

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**HONEY BEE
HEALTH
COALITION**

www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org

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ABOUT US

The Honey Bee Health Coalition brings together beekeepers, growers, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, conservation groups, manufacturers, and consumer brands to improve the health of honey bees.



Our mission is to collaboratively implement solutions that will help to achieve a healthy population of honey bees and other pollinators in the context of productive agricultural systems and thriving ecosystems.

WHAT WE DO

We create integrated, collaborative approaches to honey bee and pollinator health in agricultural systems:

- We connect diverse sectors and stakeholders on key bee health science, practice, and policy issues
- We develop, distribute, and demonstrate tools, resources and best practices for growers, beekeepers, and agricultural stakeholders
- We catalyze collaboration and commitments toward positive changes for bees

ISSUES WE PRIORITIZE

We focus on the multiple and interrelated stressors on honey bee health:

- We need testing, treatment, and new tools for combatting pests and disease, including varroa
- We need approaches that control crop pests while safeguarding bee health
- We need more and better habitat for honey bees and all pollinators

2023 Highlights

HIVE MANAGEMENT

Goal: Put the best available tools, techniques, and technologies in the hands of beekeepers so they can best manage their hives.



Varroacide Resistance and Testing Team (VRTT)

The VRTT consists of over 30 researchers from 3 countries working on testing orphan compounds to find an effective miticide to kill varroa mites. The cross-sector team with government, academia, and the private sector, has been working for 8 years testing dozens of compounds in the lab and in the field. In 2023, VRTT members secured a **four-year, \$4million grant** from USDA-NIFA's Specialty Crop Research Initiative to advance this research.

8th Edition Tools for Varroa Management Guide

This guide explains practical, effective methods that beekeepers can use to measure varroa infestations in their hives and select appropriate control methods. In 2023, 5,000 print copies of the 8th Edition Tools for Varroa Management Guide were ordered for distribution.

"Hot Topic" webinar

The Honey Bee Health hosted a webinar for beekeepers titled "Tropilaelaps - What you need to know and how you can help" with Dr. Samuel Ramsey of CU-Boulder. The webinar was attended live by 175 participants and the recording is available online at [this link](#).



2023 Highlights

FORAGE & NUTRITION

Goal: Promote on-farm practices and policies to increase access to a varied and nutritious pollinator diet.



Honey Bee Nutrition Guide

Authored by Dr. Priyadarshini Basu and incorporating feedback from a technical review committee comprised of Coalition members and beekeepers, the Honey Bee Nutrition Guide to Supplemental Feeding was completed in December 2023. This guide is the first of its kind and will provide beekeepers with a central and accessible source of information on nutrition supplements.

Pollinator-Friendly Utility-Scale Solar

1.5 million acres of land are predicted to be used by ground solar installations in the near future. This forthcoming guide will provide developers with the encouragement and practicable information for including pollinator-friendly forage in utility-scale solar projects. A complete draft of the guide, authored by Pete Berthelsen and edited by a technical review committee of Coalition members and stakeholders, is currently under review by the Solar Energy Industry Association before finalizing for publication.



CROP PEST CONTROL

Goal: Promote on-farm practices and policies to enhance pollinator stewardship and to control crop pests while safeguarding bee health.

Pollinator Protection for Pesticide Applicators

In collaboration with Pesticide Safety Education Program coordinators, Coalition members have begun identifying needs and opportunities related to pollinator education for pesticide applicators, and are developing a landscape analysis of the varying state structures of pesticide training requirements. In 2024, the Coalition will work to update its existing continuing education module and offer a menu of training topics that can be utilized to serve a variety of training opportunities and regions.



On-Farm Demonstration Proposal

Building off of the joint recommendations submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture for improving federal conservation programs, Honey Bee Health Coalition and Farmers for Monarchs members submitted a grant proposal for a Conservation Innovation Grant On-Farm Trial. A decision on grant awardees is expected in early 2024. If selected, the five-year project would demonstrate and quantify how diverse seed mixes perform better in edge-of-field and in-field plantings compared to traditional mixes.

2023 Highlights

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Goal: Develop outreach materials; work with media outlets, maintain a high-quality website, participate in outreach events, and look for opportunities to raise awareness and education of bee health issues.

Website

In 2023, the Coalition's website saw a **14% increase in unique page views** and a **7% increase in average time spent on page** for the months that analytics are available.



YouTube

- 70,464 views on YouTube
- 3,825 hours watch time
- 804 new subscribers (6,528 total)



Facebook

- 57 unique posts created and amplified
- 851 new followers (6,962 total)
- 3,948 visits (a **224% increase** from 2022)

In-person Events

- Attended the American Beekeeping Federation conference in Jacksonville, FL, January 2023
- Exhibited at Commodity Classic in Orlando, FL, March 2023
- Convened a Coalition member meeting, Sacramento, CA, May 2023
- Attended the American Honey Producers Association conference in San Diego, CA, December 2023



Press

Australian Broadcasting Corporation, "[Bee pest varroa mite common in New Zealand and the US where beekeepers have learned to live with it](#)", September 2023

APPENDIX A: MEMBER LIST

Coalition Members

Ag Retailers Association
Alberta Beekeepers Commission
American Beekeeping Federation
American Honey Producers Association
American Seed Trade Association
Apiary Inspectors of America
BASF
Bayer CropScience
Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund
Bee Culture Magazine
Browning Honey Co.
Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists
Canadian Honey Council
Canola Council of Canada
Conservation Technology Information Center
Corteva Agriscience
CropLife America
Eastern Apicultural Society
Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association
FieldWatch
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees
Heartland Apicultural Society
Hive Tracks
Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium
Michigan State University Extension
Mitsui Chemicals Agro
National Assoc. of State Depts of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Honey Board
National Pesticide Safety Education Center
Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever
Project Apis m.
Propolis Projects/ Levin Family Foundation
Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute Center for Native
Pollinator Conservation (CNPC)
Resource Management Service
Syngenta
U.S. Apple Association
United Soybean Board
University of Maryland
US Canola Association
Veto-pharma
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Western Apicultural Society

Ex Officio Members

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USDA – Office of the Chief Scientist
USDA – Agricultural Research Service
USGS, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center
Canada Bee Health Roundtable

**We thank you for your
continued support in
improving the health of
honey bees.**

CONTACT:

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