Virginia State Managed Pollinator Protection Plan

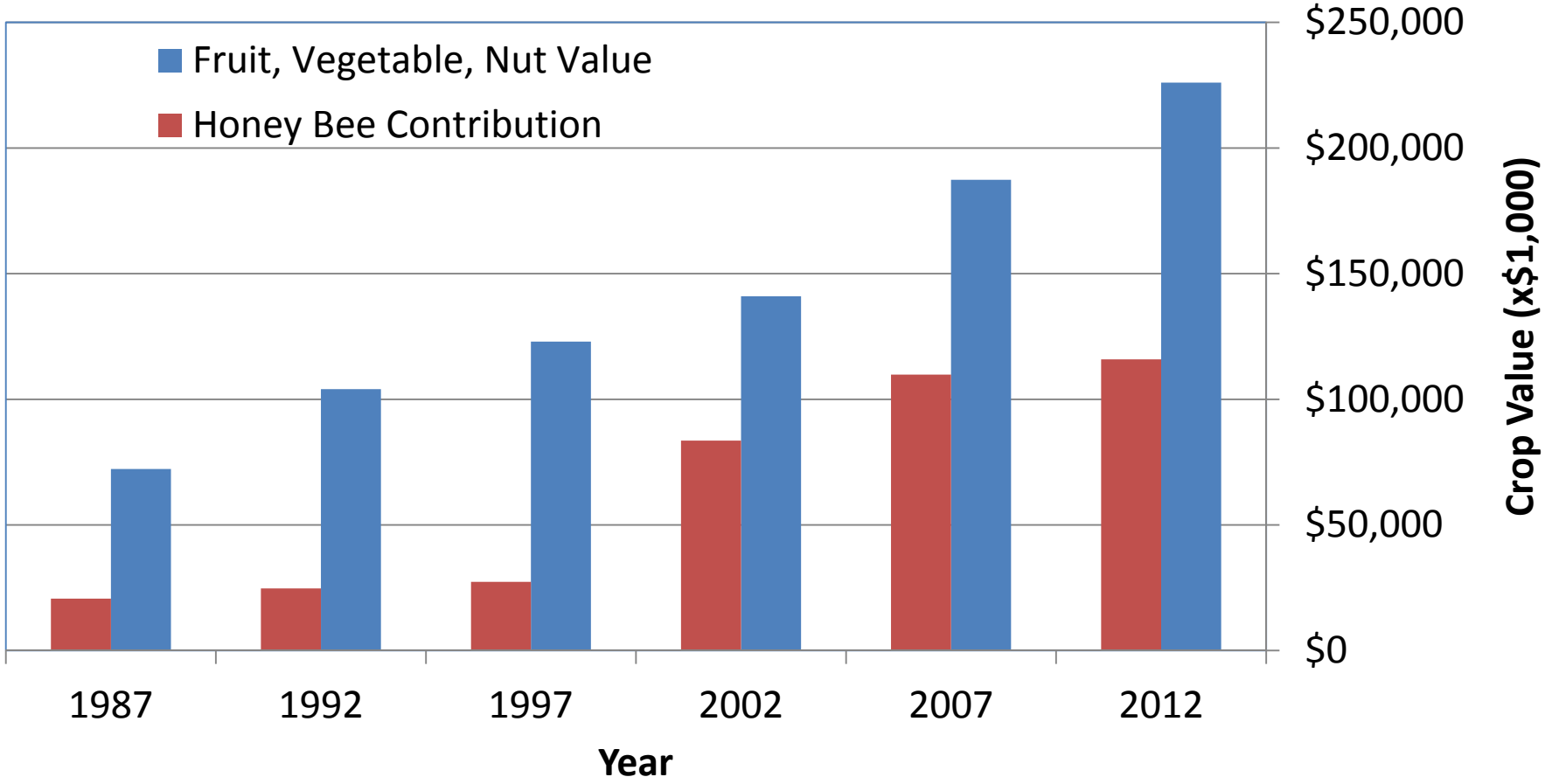
Stakeholder Listening Sessions

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
102 Governor Street
Richmond Virginia 23219

Purpose of Listening Sessions

- Review status of Pollinator Populations
- Provide a brief overview of current State and Federal pollinator protection activities;
- Provide an overview of the EPA's guidance to state lead pesticide agencies in developing state managed pollinator protection plans;
- Share information regarding the process moving forward; and
- Seek input from stakeholders on the critical elements that should be included in Virginia's Plan.

