



Farmers 'very, very concerned' ⁸



By [Darcy Cheek](#), Recorder and Times
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ELGIN - Producer comments at the last Ontario government consultation on proposed pesticide reductions didn't come as a surprise to Grain Farmers of Ontario CEO Barry Senft.

While Senft was attending a GFO district meeting in Elgin on Wednesday, concerns were being voiced in Kingston about the government's proposed 80 per cent reduction by 2017 in the number of acres planted with neonicotinoid treated corn and soybean seed.

The government's proposed pesticide reduction is intended to address environmental and pollinator health concerns.

"(Producers) see the treatment of neonics as important to their livelihoods," said Senft on Thursday.

After the government's announcement in November of the proposed reductions, with implementation as early as this July, the GFO decided to boycott the government's three public consultations. Part of that reaction, Senft said, was based on the government ignoring information from its own panel and the scientific community.

“The jury is still out about the affect (neonicotinoid) treatment has on bee health,” Senft said.

Opposition agriculture critic MPP Toby Barrett pointed out the same when he challenged the Liberal government in November, reporting the government’s Bee Health Working Group did not promote a reduction or ban on ‘neonics’, but instead recommended ‘best practises’, something the agriculture community has been working toward for two years.

“The real consultation period took place over the previous 600 days,” said Leeds-Grenville MPP Steve Clark, who was at the GFO meeting briefly and talked with Senft. “(Farmers) feel they have been working with the government for 600 days and with the new changes have been given 60 days.”

Clark said he has talked to many producers in the past month and half and gained the consensus they want decisions based on evidence and science, not political motivation.

“Everybody wants to mitigate the risk of exposure to pollinators,” he said. “They just want to be listened to.”

Clark said there has been a betrayal of good-intentioned producers by the government in respect to work done the past two years.

“They have been quite willing to work with neighbouring beekeepers,” said Senft of practises such as reducing harmful drift or being mindful of where hives are located. “Even though there was a reported 70 per cent reduction in bee deaths compared to the same time the year before, we got slammed with this proposal.”

The GFO has held eight of 15 of its district meetings and the pesticide reduction proposal has been a heavy item agenda.

Senft said members are ‘very concerned’ about the reductions reducing their ability to make a living.

The GFO estimates it could cost Ontario producers \$630 million a year.

“Commodity prices are softening to what they were three or four years ago and farmers rely on that extra yield as the difference between that of profit or loss.

“It’s not just the passing concern, you know it’s a pain and we’ll get to live with it, farmers are very, very concerned about this proposal and how it’s going to affect their bottom line.”

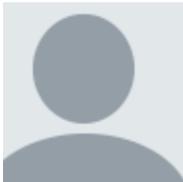
The government consultations were intended to gather information before any kind of formal reduction proposal is made.

Senft said if neonicotinoid reductions are passed it will not affect 2015 planting as seed is already ordered and the government originally set a July 1 date, normally well after seeding season.

Senft concluded corn and soy producers will continue to try and work with 'best practise' methods but at the cost of receiving little recognition for their efforts.



Join the discussion...



Norah G Fon · 4 minutes ago Hold on, this is waiting to be approved by Brockville Recorder.

THIS ARBITRARY PROHIBITION MUST BE STOPPED, FOREVER ! If growers are really concerned, then they must be prepared to **SUE EVERYONE'S BRAINS OUT !** On November 25th, 2014, the anti-pesticide Ontario Liberal government proposed an 80 per cent reduction in the number of agricultural hectares planted with seed treated with neonicotinoid insecticides. <http://tinyurl.com/o3tf4sv> In essence, this proposal represents a thinly-veiled prohibition, the very same kind of reckless and arbitrary legislation that has already destroyed Ontario's professional lawn care industry. Since 2009, the carnage caused by this prohibition against so-called cosmetic pesticides has inflicted business destruction and business failures. Because of Ontario's 2009 provincial prohibition, businesses operating in the professional lawn care industry have **LOST OVER 500,000,000 DOLLARS**, with up to 12,500 **UNEMPLOYED**. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-43B> The destruction of the professional lawn care industry was extensive because there were/are **NO** valid economical alternatives to replace the prohibited products that were desperately need to control damaging pests of turf and ornamental plants. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> Similarly, Ontario's agriculture industry **WILL BE** imminently facing destruction since neonicotinoid insecticides are desperately needed to effectively and safely control damaging pests of crops. The anti-pesticide Ontario Liberal government is falsely alleging that neonicotinoid insecticides are the cause of so-called bee colony collapse disorder — in fact, bee losses occur because some bee-keepers may be wholly unsuited to be raising bees. Overall, there is **NO** bee crisis in Ontario because of insecticides, and **ANY** prohibition is **NOT** necessary ! The Ontario Liberal government, and bee conspiracy terrorists, are **NOT** credible sources of real scientific

