



Bee controversy helpful, says U.S. honey official

Posted Jul. 27th, 2017 by Robert Arnason



It's become difficult to keep track of all the controversies involving bees and agricultural chemicals.

Some scientists say neonicotinoids, a class of insecticides, are poisoning bees.

Other researchers say fungicides are a threat to bees and last November two U.S. environmental groups filed a lawsuit against Sue Bee Honey, a co-operative in Sioux City, Iowa, over glyphosate residue in honey.

Chris Hiatt, American Honey Producers Association vice-president, said the hullabaloo is warranted.

“We (are) experiencing 40 percent national losses, every year, of the bee population,” said Hiatt, who is from Bowman, North Dakota, in the southwest corner of the state.

“Pesticides, it is part of the issue. It is. We just can’t deny it.... If takes suing somebody, it might change something.”

For the last decade or so, American beekeepers have suffered through higher than usual rates of colony losses. In 2014-15 the annual colony losses across the United States, in winter and summer, was around 42 percent.

Most beekeepers and entomologists say a combination of factors is responsible, including habitat loss, varroa mites (a parasite that invades hives) and diseases spread by the mites.

Hiatt agreed that pesticides are only part of the story, but the overuse of agricultural chemicals is affecting beekeepers and the honey industry.

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup and the most popular herbicide in the world, hasn’t been linked to effects on bee health. But its impact on honey popped up last fall when Beyond Pesticides and the Organic Consumers Association filed a lawsuit against the Sioux Honey Association, the owner of Sue Bee Honey.



U.S. Food and Drug Administration testing found residues of glyphosate in bottles of Sue Bee Honey at levels as high as 41 parts per billion, the lawsuit stated.

Since the honey contains traces of the herbicide, the “Natural” and “100 percent” pure labels on Sue Bee Honey are deceptive and misleading, the plaintiffs said.

Paul Gregory, a beekeeper from Fisher Branch, Man., said earlier this year that glyphosate and the lawsuit were hot topics at the 2017 North American Beekeeping conference in Texas.

“Something like 80 percent of American honey tested had levels of glyphosate.”

Hiatt said the lawsuit against Sue Bee Honey is absurd because the U.S. government hasn’t established a maximum residue level (MRL) for glyphosate in honey.

Lacking an MRL, it’s impossible to say what level is acceptable or safe.

Nonetheless, he is concerned about the overuse of glyphosate in crop production.

“The Roundup (issue), it’s going to come to a head eventually be-cause it’s been used prophylactically for so many years and it’s showing up everywhere,” he said.

“The bees are flying in the environment and picking it up... and bringing it back to the hive.... It (glyphosate residue) is an issue for us, but I don’t know what we can do (about it).”

Hiatt said glyphosate applied in the spring and summer on Roundup Ready crops, like canola, corn and soybeans, is the most likely source of contamination.

But spraying cereal crops before harvest to aid dry down is also concerning.

“You can’t get away from it,” he said. “There is probably alfalfa and clover blooming right next to the (crop), so they are going to pick it up.”

Hiatt said the overuse of pesticides is particularly bad on soybeans.

Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada research has shown that neonicotinoid seed treatments provide almost no economic benefits for growers because the yield gains are insignificant.

Many U.S. soybean growers continue to use the products despite the findings, Hiatt said.

“This prophylactic use, it’s an insurance, just like crop insurance,” he said. “We’ve got to stop and get away from that.”

On the positive side, there have been cases where controversies around bees and ag chemicals have actually changed practices, he added.

Research has shown that certain fungicides, used to protect almond trees, can be detrimental to bees.

The Almond Board of California developed best management practices to reduce the risk to pollinators, such as spraying the fungicide in the evening and avoiding times of peak bee foraging.

“It has made a difference,” Hiatt said. “There has been less bee kills.”

HONEYBEE COLONIES & PRODUCTION ARE THRIVING IN AMERICA & CANADA !

Where have all the bees gone ?!?! Incompetent bee-keepers are killing their own hives. Otherwise, bees are growing and thriving.