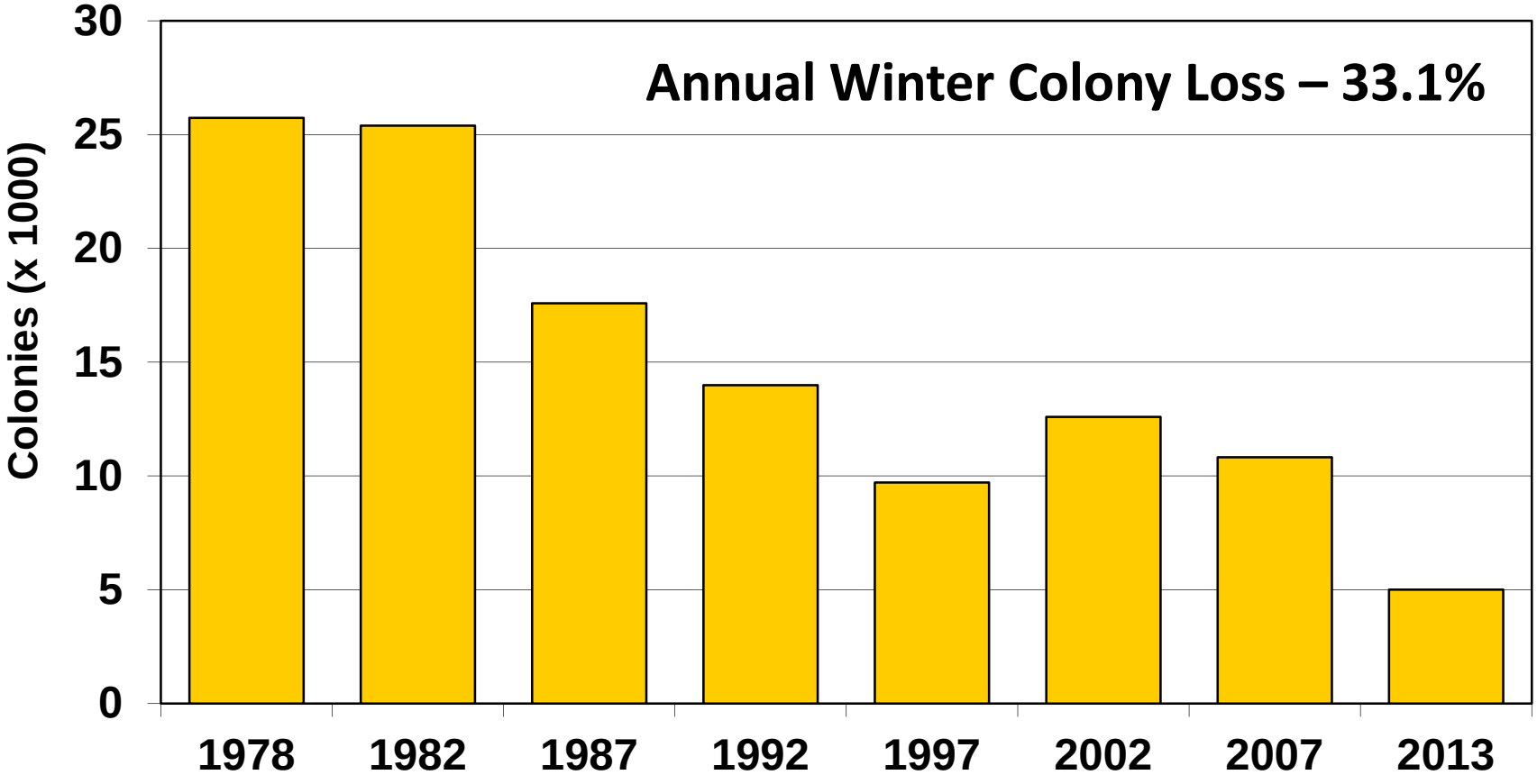
Value of Pollination in Virginia from 1987 to 2012[1]



