

Pesticide Applicators - Protecting Pollinators



As the state's lead agency for pesticide regulation, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), in cooperation with agency stakeholders, developed Virginia's *Voluntary Plan to Mitigate the Risk of Pesticides to Managed Pollinators* (also known as the Pollinator Protection Plan). The development of Virginia's *Voluntary Plan to Mitigate the Risk of Pesticides to Managed Pollinators* (Plan) is part of a national effort by state and federal agencies to help reverse pollinator losses and restore pollinator populations. A copy of the plan is available [here](#).

VDACS' Plan is a voluntary, proactive approach that focuses on enhanced communication and coordination between agricultural producers, pesticide applicators and beekeepers as a means to further protect pollinators. To facilitate communication between beekeepers and agricultural producers and pesticides applicators VDACS has acquired FieldWatch® and their suite of pesticide stewardship tools. The program includes an on-line system for mapping apiary locations and providing beekeeper contact information. Participation is free and voluntary.

Beginning in 2019, **VDACS is encouraging all pesticide applicators, including commercial applicators, registered technicians, agricultural producers, and private applicators, to register for *FieldCheck***, the free service for pesticide applicators. Registered pesticide applicators can identify the counties or area within Virginia that they want to receive automated email notifications for each apiary site that is approved in their area. The identified area is known as your "alert area". In addition to seeing the location of apiary sites near you, pesticide applicators may also elect to notify beekeepers of planned pesticide applications. While not required, this will allow beekeepers to decide what, if any, steps to take to protect their hives. Beekeepers have the ability to mark their hives as "private" which means only registered applicators (registered in FieldCheck) can view those sites.

Applicators do not have to register to use FieldCheck, however, if you are only accessing the "public" site and are not registered, you may not see all beehives.

To register as a pesticide applicator, click [here](#)