
NEWS LOCAL

Action promised on bee-killing pesticides

Paul Morden, QMI Agency
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Watford-area beekeeper Dan Davidson welcomes Ontario's decision to consider restrictions on pesticides tied to the death of honeybees.

"I think their head's in the right place on this one," said Davidson, president of the Ontario Beekeepers Association.

"They understand it's just getting used whether it's needed or not, and that's not good for any pesticide, especially one that's very deadly to bees and other pollinators."

The beekeepers' association has been pushing Ontario to act on neonicotinoid, a class of pesticides used to treat corn and soybean seeds that Health Canada says affects honeybees and other pollinators.

"Our intention is to move away from the widespread, indiscriminate use of neonicotinoid-based pesticides," Jeff Leal, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, said in a statement provided by his office.

Ontario's honey industry has been struggling with what Davidson has called an unsustainable 35% average annual death rate among honeybees.

He has pointed to the fact 30% of the food humans eat requires pollination, and honeybees do 80% of the pollinating.

"It's obvious something needs to be done and this approach is a step in the right direction," Davidson said.

But Steve Denys, past-president of the Canadian Seed Trade Association, said on July 7 restricting use of the pesticides could have

unintended environmental consequences.

"We are perplexed by the announcement," said Denys, who farms in Chatham-Kent and is vice-president of sales and marketing for Pain Court-based Pride Seeds.

The seed industry and farmers have already been working to reduce the risk to bees and other pollinators created by "exhaust" from pneumatic planters that use air to move neonicotinoid-treated seeds, Denys said.

He added neonicotinoid pesticides are safer to non-target insects, humans and animals than chemicals that were being used before they came along.

"When I look at this as a farmer," Denys said, "if we restrict the use of these things, it's actually worse for the environment."

The province's proposal could result in an increase in the spraying of other pesticides on crops, leading to greater risk to bees and other non-targeted insects, he said.

Farmers, in the past, relied on tilling their fields to reduce insect populations in the soil, but restrictions on neonicotinoids could discourage them from continuing to use no-till practices that improve soil quality and reduce erosion, Denys said.

The Grain Farmers of Ontario said recently that revenue from corn and soybean production could fall by \$600 million without access to neonicotinoid seed treatments.

Leal said his ministry plans to consult with industry, farmers and environmental groups on options, including consideration of a licence system for the pesticides.

"I am committed to finding a balanced approach, based in science, that addresses the important role both pollinators and growers play in Ontario's agri-food industry," he said.

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NORAHG RESPONDS BY SAYING ONTARIO'S WORKING GROUP WAS RIGGED

On July 7th, 2014, the government of Ontario stated that it intends to become the first province to restrict (a.k.a. prohibit) the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, a decision based upon its bee health working group. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-87y> This group was formed under the false pretext making recommendations on how to mitigate the potential risk of certain neonicotinoid insecticides to honey bees. This was a deception ! Why bother with the proceedings of this working group ? Essentially, Ontario Bee Health Working Group was rigged ! Neonicotinoid insecticides will be recklessly and arbitrarily prohibited in Ontario ! This prohibition will set the stage for even more prohibitions across the nation. The report from this bee health working group will serve as a prelude to prohibition since it was infested with anti-pesticide organizations such as Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association (a.k.a. Sierra Club of Canada), and anti-pesticide ministries such as Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Health. These organizations are listed as anti-pesticide & environmental organizations. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-48S> More precisely, the Ontario ministries operate as mere instruments of anti-pesticide propaganda. Sierra Club operates as a mere fund-raising, profit-seeking, and lobbying organization, and it is not a science, research, or health organization. Sierra Club is presently under investigation for charity fraud and conspiracy. Sierra and the Ontario ministries merely seek to invalidate the work of Health Canada. In fact, only Health Canada has the essential expertise on pest control products, and not Sierra Club, and not Ontario ministries. **ONTARIO'S WORKING GROUP WAS RIGGED , AND PROHIBITION WILL BE IMPOSED !** NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUJE 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>

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