Value of Honey bee Pollination: $115,878,830

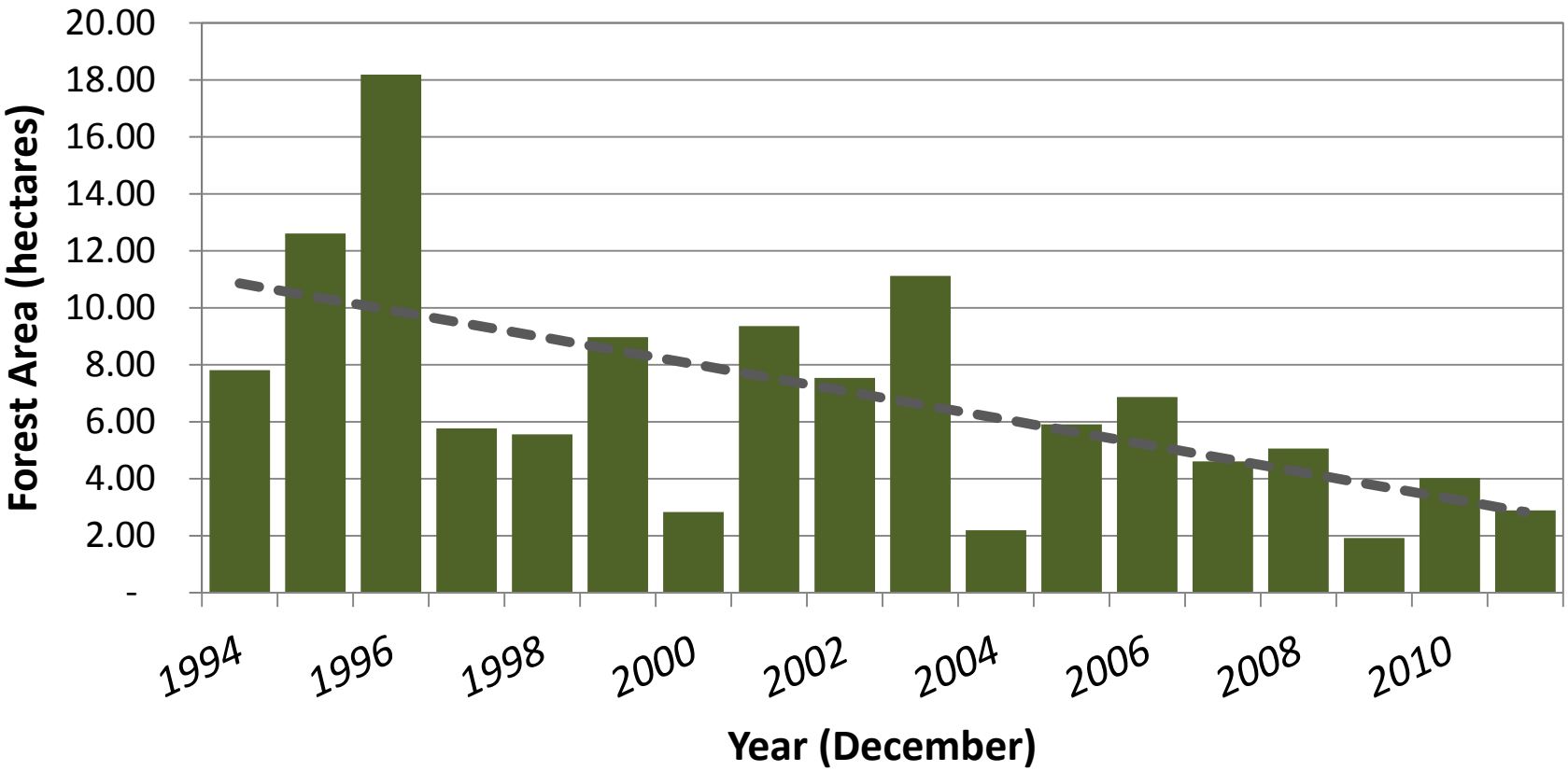
[1]Data from USDA-NASS

Production Honey Bee Colonies in the Virginia from 1978-2013[1]