There is NO bee-pocalypse because of modern insecticide use. There is NO plummeting of bee numbers. However, SOME bee-keepers are losing their bees over and over again simply because they are INCOMPETENT ! The most likely cause of losses are the bee-keepers themselves. Why is this madness happening ?!?! Observers have concluded that many bee-keepers have no idea what they are doing, and are simply not skilled to raise bees. Bee-keepers are killing their own bees over and over again.

In other words, bees are NOT dying off in the wake of modern insecticide use, they are actually GROWING AND THRIVING. Bee-keepers know full well that *Varroa* Mites are the PRIMARY PROBLEM associated with bee losses, and NOT insecticides. In fact, bee-keepers appear to be unable or unwilling to get their major pest problems under control, such as *Varroa* Mites, leading observers to conclude that bee-keepers who are losing their bees over and over again may NOT be competent to handle their businesses, and may be wholly unsuited to be raising bees. The MYTH of disappearing bees is a political disease that can only be eradicated with the truth.

✓ **FACT** -- Bee-Keepers Are Harming Bees, & NOT Neonicotinoid Insecticides -- Bee Colony Collapse Disorder Is The Fault Of Bee-Keepers & Their Mis-Management Practices -- **LINKS**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/bee-colony-collapse-disorder/>

<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/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2013/07/29/bee-keepers-are-harming-bees-and-not-neonicotinoid-insecticides-varroa-mites-are-the-primary-problem-2013-07-09/>

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

✓ **FACT** -- Studies Show That Bee Numbers Are Not In Decline, They Were Instead At A 20-Year High In 2015 -- **LINK**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2016/07/02/myth-busting-non-pesticide-reasons-why-bee-keepers-lost-bees-in-2015-2016-bee-keepers-are-harming-their-own-bees-and-not-neonicotinoid-insecticides-there-is-no-bee-crisis/>

✓ **FACT** -- Honeybee Colonies & Production Are Thriving In Canada, In America, & Around The World -- **LINKS**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2016/11/11/there-is-no-bee-crisis-honeybee-colonies-production-are-thriving-in-canada-america-the-myths-of-bee-colony-collapse-syndrome-neonicotinoid-insecticides-do-not-harm-bees/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/02/03/little-wolf-apiaries-walter-zimmerman-bee-hives-thriving-beekeepers-call-for-a-pesticide-ban-ontario-today-cbc-player/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/11/05/2014-bee-fraud-awards-ontario-bee-business-booming-but-were-suing-manufacturers-anyhow-peter-dickey-honey-ontario-beekeepers-association/>

✓ **FACT** -- Neonicotinoid Insecticides Pose No Risk To Very Low Risk For Bees, According To Dr Allan S Felsot, Washington State University Tri-Cities Professor Of Entomology & Environmental Toxicology, & Colleagues -- [LINK](#)

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2016/08/16/there-is-no-bee-crisis-in-washington-state-hazardous-exposures-of-bees-to-neonicotinoid-insecticides-are-not-likely-to-occur-in-a-real-life-setting-dr-allan-s-felsot-2016-08-16/>

WE SPEAK THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT INCOMPETENT BEE-KEEPERS FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE !

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WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

The Conspiracy To Impose Reckless And Arbitrary Prohibition Against Neonicotinoid Insecticides
That Are Safe And Effective, And Desperately Needed By The Agriculture Industry

