



A threat to bees is a threat to our food!

1 The Threat

- * America's bee population is struggling. During the last five years, beekeepers have lost more than 30% of their hives annually. While many factors are believed to contribute to this die-off, significant evidence links the use of a certain class of nicotine-derived pesticides, *neonicotinoids*, with bee die-offs.
- * Neonicotinoid insecticides have been linked to harm and death in honey bees, bumble bees, butterflies, birds and aquatic organisms. It has already happened here in Oregon when over 50,000 bumble bees died from landscaping applications in Wilsonville and Hillsboro.
- * The US Geological Survey has found neonicotinoid insecticides in America's streams and rivers.
- * The European Union has already placed a 2-year ban on neonicotinoid insecticides while it conducts in-depth studies on neonicotinoid insecticides and the fate of bees.

2 Potential Impacts to Oregon's Food and Economy

- * Oregon could face potential losses of approximately \$615.6 million in agricultural production if bees continue to decline.
- * The value of Oregon's honey production is worth over \$4 million annually.
- * These figures do not take into account value-added products produced from fruit, vegetables and honey dependent on bees (juices, applesauce, jams, bakery goods, sauces, confections, cosmetics, beeswax, etc.).

3 Take Action!

- * Given the recent bee die-offs in Oregon and disturbing preliminary research, it is clear that neonicotinoids must be evaluated to ensure that their use does not pose an immediate threat to bee populations and the long-term viability of our farms.
- * Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon) has introduced the "Save America's Pollinators Act." The legislation directs the EPA to restrict certain neonicotinoids responsible for bee deaths nationwide. Please sign the petition to Congress to ask for their support:
<http://org.credoaction.com/petitions/tell-congress-stop-the-pesticide-that-is-killing-bees>
- * Beyond Toxics has introduced a petition, "Ban Neonicotinoid Pesticides in Oregon" that directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture to restrict neonicotinoids to protect bees and prevent bee deaths. Please sign it by visiting our web site: www.SaveOregonBees.org