

Busy Bees Benefit Modern Agriculture



Bees, birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects pollinate more than 75 percent of flowering plants.¹

It is estimated that pollinators directly impact 35 percent of the world's agriculture.²

Blueberries, avocados, almonds and cucumbers are just a few of the crops that depend on pollination.³

There are about 4,000 species of native bees in North America.⁴

Pollinator health is influenced by a number of complex factors, including nutrition, diseases, genetics and parasites.⁵

Honey bees can do so much more than just produce honey; they are essential to modern agriculture in the U.S. and around the globe! Honey bees and other pollinating insects and animals are needed to pollinate many of the crops we eat, as well as other plants. Supporting the health of pollinators, such as honey bees, is beneficial to farmers, consumers and the environment.

Farmers do their part to protect pollinator health by closely following label instructions for crop protection products and utilizing precise application techniques that minimize environmental impacts. Working with beekeepers, regulators and suppliers, farmers are also learning more about the many factors that influence pollinator health.

1 <http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/>

2 <http://www.fao.org/biodiversity/components/pollinators/en/>

3 <http://www.honey.com/newsroom/press-kits/honey-industry-facts>

4 http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5306468.pdf

5 <http://www.usda.gov/documents/ReportHoneyBeeHealth.pdf>