Bee Conspiracy Fanatics Are Motivated By Vested Interests Of Profit And Greed

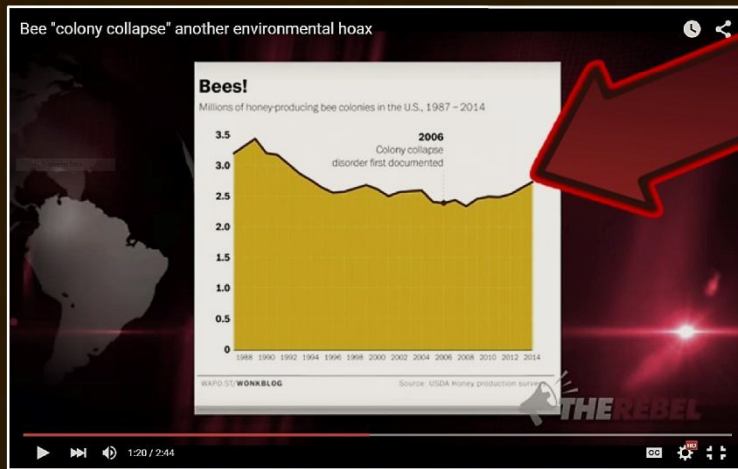
Myth-BUSTING

**Studies Show
That Bee
Numbers
Are Not In
Decline,
They Were
Instead At A
20-Year High
In 2015**

Year	U.S. honeybee colonies
2005	2,413,000
2006	2,393,000
2007	2,443,000
2008	2,342,000
2009	2,498,000
2010	2,692,000
2011	2,491,000
2012	2,539,000
2013	2,640,000
2014	2,740,000
2015	2,660,000

Myth-BUSTING Bee Colony Collapse Disorder

A Response To The Continuing Subversive Conspiracy To Harm And Destroy Legitimate Tax-Paying Businesses With Myths, Deceptions, Fear-Mongering, Fraudulent Lies, Threats, Misconceptions, Coercion, Terror, And Paranoid Conspiracies Against Neonicotinoid Insecticides Used In The Agriculture Industry



*America's Bee
Population Is The Highest
It's Been In Twenty Years*
- Mr Ezra Levant

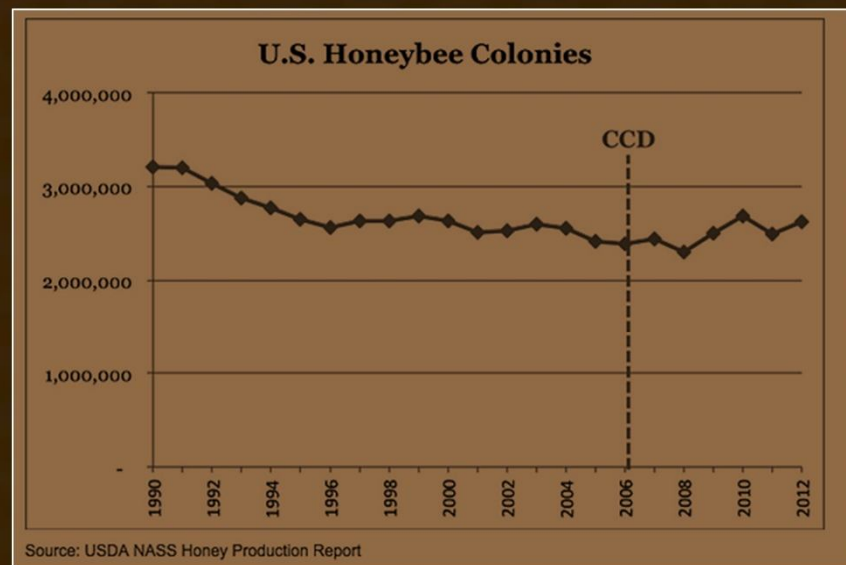
FORCE OF NATURE | DARING TO DEFY WITH THE WHOLE TRUTH FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE
National Organization Responding Against HUIE that seek to harm the Green space and other industries (NORAHG)

The Wisdom Of REAL Experts Who Speak Out Against The Conspiracy To Impose
Reckless And Arbitrary Prohibition Against Conventional Pest Control Products

Dr Elizabeth M Whelan And American Council On Science And Health

Myth No 1 : **FALSE**

America's Bee Population Is Threatened ???!