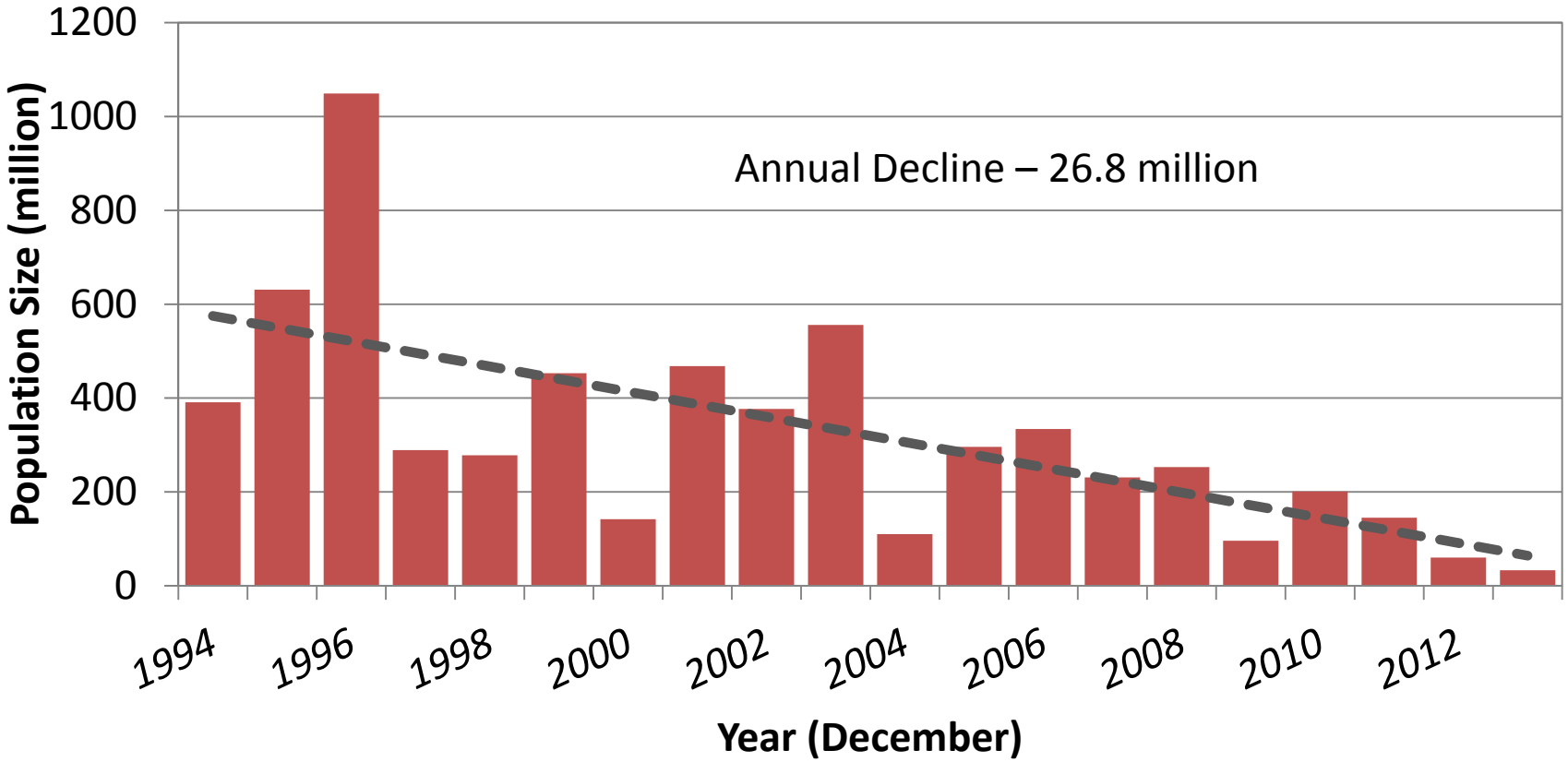


[1]Data from USDA-NASS Census

Area Occupied by Monarch Colonies at Overwintering Sites in Mexico

