

[Blount County Beekeepers Association](#)

Promoting beekeeping in East Tennessee

Pollinators Stewardship Council issues appeal to report bee kills

August 28, 2014 in [beekeeping](#) | Tags: [Bee Culture](#), [bee kills](#), [Environmental Protection Agency](#), [Kim Flottum](#), [pesticides](#), [piles of dead bees](#), [Pollinator Stewardship Council](#), [testing bee kills](#), [testing beehives](#)

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The [Pollinator Stewardship Council](#) has sent along (via Kim Flottum) this appeal for beekeepers who have experienced bee kills to report them:

Bee kills reported to the Pollinator Stewardship Council last year came from **thirteen states** and totaled **14,976 colonies**. During the **spring of 2014 bee kills** reported to us totaled **89,000 colonies** in five states. These bee kills were obvious with piles of dead bees at the entrance, dead brood inside the hive, dead adult bees inside the hive, and often dead queens as well. Not all of the bees, wax, and pollen from bee kills was collected for lab analysis due simply to the cost. If a beekeeper's bees are harmed by the actions of others, the beekeeper must pay \$300-plus upfront to have the bees tested for pesticide levels. *This is cost prohibitive for many, as that \$300 is needed to replace that now weakened or dead bee colony.*



The science behind the lab tests is important to help beekeepers, and growers, understand the environment of the honey bee. The real-world of tank-mixed pesticides, of “other ingredients” in pesticides with unknown, un-tested toxicity levels, of pesticide coated seeds wherein the pesticide is often exuded through the pollen and nectar of the plant, are at the root of the health decline of honey bees.

Help us provide the science of the real world of honey bees. We want to provide 200 bee kill evidence kits and the lab analysis for pesticide-related bee kills. **Support our work to provide the scientific analysis of the real-world pesticide exposure of honey bees in rural, suburban, and urban areas.** Help us protect pollinators. The bees you help today, will be able to pollinate your food tomorrow.

[Support our work: Make a donation today to provide bee kill evidence kits and lab analysis.](#)

[Take action: Send a letter to EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy requesting protection for honey bees and native pollinators, and cease the application of bee toxic pesticides on bee attractive plants **in bloom** with NO exceptions.](#)

(quoted material)

The mission of the PSC, according to its website, “is to defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides.”

Specifically, the council seeks to:

Ensure that State Lead Agencies and U.S. EPA enforce regulations to protect pollinators from pesticides, as mandated by FIFRA.

Use multiple strategies, including litigation and legal petitions, as well as legal support for managers of pollinators who have suffered damages to their beekeeping operation caused by pesticides.

Provide advocacy, guidance, and tools for beekeepers to defend their bees from the detrimental effects of pesticides.

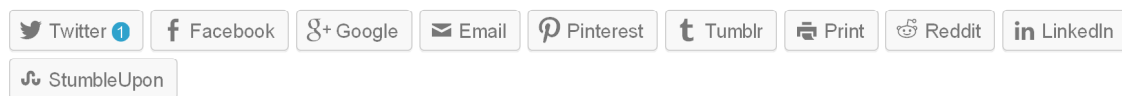
Raise awareness about the potential adverse impacts of pesticides on pollinators important to the supply of food and the ecosystems that support them.

(quoted from the PSC website)

The site has a way for you to donate to the Council’s work.

Key words: Pollinator Stewardship Council, Kim Flottum, Bee Culture, bee kills, pesticides, Environmental Protection Agency, piles of dead bees, testing beehives, testing bee kills

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