FORCE OF NATURE | THE WHOLE TRUTH FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE from
National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG)

The Wisdom Of REAL Experts Who Speak Out Against The Conspiracy To Impose Reckless And Arbitrary Prohibition Against Conventional Pest Control Products

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Myth No 2 :

FALSE

**Canada's Bee Population
Is Threatened ???!**

Estimates	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	Year-to-date (averages)				
Beekeepers ²	7,028	7,403	7,713 ^f	8,312	8,483
Colonies ³	592,120	620,291	637,920 ^f	690,037	672,094
Production of honey, total (pounds x 1,000) ⁴	70,362	81,672 ^f	79,824 ^f	90,759	75,488
Value of honey, total (dollars x 1,000) ⁵	126,253	144,197 ^f	150,691 ^f	176,206	176,153

Source : Statistics Canada

FORCE OF NATURE | THE WHOLE TRUTH FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE from
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The Conspiracy To Impose Reckless And Arbitrary Prohibition Against
Neonicotinoid Insecticides Used By The Agriculture Industry By Anti-Pesticide
Lunatic-Terrorists Who Are Motivated By Mere Profit And Greed



**Neonicotinoid
Insecticides
Harming
Bees
Is A MYTH**

FORCE OF NATURE | THE WHOLE TRUTH FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE from
National Organization Responding Against HUIE that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG)

Rob Bright • 17 days ago

How badly captured are our regulatory watchdogs? Seems they are more interested in letting the agrochemical industry do whatever it wants to do than they are in protecting people's health and the environment. This has got to stop. Enough poisoning the environment, and enough poisoning people consuming food that is covered in toxic pesticides!



old grouchy Rob Bright • 13 days ago

Wow - - - you made the leap from 41 parts per billion to food covered in toxic pesticides. Hmmmmmmmmmmm think of a swimming pool for swimming laps - - - its 10 m wide and 25 m long with a 1.25 m water depth - - - - you need to find 15 ml - - - - less than 1 tablespoon in that volume for your 41 parts per billion - - - and to your thinking its 'covered in' it - - - ! I hope you don't smoke because if you do you pollute me air far more than that by walking past me, we're headed in opposite directions on the sidewalk. I'm not sure if I 'like' this level of chemical residue but gargantuan hyperbole really doesn't make for statement either - - - perhaps try again when you're a wee bit more logical - - - yes?



ed old grouchy • 5 days ago

Lung cancer is way up in non smokers now because of all the chemicals in the air as shown in recent studies. If chemical companies keep polluting our soil, water and air, the health difference between smoker and non smokers may soon be about the same as the difference between 41 parts per billion and zero. They are very close as you say.



Sheryl McCumsey • 20 days ago

One needs to question how we even determine losses and how that information is collected AND the conflicts of interests that might exist with those who collect it. In Alberta we sent out survey's to 90% of commercial beekeepers only (only 70% responded)- the next year survey's went out to 50% of commercial beekeepers only. What is the quality of this information and why

is it limited this way? What is happening to our wild bees which are considered more important? Were our pesticides properly assessed before going on the market? Does this impact yield? We are also loosing species of birds.....this is in our water. The agro-chemical industry is powerful and has brain washed us into thinking there is no other way- to the point of insanity. There is no controversy that these insecticides harm bees- we just want to convince ourselves that we don't have to change. We cannot keep blaming this on something else.

NORAHG Response

McCUMSEY KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE BEE-KEEPING INDUSTRY !

McCumsey should leave science to the REAL experts. She is a mere paranoid conspiracy theory fanatic who has NO faith in any REAL scientific expertise, other than her own less-than-mediocre understanding of the issues as an uneducated masseuse. She has NO recognized expertise, NO training, and NO background in matters concerning the **bee-keeping industry**. Her opinions carry NO CREDIBILITY and are WORTHLESS. McCumsey is a MERE student in massage therapy and footwear. Thanks to McCumsey and her operatives at Pesticide Free Alberta and Occupy Edmonton, Edmontonians are being forced to live in urban green spaces that have become dangerous and pest-infested garbage dumps ! McCumsey is NOT to be trusted !

✓ **FACT** -- McCumsey Terrorizes Her Neighbors -- **LINKS**

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/03/05/audio-sheryl-mccumsey-extreme-activist-neighbor-making-us-sick-with-round-up-university-of-guelph-industry-shills/>

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/06/19/norahg-responds-to-sheryl-mccumsey-deception-with-false-allegations-2014-06-18/>

WE SPEAK THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT McCUMSEY FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE !

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ed Sheryl McCumsey • 5 days ago

It is interesting to note that the level of monarch butterflies increases dramatically after only 2 to 3 years under organic hay conditions and that may be a positive "canary in a coal mine" message. It isn't all bad. It's what you do with the discoveries and how you find the wealth in applying them positively rather than sticking with the same old, end of the road applications that lock us into majority poverty treadmill behavior.

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"Hiatt said the lawsuit against Sue Bee Honey is absurd because the U.S. government hasn't established a maximum residue level (MRL) for glyphosate in honey." -- The MAXIMUM level must be ZERO.

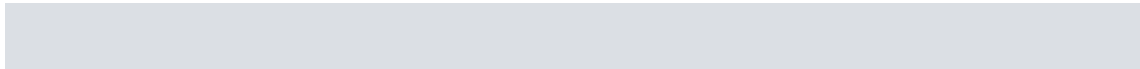
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old grouchy Anne Temple • 13 days ago

Its a great emphatic point - - - 'the maximum point must be ZERO'. I do hope that you don't eat any food purchased in a grocery store at all - - - nothing - - - because I'm quite sure that every product has contamination of something at the level of 1 part per billion.

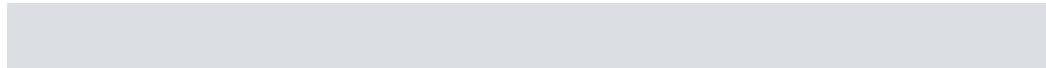
I'm not advocating for a level of 41 parts per billion being OK but you're just not displaying any understanding of what that level actually means!!

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Harold old grouchy • 9 days ago

Display "what that level actually means" and further; it "means" what to whom?

Display your understanding of what we are simply not getting?

Please focus on the topic glyphosate and not other pesticides which are a separate problem still seeking a remedy. The use of one problem does not excuse another problem and for that you are not "displaying any understanding." Does a smoking fire entitle all to smoke cigarettes? Do we put out the fire before we even consider giving up on cigarettes or vice versa?. The smoke all goes to one place: the lungs. With logic they are each dealt with and eliminated individually. One problem does

not excuse another problem. Your grocery store analogy was dismissive and common amongst those professing the safe levels of glyphosate.

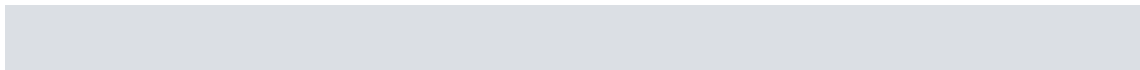
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Harold Anne Temple • 17 days ago

Hiatt is incorrect when he says that the lawsuit against Sue Bee Honey is absurd. The Company under oath and penalty of perjury will testify - if they knew about it - when they knew about it - and what they did to correct it - relative to its labeling.(pure honey, etc) Any presence of glyphosate may be more relevant than the actual level found and regardless of the FDA setting its guidelines. The elements of the cause and nature of an offense does not require the "rubber stamp" of the FDA to gain the Court's jurisdiction over a matter. All Court documents are made publicly accessible and with Sue Bee Honey heavily dependent upon consumer sales, any public knowledge of their wrong doing could devastate the company. Bringing any false claims into the Court for trial is also punishable. There is nothing absurd other than Hiatt's perception of the Court and lawsuits. To give Monsanto a break, the FDA need only to create a fictional "safe level" of Glyphosate in which to protect the Industry over human health and of which the FDA is all too happy to do. To help Sue Bee Honey, Monsanto only needs to lobby governments to soften product labeling requirements for which the government is also too happy to do.

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