CA State Board of Food and Agriculture

POLLINATOR HEALTH

PRESENTED BY RENEE PINEL
WESTERN PLANT HEALTH ASSOCIATION

APRIL 01, 2014

WPHA Perspective

- *Protecting bees and protecting plants are both valuable and critical goals to pursue. It does not have to be one or the other. Pesticides, including neonics, are key and necessary tools in Integrated Pest Management Programs just as bees play a critical role.*
- *Pesticides should not be the sole focus.*
  - *There is consensus from research and workshops globally - that there is no one cause of bee health issues*
  - *Multiple factors are involved such as varroa mite, disease in hives, lack of genetic diversity of bees, lack of good forage habitat, overworking bees, etc. The highest correlation of a factor to adverse impacts on bees is varroa mite. Australia example.*
- *Regulatory actions must be based on risk assessments that utilize reliable data, sound science and standards laid out in legislation like FIFRA. All pesticides are heavily regulated. Registrants are required to submit studies that access impact on bees.*

Lots Being Done

- *EPA's Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) – 4 work groups (BMP, Enforcement, Labeling and Communication).*
- *Research – Universities, Commodity and Bee Keeper Associations, USDA, Registrants*
- *Best Management Practices, National Cotton Council Project and California Citrus Industry.*
- *USDA Stakeholder meeting Oct 2012 and subsequent report*
- *CropLife America Pollinator Issue Management Team and Seed Treatment Workgroup. Registrant research into varroa mite control.*

This is a Complicated Issue

- *Several individuals from the Steering Committee along with Pennsylvania State University met in October 2012 for a National Stakeholders Conference on Honey Bee Health to discuss future actions to promote health and mitigate risks to managed honey bees in the U.S.*
  - *Recognizes **Varroa mite** as the "single most detrimental pest of honey bees and is closely associated with overwintering colony decline."*
    - *Elevated colony losses are NOT occurring in Australia where Varroa is absent.*
  - *Notes multiple diseases associated with CCD, many of which are **amplified by Varroa**.*
  - *Urges adoption of BMPs to enhance bee health.*
  - *Significantly improve genetic diversity in bees.*
  - *Increase nutritional options (forage) to lessen susceptibility to stressors.*
  - *Continue understanding of pesticide impacts at field-relevant exposures.*
  - *Greater collaboration and information sharing among stakeholders will facilitate adoption of BMPs and is critical to improving bee health.*

Need to Work on Solutions

- ***Best Management Practices***
  - ***In crop protection***
  - ***In bee management***
  - ***Most successful are local***
- ***Continued and Increased Research***
  - ***Varroa Mite***
  - ***Bee nutrition***
  - ***Bee Keeper Education and Assistance***
- ***Increased safe habitat and forage for bees***

Keys to Success

- ***All Stakeholders Involved***
- ***All interests Considered***
- ***Communication***
  - ***Bee registries***
  - ***Spray plans***
- ***Education***
- ***Sound Scientific Research and Solutions***