



Winter bee deaths unrelated to spring pesticides

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Working bees on honeycomb. Photo by Getty Images. VALENGILDA / GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Re: Bee colonies get much-needed boost from mild winter, by Azzura Lalani, July 26.

It was a healthy and successful winter for honey bees in Canada. The latest report from the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) shows overwinter losses were among the lowest they have been in close to a decade.

Beekeepers who reported losses indicated that poor queens were the number one reason for colony losses, followed by Varroa mites, weak colonies and weather conditions.

This year in Ontario, losses were below 18 per cent during the moderate winter. In the past, high overwinter losses have correlated with harsh winters. Bee health is complex and is impacted by a combination of factors, including weather.

The Ontario government's recently introduced neonicotinoid restrictions were not a factor on these overwintering numbers since they only impacted planting which occurred in the spring. It's worth noting that farmers' use of neonicotinoid-treated seeds has been relatively consistent over the last few years while overwintering numbers fluctuated significantly.

There's clearly a disconnect between beekeepers themselves and the leadership of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA). The OBA's singular focus on having neonics banned is holding the beekeeping sector back in Ontario. Rather than being part of the

vibrant agriculture sector and collaborating like their counterparts in many other provinces, they are on the outside aligned with activist groups.

Farmers choose to use neonic-treated seed because it is a safe and effective way to protect their crops that actually minimizes exposure to non-target organisms like bees. The neonicotinoid pesticide restriction in Ontario imposes onerous conditions and risks on farmers.

Pollinators would be much better served if we dropped the politics and ended the blame game to work towards meaningful solutions.

PIERRE PETELLE, Vice-president of chemistry, CropLife Canada, Ottawa

<http://windsorstar.com/opinion/letters/winter-bee-deaths-unrelated-to-spring-pesticides>

NORAHG Response

BEE-KEEPERS ARE KILLING THEIR OWN BEES !

The alleged losses of bees are, in fact, the fault of the bee-keepers and their mis-management practices. The bee-keepers themselves are clearly responsible since they are often unable or unwilling or not skilled enough to mitigate the real issues that harm bees, such as starvation, transportation, weak colonies, fungal infections, and mite infestations. STARVATION is biggest single cause of bee losses ! For example, in jurisdictions like Ontario, during winter, bee-keepers are KILLING THEIR OWN BEES BY STARVATION, followed by WEAK COLONIES IN THE FALL, and POOR QUEENS. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-97E> Additionally, bee-keepers are KILLING EVEN MORE OF THEIR BEES BY TRUCK ACCIDENTS !

<http://wp.me/p1jq40-8RT> Bee-keepers are not just starving their bees to death, they are also KILLING THEIR OWN BEES WITH INEPT TRANSPORTATION. Some bee-keepers have NO idea what they are doing, leading some observers to conclude that bee-keepers may NOT be competent to raise bees. Why are only a very limited number of bee-keepers affected !?! Why don't government inspectors and specialists investigate the killing of bees by bee-keepers !?! Bee-keepers prefer to remain unproficient at bee-keeping, and expect the government to shower them with vast sums of unjustifiable compensation.

<http://tinyurl.com/l8odbpc> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-77N>

<http://wp.me/p1jq40-7VI>

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BEE-KEEPERS KILLING THEIR OWN BEES (Reports & Blogs) -

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/10/17/whats-killing-the-bees-bees-are-being-harmed-by-bee-keepers-using-illegal-products-2013-10-16/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Force-Of-Nature-Myth-BUSTING-Bee-Colony-Collapse-Disorder-2013-09-19-Science-Statistics-Do-Not-Support-Prohibition-pdf.pdf>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/11/09/there-is-no-bee-crisis-science-statistics-do-not-support-prohibition-bee-keepers-are-killing-their-own-bees-with-formic-acid-sierra-club-2013-09-19/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Force-Of-Nature-Myth-BUSTING-Bee-Colony-Collapse-Disorder-2012-12-20-LIAR-Neonicotinoids-Are-Not-Killing-Bees-pdf.pdf>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/09/23/neonicotinoid-insecticides-are-not-killing-bees-bee-keepers-are-lying-sacks-of-anti-pesticide-cwap-they-are-killing-their-own-bees-randy-oliver-2013-09-02/>

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<http://wp.me/p1jq40-8DV> If you wish to receive free reports on issues that concern you, please contact us at ... force.of.de.nature@gmail.com We Dare To Defy The Pesticide-Hating Fanatics By Exploring The Whole Truth From An Independent Perspective On The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G