

# ***Pollinators: The New Regulatory Framework***

April 19, 2016

Florida Strawberry Growers Association -- 2016  
Agritech

The Charlie Grimes Family Agricultural Center  
Plant City, Florida



# Presentation Overview

## Outline

- Background
- Forcing Actions
- Federal Response
- State Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3s)
- Production Impacts
- Next Steps



# Background -- Pollinators and Pesticides

- Pollinator Protection – Always Been Part of Registration Decision
  - Acute Toxicity to Adults and Larvae
  - Screening Level Testing
  - Management of Exposures to Less than Lethal Levels
    - Highly toxic -- Label to prevent use during period when bees are active
      - “Do Not Use when bees are actively foraging”



# Assessment Evolution

- Emerging Issues – Hive Health
  - Introduction of Varroa Mite
  - Sub-lethal, Chronic Exposures
  - “Colony Collapse Disorder”
  - Expansion of Demand for Pollination Services



# Risk Assessment Shift

- Population/Colony Level Impacts
  - Extremely Complex
  - No Specific Study Guidelines
  - Diverse Opinions on Importance of Stressors
  - Hard to Measure and Quantify Impacts



# Forcing Actions

- No Clearly Defined Framework or Process
  - Use of Acute Thresholds
  - Questions concerning use of “Conditional Registrations”
- Beekeeper Community Struggling to Find Answers
- Serious Need for Coordinated Research Effort



# International Attention

- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Push to Restrict or Ban Compounds
  - Neonics
  - Seed Treatments
  - Different Guidelines



# Litigation/Regulatory Interventions

- Litigation/Petitions
  - Use of Conditional Registrations
  - Lack of Protection to Non-targets
  - Failure to Consult on Endangered Species





# Media Attention

- Communication Campaign
  - “Beemageddon”
  - Time Magazine Cover
  - Shift from Honey Bees to Other Pollinators



# Federal Intervention

- ***“Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators – May 2015”***
  - EPA/USDA Co-leaders, 14 Federal Departments, Agencies and Institutions
  - Individual Protections Plans
  - Specific Goals



# Pollinator Strategy Goals

- Reduce Winter Losses of Honey Bee Hives to Less Than 15 %
- Enhance or Restore Pollinator Habitat – 7 Million Acres over Five years
- Increase Population of Eastern Monarch Butterflies to 225 Million by 2020



# Federal Actions

- **EPA – Office Of Pesticide Programs**
  - Review and Revisions of Risk Assessment Guidance
  - Responses to Multiple On-going Lawsuits and Petitions for Regulatory Actions
  - Working within the Constraints of FIFRA
  - Development of “Mitigation” to Prevent Risk
- **USDA**
  - Multiple Players
    - Agricultural Research Service & National Institute of Food and Agriculture – Research Initiative
    - Forest Service – Land Use
    - Natural Resources Conservation Service – Land Use, CRP



# Office of Pesticide Programs

- Development of Specific Guidance for Tiered Testing of Risk to Bee – Published in 2014
- Published “Proposal to Mitigate Exposure to Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticide Products” May 2015
- Registration Re-evaluation Initiated – Imidacloprid, Clothianidin, Thiamethoxam and Dinotefuran
- “Preliminary Pollinator Ecological Risk Assessment for Imidacloprid” December 2015



# Office of Pesticide Programs

- Working on Label Language – Site/Use Specific Risk Mitigation – “Bee Box”
- Sulfoxaflor Litigation – Vacated Registration – Requiring New Data
- Pending Label Expansions -- Delayed, PRIA due dates changed
- Notice of Intent to File Suit – Center for Biological Diversity & American Bird Conservancy --Endangered Species – Failure to Consult -- Several New Active Ingredients



# Office of Pesticide Programs

- Components of Mitigation proposals
  - Communication and coordination between Applicators and Beekeepers
  - Application timing during non-forage conditions
    - Temperature
    - Early morning, late afternoon or at night
  - Development of State or tribal Managed Pollinator Protection Plans



# State Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3s)

- Originally proposed in “Bee Box” language for Neonics
  - AAPCO and NASDA -- National Coordinating Groups
  - Alternative to Prohibition of Use at the Crop Site Level
  - Intended to be Crop Site Specific
  - Coordinated Development with Agreement in Concept from All Stakeholders





# MP3 Goals

- Behavioral Changes Which Increase Pollinator Protection
- Reducing Exposure of Bees to Pesticides
- Improve/Maintain Pollinator Health
- Compliance with applicable pesticide labels
- National Improvement in Pollinator Health



# MP<sup>3</sup> Status in Florida

- Each State Operating with Unique Circumstances
  - Commodity Mix
  - State Regulatory Framework
    - Pesticides
    - Apiary Oversight
- Originally Developed for Citrus
- In Development for Strawberry, Blueberry and Cucurbits



# Production Impacts

- Worse Case -- Loss of Key Active Ingredients or Critical Uses
- Increased Sophistication of Management Practices
- More Restrictive Labelling
- Need for Outreach and Communication



# Individual Grower -- Next Steps

- Determine Risk to Your Operation
  - Identify Critical Production Management Tools
  - Review and Understand Current Pollinator Risk Mitigation Language
  - Be Prepared to Provide Benefits Information as Products Are Re-evaluated
  - Know Your Neighbors (Especially Beekeepers) – Proactive Communication



# Collective Industry

- Development of Real World Exposure Information
- Engage with FDACS, EPA, IFAS and USDA as the National Strategy is Implemented
- Work with FDACS to Tailor the MP3 for Strawberries to Ensure Balance and Respect for Crop Production Needs
- Develop Scientifically Supported, Bee-Friendly Crop Protection Recommendations



# In Conclusion:

- The sky is not falling
- Agriculture will work together to solve the problem
- This will continue to evolve as more information becomes available to more accurately determine hive level risks





Questions?

YOU  
CONNECT  
WE  
SERVE