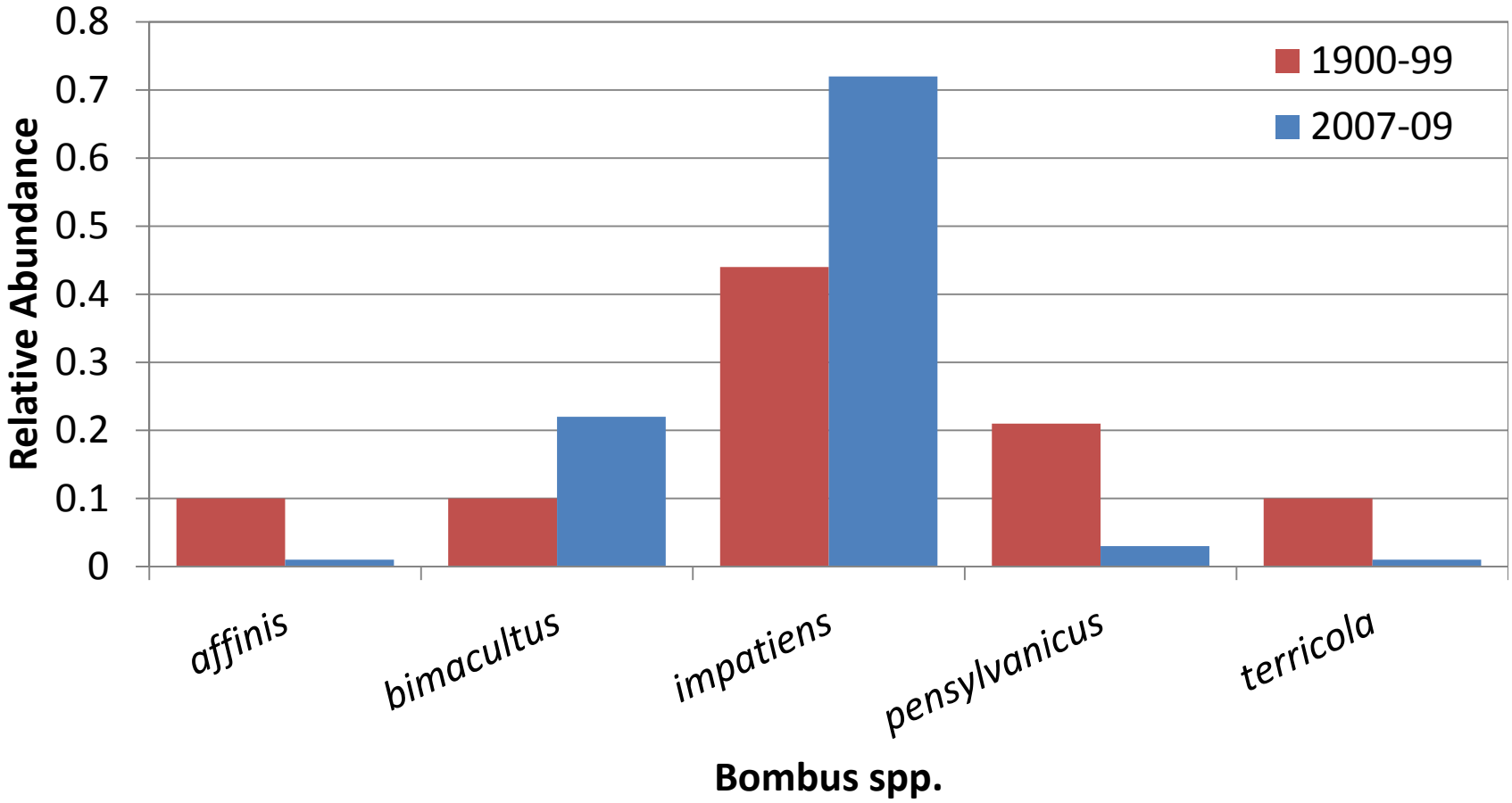


Status of Eastern Monarch Butterfly Populations in Mexico



from Monarch Joint Venture (2014)

