, making the widespread decline in bee population a cause for serious concern.

A growing body of science\*\* implicates neonicotinoid pesticides as a key factor in recent bee die-offs. Recent scientific review by European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) states that neonicotinoids pose an unacceptably high risk to bees. The European Union has put a 2-year ban on the most widely used neonics in an effort to protect bees.

Hillary Barbour, Deputy District Director for Congressman Earl Blumenauer, will be speaking about Blumenauer's "Save America's Pollinators Act," which would direct the EPA to restrict the use of certain neonicotinoid pesticides responsible for mass bee deaths nationwide. Don Francis, Beyond Toxics member and owner of [EcoTech, LLC](#), and Madelyn Mickelberry Morris, Portland area bee expert and owner of [Mickelberry Gardens](#) will be available for questions from the press.

Only foods that are considered primarily or entirely dependent on bee pollination are listed here. The list represents fresh and dried food, juices and nuts and spices in our local grocery stores and helps us better understand the wide variety of food that depends on the work of bees.

**Foods primarily or entirely dependent on bee pollination**

Allspice	Figs (black clam)
Almond	Jicama*
Apples	Kiwifruit
Apricot	Lemon
Artichokes*	Lime
Arugula*	Loquat
Avocado	Macadamia nut
Basil*	Melon (cantaloupe and honeydew)
Blackberry	Onion (all varieties)
Blueberry	Passion fruit
Bok Choy	Peach, Nectarine
Brazil nut	Pears
Broccoli	Plums (red and black)
Buckwheat	Quince
Cabbage	Radish (red, black, daikon)
Cardamom	Raspberry
Carrots	Rose hips
Cashew	Rowanberry
Cauliflower	Squash (all varieties)
Celery	Spearmint*
Cherry (sweet and sour)	Strawberry
Chives*	Tomatoes (most varieties)
Coriander	Tarragon*
Cucumber	Thyme*
Dill*	Turnip
Eggplant	Vanilla
Fennel	Watermelon

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics will be available for interviews via phone (541-465-8860) **prior to** the press event on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please call our office: 541-465-8860 or [email Lisa Arkin](mailto:lisa@beyondtoxics.org), Executive Director of Beyond Toxics.

For more about our Friends of Healthy Bees campaign, please visit: [www.SaveOregonBees.org](http://www.SaveOregonBees.org).

\* Requires bees to produce original seed

\*\*“Two Studies Point to Common Pesticide as a Culprit in Declining Bee Colonies” (March 29, 2012, NY Times): <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/30/science/neocotinoid-pesticides-play-a-role-in-bees-decline-2-studies-find.html>

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### **Beyond Toxics' Mission**

*Beyond Toxics works to guarantee environmental protections and health for all communities and residents, regardless of their background, income or where their home is located. We expose root causes of toxic pollution and help communities find solutions that are appropriate to their needs.*