

Pesticide Investigation

Honey Bee Death



Honey Bee Death Investigations

Pesticides are a commonly used tool to manage many of Minnesota's agricultural systems. Pesticide product labels and applicator training are designed to minimize impacts toward non-target organisms like honey bees. Unfortunately, unintended impacts to honey bees from pesticides can occur. Minnesota has developed a bee kill compensation program to minimize the financial burden to beekeepers from non-target pesticide related affects. This brochure has been developed to help beekeepers and pesticide applicators understand Minnesota's bee kill compensation program.

How to Report a Bee Kill

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) responds to formal, written complaints.

You can file a complaint online

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicalcomplaints>

OR report an incident:

Minnesota Duty Officer

800/422-0798 day or night, 7 days per week

Questions can be addressed by calling:

MDA's Complaint Line

651/201-6333 Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



FOR BEEKEEPERS

What to Expect from an MDA Investigation

- An MDA investigator will contact you as soon as possible to coordinate an inspection of the affected apiary.
- Investigators will obtain samples for pesticide residue analysis including live and dead bees. Additional samples may be taken to help determine hive health including collecting bees to quantify varroa mite and nosema levels.
- As soon as pesticide analytical results are available you will be provided copies.
- Upon the close of the investigation, you will be notified of the outcome.
- If compensation eligibility criteria are met, you will be directed to complete a compensation claim form.

Registration of Apiaries

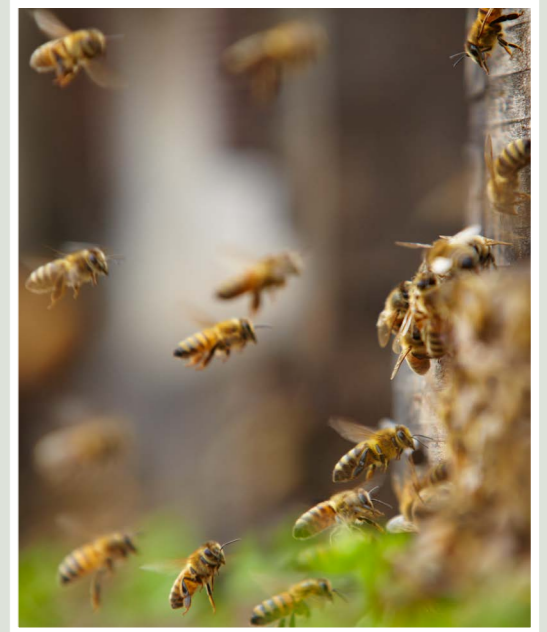
- To insure that applicators know where your apiaries are and communicate information related to pesticide applications, beekeepers should register apiaries online at the BeeCheck apiary registry hosted by FieldWatch.
- Note: Beekeepers can select during the registration process whether or not their apiary location will appear on the public map, or if they are only visible to applicators registered on FieldWatch.

Getting Compensated

- The Commissioner of Agriculture ultimately determines eligibility for compensation; however, the following eligibility criteria are strongly considered.
 - The acute pesticide poisoning threshold has been met.
 - Lab samples show non-beekeeper applied pesticide residues present in dead bees.
- The following eligibility criteria are required by law.
 - The apiary is registered with FieldWatch/ BeeCheck MDA's designated voluntary apiary location registry

Tips to Help an Investigation

- Report the bee deaths as soon as possible; pesticides may degrade and dead bees decay with time.
- If pesticide exposure is suspected, note weather conditions and if pesticide applicators are/were nearby.
- Take pictures of affected hives and dead bees, but do not remove dead bees.



FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

Avoiding Non-Target Impacts when Applying Pesticides

- Use the FieldWatch website, www.fieldwatch.com, to learn if registered apiaries are near your application site.
- If registered apiaries are nearby, communicate application intentions to these beekeepers. Honey bees fly three miles on average from their hive to forage for food.
- Scout fields to determine if the pest's economic threshold has been met.
- Verify that pollinators are not in and around the site of application.
- When possible, use the lower application rates specified on a pesticides label when the label contains a "Bee Hazard" statement.
- Read and follow all pesticide product label directions before making an application. The label is the law!



MDA Compensation Process



Complaint filed with the MDA



MDA conducts investigations for pesticide misuse and colony illness

There must be ≥ 100 dead bees in/around a hive for every frame of live bees. For example if 4 frames of bees are present, a minimum of 400 dead bees must be present



YES



YES



YES



Eligible for compensation: complete and submit claim form

Affected apiary is registered with FieldWatch/BeeCheck before the suspected application occurred

NO

NO

Pesticide analysis shows non-beekeeper applied pesticide present in/on dead bees

NO



MDA compiles and reviews evidence with advisory group and the Commissioner of Agriculture



Commissioner of Agriculture decides compensation eligibility



Not Eligible for Compensation