Status of Bumble Bee Populations in Northern and Coastal Eastern States of the U.S.



from S. Cameron, Lozier J., Strange J., Koch J., Cordes N., Solter L., Griswold T. (2011)

Factors Affecting Pollinator Population Stability

- **Environment**
  - Temperature extremes
  - Climate change
  - Drought/Flooding
- **Nutrition**
  - Habitat loss
  - Food resources
  - Forage variety
- **Genetics**
  - Diversity
  - Isolation
  - Pest/Disease
    - Varroa Mite
    - Nosema
- **Toxins/pollutants**
  - Water Pollutant
  - Pesticide

Ongoing State Pollinator Protection Activities

Office of Pesticide Services

- Research project *The Decline of Honey Bees in Virginia: An Assessment of Colony Health and Pesticide Exposures;*
- Conduct inspections and use observations throughout the State to ensure pesticides are applied legally;
- Investigate any tips or complaints received regarding the misuse of pesticides including incidents involving exposure of bees to pesticides;
- Provide relevant information related to protecting pollinators at outreach and education events annually including training courses for pesticide applicator;
- Monitor federal pollinator protection activities

  www2.epa.gov/pollinator-protection

Office of Plant Industry Services

- Conducts inspections of
  - Commercial operations for the production of honey bee hives and queen honey bees
  - Migratory operations
- Participate in education programs to provide information and training to the beekeeping community;
- Investigate reports of honey bee diseases in non-commercial hives to suppress spread of harmful diseases and pests;
- Coordinates with OPS when any report of an alleged pesticide exposure to bees is received.

Ongoing Federal Pollinator Protection Activities

- Label improvement initiatives
- Assess the effects of pesticides on the health of bees and other pollinators (2015-2017)
  - Neonicotinoids…*likely not be in a position to approve most new uses…*
  - 58 Active Ingredients
- Implement new harmonized pollinator risk assessment
- Expedite review of new Varroa mite control products
- Additional use restrictions for pesticides that are acutely toxic to bees
  - Broader range of pesticides used for foliar (leaf) application
  - Contracted pollination services
- Additional mitigations for planting of pesticide-treated seed
- Evaluate and mitigate pesticide impacts on monarch butterflies
- Label amendments

Example, Label Amendment

Ag & Non Ag Uses

- Outdoor, foliar applications
  - Clothianidin
  - Dinotefuran
  - Imidacloprid
  - Thiamethoxam
- Bee Protection Box (Label)
- Applies to Three Scenarios
  - Contracted Pollination Services
  - For Food Crops And Commercially Grown Ornamentals Not Under Contract For Pollination Services But Are Attractive To Pollinator
  - Non Ag Applications

PROTECTION OF POLLINATORS

APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS EXIST FOR THIS PRODUCT BECAUSE OF RISK TO BEES AND OTHER INSECT POLLINATORS. FOLLOW APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS FOUND IN THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE TO PROTECT POLLINATORS.

Look for the bee hazard icon in the Directions for Use for each application site for specific use restrictions and instructions to protect bees and other insect pollinators.

This product can kill bees and other insect pollinators.
Bees and other insect pollinators will forage on plants when they flower, shed pollen, or produce nectar.

Bees and other insect pollinators can be exposed to this pesticide from:

- Direct contact during foliar applications, or contact with residues on plant surfaces after foliar applications
- Ingestion of residues in nectar and pollen when the pesticide is applied as a seed treatment, soil, tree injection, as well as foliar applications.

When Using This Product Take Steps To:

- Minimize exposure of this product to bees and other insect pollinators when they are foraging on pollinator attractive plants around the application site.
- Minimize drift of this product on to beehives or to off-site pollinator attractive habitat. Drift of this product onto beehives or off-site to pollinator attractive habitat can result in bee kills.

