

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.

**Inform your neighbors that you have bees.** Exchange contact information and ask nearby residents to contact you 48 hours in advance of pesticide applications that are hazardous to bees.

**Make preparations for applications.** Work with neighbors to devise a strategy that will protect your bees. Locate an alternative location for the bees in the event that moving the hives is the preferred option.

**Do not allow your bees to become a nuisance.** Minimize defensive behavior by preventing robbing, using smoke and inspecting when time and weather appropriate. Provide a consistent water supply from March 1st to October 31st and practice swarm management. Requeen aggressive stock.

**Don't leave hives on other properties 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](mailto:udaf-pesticides@utah.gov)

UDAF Apiary Program

(801) 538-4912

[udaf-apiary@utah.gov](mailto:udaf-apiary@utah.gov)



Utah Department of  
Agriculture and Food

Plant Industry and  
Conservation