



Department of  
**Environmental  
Conservation**

# **New York State Pollinator Task Force**

**Protecting Pollinators: The New York Pollinator Conference  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County  
Voorheesville, NY**

**September 22, 2015**

# Topics for Today

New York State Pollinator Task Force

New York State Pollinator Protection Plan

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

Ongoing Activities Related to Pesticides

# New York State Pollinator Task Force

Governor Cuomo Announces Taskforce to Develop Pollinator Protection Plan to Protect New York's Agricultural Economy, April 23, 2015

Task Force chaired by:

- Commissioner of Department of Agriculture & Markets
- Commissioner of Department of Environmental Conservation

Goal:

Meet with **farmers**, **research institutions**, and key **industry** leaders to develop a **roadmap** to conserve and grow pollinator populations

# New York State Pollinator Task Force

## Partnerships

- Research institutions
- Public-Private partnerships

## Education and Information Sharing

- Share information among beekeepers, land owners, and applicators
- Public Education & Outreach

## Habitat Enhancement

## Best Management Practices



# New York State Pollinator Protection Plan

## Stakeholder/Advisor Meetings

### When

- August 6 – Kickoff Meeting
- September 11 – Research Needs
- October 1 – BMPs and Habitat Enhancement

### Who

- Beekeepers
- Growers
- Cornell
- Pesticide Registrant & Applicator Associations
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)



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

Presidential Memorandum – Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators.

June 20, 2014

- Established Pollinator Health Task Force
  - Pollinator Research Action Plan
  - Public Education Plan
  - Public-Private Partnerships
  
- Increase and Improve Pollinator Habitat



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

National Strategy issued May 19, 2015

Three main goals

- **Honey Bees:** Reduce colony losses during winter to no more than 15% within 10 years
- **Monarch Butterflies:** Increase Eastern population to 225 million by 2020
- **Pollinator Habitat Acreage:** Restore or enhance 7 million acres over the next 5 years through federal actions and public/private partnerships



# USEPA's Proposal to Mitigate Exposure to Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticides

- Issued May 28, 2015
- Mandatory pesticide label restrictions
- Focused on **managed pollinators under contracted services** for pollination
- Limited in scope - No **foliar** applications during bloom when bees on-site
- 76 active ingredients identified [**17 are not registered in NYS**]
- Proposed label directions - may change after public comment
- **Non-acutely toxic products** addressed in registration process
- Relying on **states** to address non-managed pollinators through **pollinator protection plans**





# SFIREG Guidance for State Pollinator Protection Plans

- Issued June 2015
- Critical Elements
  - **Flexibility** in the plan – regulatory, voluntary, non-pesticide issues
  - **Stakeholder Process**
  - Method for growers to know where bees are **located**
  - Method for growers to identify and **contact** bee keepers
  - **BMPs** to minimize risk to bees
  - A plan for **public outreach**
  - **Measurement** of success



# Ongoing Activities Related to Pesticides

## Product Registration

- EPA required label changes on neonicotinoid products in late 2013
- DEC processed those changes on products in 2014
- Changes included Pollinator Protection Box and new directions for use

## Bee Kills

- DEC and Ag & Markets follow up on reports of bee kills
- DEC reports to EPA



# Thank You

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