



# Bee Biz

Monthly Newsletter of the Coweta Beekeepers

**President's Message**

**Coweta Beekeepers Association**

**President Jerry Edwards**

**Saving the World, One Bee at a Time**

**July 2012**

I am very excited about this month's meeting as Virginia Webb is the guest speaker. Y'all come and meet her as she is a terrific lady and beekeeper. Most of you may be acquainted with the issues involved in Fayette County last year regarding regulation of number of hives and the footwork and paperwork involved in us winning the case. At one of the meetings, Virginia spoke to the commission and was instrumental in educating them about the importance of beekeeping.

The hot weather continues to be a major concern for not only humans but for all living beings. Remember if there is not a close water supply for your bees use a Borgman Feeder to give them water so they can cool the hive.

Only three more months until September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for our State Beekeepers meeting at McDonough, GA. Plan on attending and contact me if you wish to help. Preparations for the program have begun, and if you have an issue that you would like to hear discussed or an idea for a speaker, please let me know.

It is time to visit the hives and remove the delicious honey. When you are extracting it, save enough for this year's **HONEY CONTEST**. Winning will give you bragging rights for producing the best honey in Coweta County.

Board of Directors meeting at 6:30 p.m. will precede this month's meeting. I am looking forward to seeing all members at 7:00 Monday night. **Bring a friend.**

Below is an interesting and current article regarding CCD.



[\*\*Use of Common Pesticide, Imidacloprid, Linked to Bee Colony Collapse\*\*](#)

(Science Daily, Apr. 5, 2012) — The likely culprit in sharp worldwide declines in

honeybee colonies since 2006 is imidacloprid, one of the most widely used pesticides, according to a new study from Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH).

The authors, led by Alex Lu, [associate](#) professor of environmental exposure biology in the Department of [Environmental Health](#), write that the new research provides "convincing evidence" of the link between imidacloprid and the phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), in which adult bees abandon their hives.

The study will appear in the June issue of the *Bulletin of Insectology*.

"The significance of bees to agriculture cannot be underestimated," says Lu. "And it apparently doesn't take much of the pesticide to affect the bees. Our experiment included pesticide amounts below what is normally present in the environment."

Pinpointing the cause of the problem is crucial because bees -- beyond producing honey -- are prime pollinators of roughly one-third of the crop species in the U.S., including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and livestock feed such as alfalfa and clover. Massive loss of honeybees could result in billions of dollars in agricultural losses, experts estimate.

Lu and his co-authors hypothesized that the uptick in CCD resulted from the presence of imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid introduced in the early 1990s. Bees can be exposed in two ways: through nectar from plants or through high-fructose corn syrup beekeepers use to feed their bees. (Since most U.S.-grown corn has been treated with imidacloprid, it's also found in corn syrup.)

In the summer of 2010, the researchers conducted an in situ study in Worcester County, Mass. aimed at replicating how imidacloprid may have caused the CCD outbreak. Over a 23-week period, they monitored bees in four different bee yards; each yard had four hives treated with different levels of imidacloprid and one control hive. After 12 weeks of imidacloprid dosing, all the bees were alive. But after 23 weeks, 15 out of 16 of the imidacloprid-treated hives -- 94% -- had died. Those exposed to the highest levels of the pesticide died first.

The characteristics of the dead hives were consistent with CCD, said Lu; the hives were empty except for food stores, some pollen, and young bees, with few dead bees nearby. When other conditions cause hive collapse -- such as disease or pests -- many dead bees are typically found inside and outside the affected hives.

Strikingly, said Lu, it took only low levels of imidacloprid to cause hive collapse -- less than what is typically used in crops or in areas where bees forage.

Scientists, policymakers, farmers, and beekeepers, alarmed at the sudden losses of between 30% and 90% of honeybee colonies since 2006, have posed numerous theories as to the cause of the collapse, such as pests, disease, pesticides, migratory beekeeping, or some combination of these factors.