information upon which this political decision about prohibition can be made. It is inescapable that the allegations against neonicotinoid insecticides are FALSE ! If we had less conventional neonicotinoid use in Ontario, we would still have bee colony collapse disorder, because many beekeepers are NOT competent to manage their hives. There is NO other recourse but litigation and complaints ! CropLife Canada, Grain Farmers of Ontario, and all agricultural businesses, must sue the anti-neonicotinoid SOBs' brains out ! They must stop the proposed prohibition in Ontario, whatever the cost may be ! They must demand that the proposed prohibition be stopped, forever. For more information, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8FZ> We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAH G). We are dedicated to reporting PESTICIDE FREE FAILURES, as well as the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS. Get the latest details at <http://pesticidetruths.com/> <http://pesticidetruths.com/toc...http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr> <https://www.facebook.com/norah...> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G SUE THE SOBs' BRAINS OUT ! (Blog)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/201...>



DropShotr · 7 hours ago

Don't see many bees or dragonflies any more. I try to let the dandelions flower before mowing the grass so the local bees can have their first meal of the year. This crap and a lot of other poisons sprayed or engineered into our food need to be completely banned as soon as possible.



Norah G Fon DropShotr · 20 minutes ago

If you are no longer seeing bees and dragonflies, that is SHEER COINCIDENCE ! Using such HEARSAY as a basis for recklessly banning products that desperately needed by the agriculture Industry is WRONG ! If YOU are unhappy with modern society, perhaps you should review the history of man in the 1800s, when the average ;lifespan was less than 50 years. Do you want to die before turning 50 ?!?!



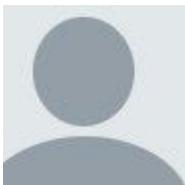
Furtz · 21 hours ago

I didn't see a single wild honeybee on my rural property last year. The year before, I saw two or three. Sadly, our federal leader is more preoccupied with the "second coming" of "you know who" than he is with the survival of the planet.



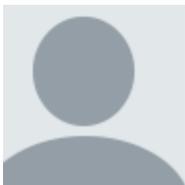
Norah G Fon Furtz · 16 minutes ago

FURTZ has expressed a very very silly statement. In fact, environmental issues in Canada have NEVER BEEN BETTER, and the health of the Canadian economy is among the BEST in the world. As for the coming of Pierre (aka Justin) Trudeau, his ascendance to power, with his team of lunatics, can only have a negative impact on an already prosperous society. Finally the planet is NOT in peril, and we will all survive quite nicely despite your FEAR-MONGERING !



limestone3 · a day ago

My neighbor's two apple trees had no fruit on them this year. I thought that the bees must have been wearing condoms last spring, but, now that I think of it, there were no bees. I wonder why?



GolfandRelax · a day ago

Why reduce to 80% by 2017? Why not 100% now.



Norah G Fon GolfandRelax · 13 minutes ago

Because the lunatic-Liberals do not want to be seen imposing yet another destructive pesticide ban, like the one that annihilated the professional lawn care industry. 80 per cent was an arbitrary number that will likely be reduced considerably as reality begins to set into their dim-witted judgement. The fact remains that if neonicotinoid insecticides become prohibition in Ontario, the agriculture industry **WILL BE DESTROYED !**



bvillebill · a day ago

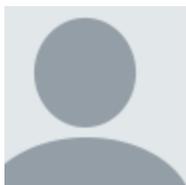
" the jury is still out on Neonics"- Wrong. Banned in Europe for years now. Lots of science to back it up.

" we work with local beekeepers to reduce harmful drift"- wrong again! the poison is part of the actual plant and effect the bee when its on the flower....



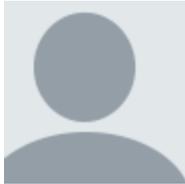
Norah G Fon bvillebill · 11 minutes ago

Neonicotinoid insecticides will be reinstated in the European Union in 2015. The **VAST MAJORITY** of the member nations **DO NOT WANT PROHIBITION**. Essentially, the so-called scientific jury has concluded that these insecticides are scientifically safe, and will not harm bees.



1dumbanddumber1 [bvillebill](#) · a day ago

I read the article a couple of times just to understand what is being treated with neonicotinoid pesticide. The article states the farmers are using treated seed in which case you are absolutely correct, there would be no drift as the pesticide is incorporated into the plant's system from the first day it starts to sprout. Makes sense then that the bees would pick up the poison from the contaminated pollen. Not sure why seth thinks your statement is hogwash?



bvillebill [1dumbanddumber1](#) · a day ago

there may be some drift, but from all I ve read the problem is right in the plant itself... So the issue is, big grain yields or no fruit / vegetable crops??? Some where in there is a happy medium I m sure.



Norah G Fon [bvillebill](#) · 9 minutes ago

There is NO spray drift because this insecticide is coated onto the seed before planting. Bees CANNOT be affected because this insecticide works from WITHIN the plant only.



seth [bvillebill](#) · a day ago

hoggwash