

Pollinator Health Strategy: An Update on EPA's Accomplishments



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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

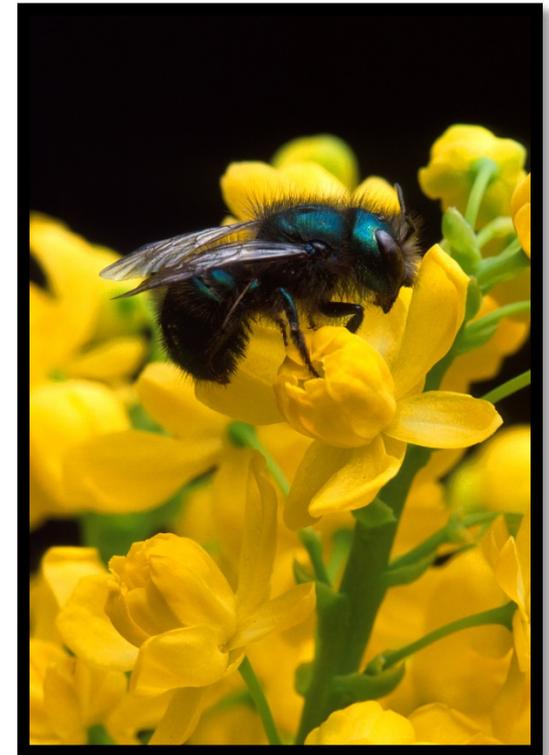


Photo courtesy of ARS

The Task Force



Smithsonian



US Army Corps of Engineers

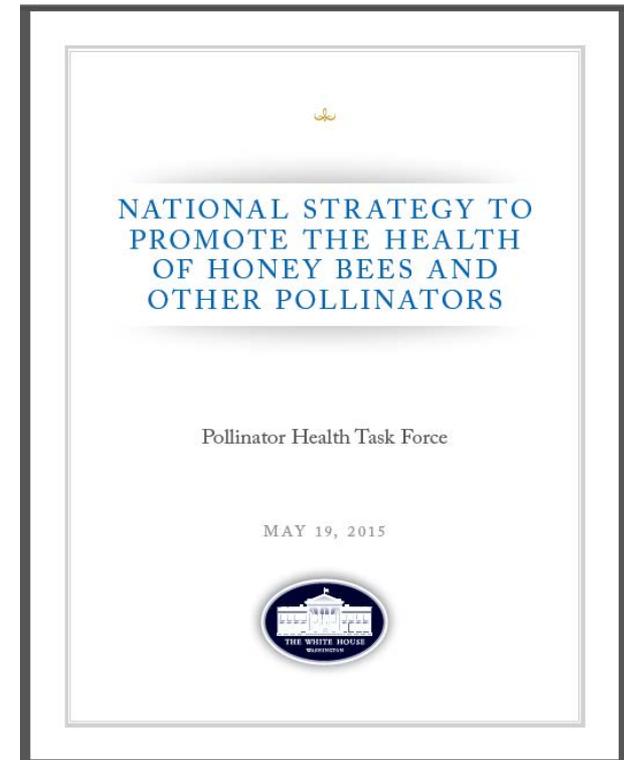


FEMA

National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators

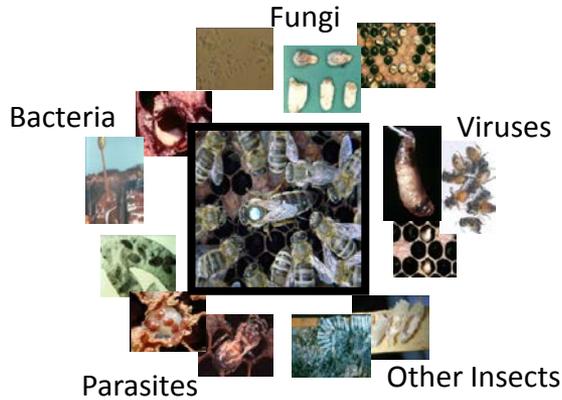
The strategy was released on May 19, 2015 and incorporates and identifies:

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



Factors Associated with Bee Declines

Disease/Parasites



Agricultural Practices



Pesticides

Bee Management Practices



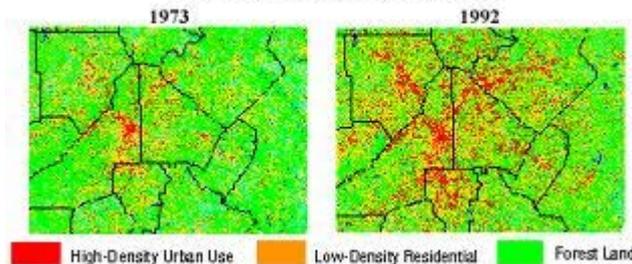
Source: USDA Agricultural Research Service

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Nutrition

Atlanta Area Land Use



Urbanization

Strategy Overarching Goals

1. Reduce honey bee overwintering losses to no more than **15%** within **10 years**
 - Compared to current 5-yr average rate of 30%
2. Restore monarch butterfly populations to **225 million** butterflies by **2020**
 - Their historical average population size
3. Restore/enhance **7 million acres** of land for pollinators over the **next 5 years**
 - Federal action and public/private partnerships



EPA Commitment:

Assess the effect of pesticides on bees and other pollinators

- Issued new pollinator risk assessment guidance
- Developed guidance for EPA risk assessors on the pollinator exposure and effects study requirements
- Collaborating with domestic and international stakeholders to develop test protocols for non-*Apis* bees
- Collaborated with USDA Office of Pest Management Policy to revise USDA publication on the attractiveness of agricultural crops to pollinating bees



EPA Commitment:

Assess the effect of pesticides on bees and other pollinators

- Prioritized the list of chemicals for which higher-tiered testing will be required
- Initiated rulemaking to codify tiered acute and chronic data requirements
- Through January 2016, issued 45 risk assessments for existing pesticides
- In cooperation with Canada and California, issued for public comment a preliminary risk assessment for imidacloprid's potential impact on bees



EPA Commitment: Acute Risk Mitigation Proposal

- Issued a proposal to restrict the use of acutely toxic pesticides during contracted pollination services
 - Proposed to prohibit foliar applications of liquid or dust applications of acutely toxic products during bloom for sites with bees onsite under contract, unless the application is made in accordance with a government-declared public health response.
 - Encouraged the development of Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3's) by states and tribes.
- Over 113,000 comments received



EPA Commitment: Acute Risk Mitigation Proposal

- Currently reviewing comments
- MP3 Symposium held in March 2016
 - Approximately 130 participants
 - Sessions focused on objectives/lessons learned; evaluating the effectiveness of MP3s; engaging stakeholders; and identifying tools for tracking and mapping.
 - Majority of states have implemented, are developing or are planning to develop an MP3



EPA Commitment: Expedite Registration of New Varroa Mite Controls

- Registered the new active ingredient, oxalic acid
- Registered the new active ingredient, hops beta acids
- Published a list of products currently registered to control varroa mites in beehives



Other EPA Accomplishments

- Completed pollinator site assessments at all EPA-owned facilities
- Took comment on a draft framework for protecting monarch butterflies
- Initiated work with state lead agencies to improve consistency in bee kill incident reports



Next Steps

- Finalize the acute risk mitigation strategy
- Implement pollinator data requirements
- Continue to assess the effects of pesticides on pollinators and implement risk mitigation, as needed
- Promote habitat enhancements across various landscapes
- Continue to collaborate with federal, state, tribal, international, and private sector partners