Information on protecting bees and other insect pollinators may be found at the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship website at:
http://pesticidestewardship.org/PollinatorProtection/Pages/default.aspx.

Pesticide incidents (for example, bee kills) should immediately be reported to the state/tribal lead agency. For contact information for your state, go to: www.aapco.org/officials.html. Pesticide incidents should also be reported to the National Pesticide Information Center at: www.npic.orst.edu or directly to EPA at: beekill@epa.gov

Virginia State Managed Pollinator Protection Plan

- In June of 2014, a Presidential Memorandum was issued which directed a federal Interagency Task Force to create a "*Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators*."
  - Co-Chaired by the United States Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency
  - Directed federal agencies and departments to undertake agency-specific actions to reverse pollinator losses and to help restore pollinator populations (i.e.: Defense; Education; Energy; Housing and Urban Development; Interior; State; Transportation.
- Among other things, the memo specifically directed the EPA *to engage state lead agencies for pesticide regulation in developing state managed pollinator protection plans* as a means of mitigating the risk of pesticides to honey bees and other managed pollinators.
- As a result of the Presidential Directive, the "*National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other Pollinators"* was released on May 19, 2015.

EPA Engages State Lead Agencies in Development of State Managed Pollinator Protection Plans

- Guidance to States
- Focus on communication and coordination among key stakeholders, including beekeepers, agricultural producers, and pesticide applicators and includes the use of Best Management Practices
- Voluntary, proactive approach
- Input from all stakeholders in the development of the Plan
- Will differ from State to State based upon agriculture, the local beekeeping industry, state pesticide and apiary laws, etc.
- Includes managed pollinators <u>not</u> under contracted pollination services at the site of application
- It does <u>not</u> include pesticide applications where bees are the target pest, for example, bees infesting a structure
- Not intended to prohibit, eliminate, or further restrict the application of pesticides
  - In ALL cases, the (pesticide) **LABEL IS THE LAW**
- Plan for outreach/education
- Living document

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

- As the state lead agency for pesticide regulation in Virginia, VDACS embarked on the development of a framework upon which to build a Plan
  - Coordinated through VDACS Offices of Pesticide Services (OPS) and Plant Industry Services (OPIS)
- Seeking input and cooperation from all Stakeholders including agricultural producers, pesticide applicators, landowners and beekeepers
  - Public meetings throughout Virginia
  - Comments may also be submitted via email or mail
- Advisory Group will provide comments on the draft Plan
- The final Plan will be developed taking into consideration the input received from stakeholders and the feasibility and cost effectiveness of each component of the Plan
- Once final, VDACS will utilize a variety of outreach options to inform Stakeholders and other interested parties of the availability of the State Managed Pollinator Protection Plan and encourage **voluntary** adoption
- Anticipated time frame*:
  - Advisory Group reviews draft Plan ~ April 2016
  - VDACS finalizes Plan ~ late Spring/early Summer

Subject to change….

Stakeholder Listening Sessions

Thursday, January 28, 2016	Roanoke	South County Library 6303 Merriman Road Roanoke, VA 24018
Monday, February 01, 2016	South Hill	Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research and Extension Center (AREC) 2375 Darvills Road Blackstone, VA 23824
Wednesday, February 3, 2016	Charlottesville	Virginia Department of Forestry 900 Natural Resources Drive Charlottesville, VA 22903
Thursday, February 4, 2016	Richmond	Tuckahoe Area Library 1901 Starling Drive Henrico, VA 23229
Monday, February 22, 2016	Suffolk	Tidewater Agriculture Research and Extension Center (AREC) 6321 Holland Road Suffolk, VA 23437
Wednesday, February 24, 2016	Eastern Shore	Painter Agriculture Research and Extension Center (AREC) 33446 Research Drive Painter, VA 23420
Tuesday, March 1, 2016	Warrenton	John Barton Payne Community Room 2 Courthouse Square Warrenton, VA 20186

Additional Opportunities for Input

PollinatorProtection@vdacs.virginia.gov

OR

VDACS – Office of Pesticide Services
PO Box 1163
Richmond VA 23218

Questions or Additional Information

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