"In Situ Replication of Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder," Chensheng Lu, Kenneth M. Warchol, Richard A. Callahan, *Bulletin of Insectology*, June 2012

Jerry Edwards  
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## Meeting

Our next meeting will start at 7:00 pm at the Asa Powell Expo Building. Meeting date is July 9, 2012. Refreshments are being supplied by Lee Mills and Merry Cagle. **Drinks and ice will be supplied by the club!!**



### **2012 Dues**

You can pay your dues for 2012 to Mike Copeland at a meeting or by mailing them to him at P.O. Box 159, Luthersville, Ga 30251. Dues for the 2012 calendar year starting January 1st thru December 31st, are \$15.00 per family. If you would like to receive your newsletter through e-mail please inform Donna, and give her your e-mail address. Dues are used in the following manner: for postage of this newsletter, supplies for our meeting, and the Christmas Party.

### **Up Coming Events**

You are invited to the 2012 EAS Conference to be held at University of Vermont and hosted by Vermont Beekeepers.

## **Tell the EPA: Ban the pesticide that's killing bees!**

**In the next week, the EPA is expected to issue a decision on the pesticide Clothianidin -- which scientists believe is a major factor in the alarming decline in U.S honey bee populations, known as Colony Collapse Disorder.**

Since 2006, one third of U.S honey bee populations have been dying off. One third. Every year. That's a terrible rate of species destruction on its own, but it's also a serious threat to our food supply. Honey bees play a crucial role by pollinating 71 of the 100 most common crops, which account for 90% of the world's food supply.<sup>1</sup>

More than 125,000 CREDO Activists joined the Pesticide Action Network and other groups this March in urging the EPA to suspend its approval of Clothianidin.

**The EPA will be issuing a decision soon. If the agency doesn't act, it won't review Clothianidin again until 2018 -- and by then it could be too late for the bees.**

**Tell the EPA: Bee die-offs are an emergency. Ban the pesticide that's killing bees. Click here to automatically sign the petition.**

While the causes of Colony Collapse disorder are complex, studies are increasingly pointing to the role played by pesticides like Clothianidin.

Produced by the German corporation Bayer CropScience, it is used as a treatment on crop seeds, including corn and canola, and works by expressing itself in the plants' pollen and nectar. Not coincidentally, these are some of honey bees' favorite sources of food.

**Shockingly, Clothianidin was approved without any independent study verifying its safety.**

The Pesticide was conditionally approved for use on corn -- the largest crop in the U.S. - in 2003, and then fully approved by the EPA in 2010, on the basis of only one test conducted by Bayer, which EPA scientists later said was unsound and not sufficient to be the basis of an unconditional approval of the pesticide.<sup>2</sup>

**Tell the EPA: Ban the pesticide that's killing bees. Click here to automatically sign the petition.**

Clothianidin has already been banned in France, Italy, Slovenia, and Germany -- the home of Bayer -- but it continues to be applied to over 100 million acres here in the U.S., at the peril of bees and our ability to produce foods like apples, blueberries, almonds, pumpkins and dozens of other vital crops.

For the EPA to take action and suspend the use of Clothianidin it must declare bee die-offs to be an "imminent hazard." With massive continuing die-offs of the species that is a cornerstone of our crop production, it's clear that is the case.

**Tell the EPA to protect honey bees and our food, not pesticide makers. It's time to ban Clothianidin and save the bees.**

Hello Beekeeping club leader,

You have gotten a few newsletter submissions from me this winter and spring. Attached is the third and final Eastern Apicultural Society Honey Show article.

I hope you can put it in your June or July newsletter and I thank you for your help promoting the honey show.

Attached are a long version (one full page) and a short (about 70% of a page), as well as a photo.

If you haven't looked it over, this is the new Honey Show page on the EAS website <http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2012/2012-honey-show.html> . We're quite proud of it, but are interested in comments and suggestions.

Maybe I'll see you at EAS,  
Anne Frey