

POLLINATION PARTNERS



ALMOND TREES need cross-pollination, and honey bees help move pollen from tree to tree, setting the crop.

BEE HIVES consistently leave almond orchards stronger than when they came in because almond pollen is very nutritious to bees and is their first natural food source of the year.¹

COMMITTED TO HONEY BEE HEALTH

While the number of honey bee hives in the U.S. has remained stable for the past 20 years,² overwintering and summer hive losses continue to be of concern. This requires beekeepers to work harder to keep hives healthy and maintain hive numbers.

The decline in honey bee health has been linked to a variety of complex factors, including activities associated with both beekeeping and crop production³

Through the investment of industry dollars, Almond Board has funded more honey bee health research than any other crop group with more than 100 research projects since 1995⁴

That research and it's priority areas line up directly with the factors impacting honey bee health. See the table below for how the California Almond industry is supporting to honey bee health.

FACTORS IMPACTING HONEY BEES	WHAT WE'RE DOING
VARROA MITES	Investigating treatment options and beekeeper guidance for treating this devastating pest
OTHER PESTS AND DISEASES	Kickstarting Tech Transfer Teams made up of traveling bee doctors who work with beekeepers to monitor hives and advise on pest and disease treatment as necessary
LACK OF GENETIC DIVERSITY	Funding researchers to bring new, foreign genetic material into the U.S. and making it available to U.S. beekeepers for improving breeding stock
PESTICIDE EXPOSURE	Understanding if pest control materials needed to protect the almond crop during pollination impact bees and how those materials can be applied to minimize impact
LACK OF FORAGE AND NUTRITION	Understanding the benefits and best management practices for supplemental forage and supporting the distribution of blooming plant seed to almond growers for helpful bee nutrition before and after almond bloom

1. Ramesh Sagili. Department of Horticulture. Oregon State University.
2. USDA-NASS. Honey Production Report 1986-2015.

3. Honey Bee Health Coalition, 2014.
4. Gene Brandt. Vice President, American Beekeeping Federation.



HONEY BEE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

In addition to helping bees stay healthier in their own right, ABC also works with growers and other pollination partners to ensure California Almond orchards remain a good and safe place for honey bees.

The Almond Board's Honey Bee Best Management Practices (BMPs) are based on decades of research and are having an on-the-ground impact on protecting honey bees in the orchard and beyond. They extend to and educate all pollination partners.

