

To: California Department of Food and Agriculture,

By 2030, every farm in California should be organic, or on the way to becoming certified organic.

This is the most important issue in agriculture in our state--and worldwide. Although every cause of the decline in the honeybee population has not been identified, one contributory cause is definite: pesticides. Pesticides have already eliminated bees completely in some parts of China, and definitely play a role in the loss of bees here.

It is not an exaggeration to say that without bees, in a few years, our own survival would be in question.

Organic agriculture is also very important because of climate change. Organically grown crops are more stable and survive weather changes like extreme heat or cold better. Organic soil is more stable and erodes less.

And according to USDA analysis, organic fruits and vegetables have 5 times or more the amount of vitamins and minerals as their non-organic counterparts.

Also Californians who live near conventional farms have much higher rates of certain cancers and other illnesses directly related to pesticides.

Organic farming is an important way to ensure California's healthy future. Let California be a leader in good nutrition, clean air, health, and abundant food supplies.

Sincerely,

Amy Anderson
Santa Maria, CA