

ALMOND ORCHARD 2025 GOALS

PROTECTING HONEY BEE HEALTH AND EXPANDING ON-FARM POLLINATOR HABITAT



WORK IN PROGRESS: THESE PROJECTS AND PRACTICES ILLUSTRATE THE CALIFORNIA ALMOND COMMUNITY'S COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING POLLINATOR HEALTH.

POLLINATORS



I. CALIFORNIA POLLINATOR COALITION

This spring ABC led the development and launch of the California Pollinator Coalition with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and international nonprofit Pollinator Partnership. Joined by 20+ organizations representing most of California's farmland, the coalition is expanding pollinator habitat and finding solutions to bee health challenges.

II. BEE+ SCHOLARSHIP

Continued in 2021, ABC distributed another 100 farmer scholarships offsetting the cost of wildflower seeds through Project Apis m.'s Seeds for Bees program and Bee Friendly Farming certification through the Pollinator Partnership. In total this has enabled 200 farms to improve local habitats and biodiversity.

III. IN-FIELD BEEKEEPER SUPPORT

Through ABC, almond farmers have been a longstanding supporter of the Bee Informed Partnership's Tech Transfer Teams. These highly trained field agents work with U.S. beekeepers to monitor hives and use best practices, supporting bee health year-round.

IV. ON-FARM BIODIVERSITY

Since 2013 the Project Apis m. Seeds for Bees program has helped farmers add pollinator habitat to more than 95,000 acres of almond orchards! These plantings provide food sources for honey bees and native pollinators as well as improve carbon sequestration, soil health, water infiltration and more.

BEE-FRIENDLY ORCHARDS

Honey bees and almonds are a partnership designed by nature. When almond trees bloom, honey bees get their first nutritious food source² of the year as they pollinate our orchards, consistently leaving stronger than when they arrived.³ While bees are only with us for two months of the year, we work to support their health for all twelve.

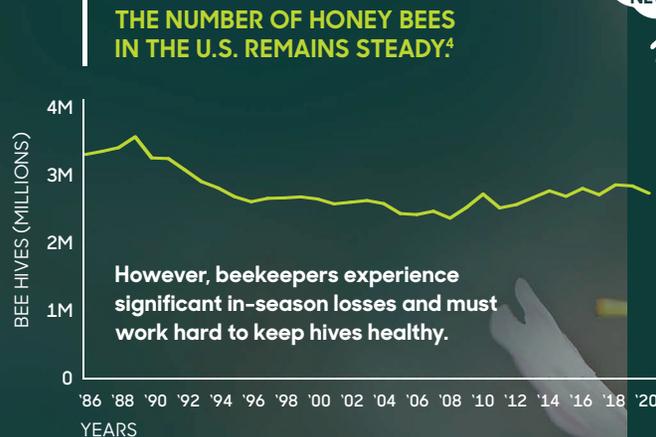
We've been leading bee health research efforts since 1995 so farmers can provide a safe habitat for bees before they move on to pollinate other crops. In collaboration with partners beyond our industry, our *Honey Bee Best Management Practices* serve as a guide to all of agriculture for protecting pollinator health on-farm. And by planting blooming cover crops and hedgerows, farmers provide supplemental nutrition and a welcoming habitat for all pollinators.

What's more, we're working with others to solve the challenges bees face. While those are complex—varroa mites, other pests and diseases, lack of floral resources, limited genetic diversity and pesticide exposure—we know by partnering together, we can find real solutions. ■



Pollinating almonds makes bees healthier.

Almond blossom nectar contains a naturally occurring compound, amygdalin, which reduces the viruses and gut parasites that attack bees.⁵



1. Billy Synk, Director of Pollination Services, Project Apis m. November 2021. Represents total plantings from 2013 to present. 2. Ramesh Sagili, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University. 3. Ellen Topitzhofer, et al. Assessment of pollen diversity available to honey bees in major cropping systems during pollination in the western United States. *Journal of Economic Entomology*. 2019. 4. USDA-NASS. Honey Production Report. 1986-2020. 5. JP Tauber, et al. Colony-level effects of amygdalin on honeybees and their microbes. *Insects*. 2020.



MEET LAURIE DAVIES ADAMS

PRESIDENT AND CEO, POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

"The almond industry has really shown itself to be a leader in pollinator health. From launching the California Pollinator Coalition to being recognized with the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign's Business for Bees Sustainability Award, almond farmers are doing the work on the ground too. This year 110,000 acres of almond orchards were certified through our Bee Friendly Farming program, representing 85% of all U.S. farms certified as 'bee friendly,' recognized for providing diverse forage and habitat for pollinators while practicing integrated pest management."