

Beekeepers question Bayer CropScience at Guelph symposium



[CTV Barrie: Bayer questioned over neonicotinoids](#)



With mounting concerns over mass bee die-offs, many gathered today to question pesticide producer Bayer. Roger Klein reports.



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Bees in Ontario are dying at an alarming rate, and the problem of these collapsing bee colonies was the subject of a big meeting today in Guelph.

And beekeepers took the opportunity to confront a major pesticide manufacturer.

It was standing-room only at the University of Guelph this afternoon as Bayer CropScience Canada held a symposium to educate the public about the range of issues threatening bee populations.

Photos



Jim Coneybeare is one of those beekeepers who went to listen, but says he didn't hear any mention of the number-one issue facing bees and beekeepers in Ontario: neonicotinoids pesticides.

He says the chemicals have been killing his bees.

“We see neonic residues in my hives and where we see residue levels we see dead and dying bees,” he says, calling it “a highly-problematic situation.”

Studies show neonics are highly toxic to bees, even in tiny amounts. They are used to protect corn, soybean, and canola seeds from chewing insects and are highly effective. But the chemicals are water soluble and accumulate in soils from year to year.

Paul Thiele with Bayer CropScience says the company went to Guelph to open the dialogue between beekeepers, farmers, and the scientific community.

“It’s going to demand a very high level of management and a lot of effort in the research community to find the right solutions for beekeepers and growers,” he tells CTV News.

Manager of scientific affairs Murray Belyk says steps have been taken to reduce pesticide dust during planting and says more research is being done.

“It’s a study that involves beekeepers to collect their data. It will be written up and interpreted by bee keepers that are arm’s-length from Bayer,” says Belyk.

But Bernie Wiehle says the time to talk is running out for beekeepers and concrete action is needed.

“Very simply, we have to limit the use of neonic pesticides, only use them for the short term where it’s needed and quickly transition away from this class of chemicals,” he says.

Health Canada is currently re-evaluating its approval of neonics and the province is looking at ways to limit the use of the chemicals. However, farmers say that could lead to the use of other harmful pesticides.

Read more: <http://barrie.ctvnews.ca/beekeepers-question-bayer-cropscience-at-guelph-symposium-1.1915502#ixzz37f7A1os5>

NORAHG RESPONDS TO CONEYBEARE — WHAT BEE CRISIS ?

Coneybeare is WRONG ! Prohibition against neonicotinoid insecticides will NOT resolve so-called bee colony collapse disorder, and will NOT help beekeepers with their pest problems. There is NO bee crisis in Canada. According to Statistics Canada, there is NO bee crisis since the number of honey bee colonies are up, NOT down, in the province of Ontario and across Canada. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7sq> There is NO bee crisis in Canada. According to Agriculture Canada, there is NO bee crisis since Canada’s honey yield is twice the world’s average. <http://wp.me/s1jq40-28297> There is NO bee crisis in Canada. Prohibition is not even listed as the top three concerns of bee-keepers, according to Canadian Honey Council, which is the trade association that represents bee-keepers all across the nation. <http://tinyurl.com/pe3ujsj> Canadian Honey Council actively opposes prohibition against neonicotinoid insecticides, arguing that, with prohibition, the destruction of the agriculture industry would be extensive, and that even

if prohibition were imposed, there would be no notable change in any bee losses. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7sq> And, there is NO bee crisis in Ontario. According to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, there is NO bee crisis since large bee losses are NOT occurring uniformly across Ontario. Additionally, according to Premier Wynne, there is NO bee crisis since many bee-keeping operations have NOT been affected and have been able to maintain strong and healthy bee colonies as evidenced by hive strength and honey production. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7Mw> There is NO bee crisis in Canada. According to Health Canada, there is NO bee crisis since only a very limited number of bee-keepers report losses due to so-called bee-colony collapse disorder, less than 1.0 per cent. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2BA> In 2012, a mere 43 bee-keepers alleged losses. In 2013, only 82 bee-keepers alleged losses. There are 7,000 bee-keepers keeping 600,000 colonies of honeybees across Canada. There is NO bee crisis in Canada. According to Health Canada, there is NO bee crisis since only a small minority of bee-keepers like Coneybeare are affected. Essentially, less than 1.0 per cent of all bee-keepers are reporting losses. These represent the anti-pesticide bee-keepers who appear to be merely motivated by greed and profit by demanding government hand-outs from provinces like Ontario. Over 99 per cent of all bee-keepers are reporting NO losses. This 1.0 per cent of bee-keepers also appear to have NO idea what they are doing, leading some observers to conclude that bee-keepers like Coneybeare may NOT be competent to raise bees, and certainly know almost nothing about pest control products. There is definitely a bee crisis with incompetent bee-keepers. There is definitely a bee crisis with varroa mites. The real causes of bee mortality in recent years are varroa mites as well as nosema fungal disease. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7sq> The 1.0 per cent of bee-keepers like Coneybeare appear to be unable and unwilling to control their mite and disease problems, and appear to prefer concocting mis-information about neonicotinoid insecticides for mere greed and profit. There is NO bee crisis. Science and statistics do NOT support demands to prohibit against neonicotinoid insecticides in agriculture. If we had less conventional neonicotinoid use in the environment, we would still have bee colony collapse disorder, because many bee-keepers are NOT competent to manage their hives. For the whole truth regarding BEES, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6WJ> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2BA> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6H8> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7ty> NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUIE that seek to harm the Green space industry. WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G. Get the latest details at The Pesticide Truths Web-Site <http://pesticidetruths.com/> and go to The Complete Library Of Web-Pages, Reports, & References <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr>