

Utah Managed Pollinator Protection Plan
Best Management Practices

B E E K E E P E R S

In some cases, pesticide poisonings of honey bees can be avoided when beekeepers follow good practices. The following are some ways beekeepers can protect honey bees.

Work with the landowner to select apiary locations. The beekeeper and the landowner should work together to find a location which suits both parties.

Beekeepers should be aware of the needs of the landowner. Discuss with the landowner their needs regarding access to roads, trails and section lines.

Collaborate with applicators when informed that a pesticide application is planned. Let applicators know you are in the area so that they can notify when applications are made.

Make preparations in case hives need to be moved. Locate a holding yard at least two miles from crops that are treated with pesticides known to be hazardous to bees.

Don't leave hives in orchards or fields that are unmarked. Mark hives with contact information on hives (i.e. registration number, name, company, phone, etc.) so that pesticide applicators or neighbors can identify hive ownership.

Register hives with UDAF and keep locations updated. The department will contact you if an invasive species eradication program is being conducted.

Follow the label when using miticides. Beekeepers can poison their own bees when they do not follow label instructions on miticides or use pesticides not labeled for Varroa mite treatment.

Practice Integrated Pest Management. Use genetic, cultural and mechanical practices to manage Varroa. Monitor your mite load to inform treatment decisions.

REPORTING PESTICIDE POISONINGS OF HONEY BEES

Inspect your bees on a regular basis. Violations that are not discovered in a timely manner are difficult to prove.

Record any relevant information. Take notes regarding the time and day of pesticide application violations. Record the names of companies and persons involved. If this information is not known, talk to neighbors or nearby beekeepers.

Immediately report all suspected pesticide poisonings of honey bees to UDAF. Since many chemicals rapidly degrade, timely reporting is crucial for UDAF to determine whether a pesticide poisoning has occurred.

Do not move your hives or remove dead bees! Moving bees after an alleged pesticide exposure will confound indicators of non-target poisoning. Once a pesticide issue is suspected, stop inspection and contact the department.

Report suspected cases of honey bee poisonings

UDAF Pesticide Program

(801) 538-7183

udaf-pesticides@utah.gov

UDAF Apiary Program

(801) 538-4912

udaf-apiary@utah.gov

