Finding the common ground between honey bees and agriculture

MATTHEW COSSEY | CEO

Representing the best of the plant science industry
“Civilization as it is known today could not have evolved, nor can it survive, without an adequate food supply.”

Dr Norman Borlaug, agronomist, humanitarian, Nobel Laureate and ‘the father of the Green Revolution’.
Sustainable and productive agriculture needs efficient pollination services and responsible pesticide use.
## Australian honey bee industry: 2014–15 survey results

Jerven van Drift, Jay Goddard and Caroline Lovett

Research by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
ABARES research report 1619

### Table 1 Number of registered beekeepers and hives, by state, 2006–07 and 2015–16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of beekeepers</th>
<th>% of beekeepers</th>
<th>Number of hives</th>
<th>% of hives</th>
<th>Beekeepers with more than 50 hives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>2006–07</td>
<td>3,060</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>236,200</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>4,250</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>192,900</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>2006–07</td>
<td>2,140</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>99,300</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>3,030</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>68,200</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>2006–07</td>
<td>3,110</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>127,100</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>2,820</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>73,700</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>2006–07</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>67,300</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australia</td>
<td>2006–07</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>26,900</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>1,730</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33,400</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>2006–07</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13,900</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16,400</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2006–07</td>
<td>9,920</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>572,000</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>13,390</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>448,300</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1,280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Department of Primary Industries (New South Wales); Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (Victoria); Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Queensland); Department of Primary Industries and Regions (South Australia); Department of Agriculture and Food (Western Australia); Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Tasmania)
Production of Beehives in World + (Total)
1961 - 2016

Source: FAOSTAT (Jan 09, 2018)
Regulation of agricultural chemicals in Australia is currently nationally harmonised and world-renowned as best practice risk-based regulation and is overseen by the APVMA.

Under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994* (Cth) the APVMA is responsible for the regulation of all agricultural and veterinary chemicals in Australia.
Modern Seed Treatments, such as neonicotinoids, have been used in Australia since 1990

The area treated is significantly reduced relative to whole area sprays or in-furrow treatments

• Less impact on non-target organisms
• Compatible with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches
IPM model of continual improvement

STEP 1 - KNOWLEDGE
- Key pests
- Pest lifecycles
- Natural enemies
- Growing area

STEP 2 - PREVENTION
- Site selection
- Variety
- Time of planting & rotations
- Water & nutrition management
- Farm hygiene
- Pest host management

STEP 3 - OBSERVATION
- Crop monitoring
- Pest prediction models
- Pheromone traps
- Yellow sticky traps

STEP 4 - INTERVENTION
- Mechanical controls
- Biological controls
- Chemical controls

STEP 5 - EVALUATION & PLANNING
- Review monitoring records
- Talking, listening, reading, thinking
- Consult & adapt
The Seed Treatment Stewardship Guide filled a gap in best management practice guides in Australia.

The strategy includes four specific stewardship and best practice guides.

The strategy complements existing strategies for treated seed stewardship like those developed by Australian Seed Federation and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.
Important to report any adverse experiences

How do I report an adverse experience?

ZERO adverse experiences in relation to bees have been reported in recent years, according to the APVMA.
BeeConnected
Developed in partnership with

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

Download the **FREE** smart-phone app now: [www.croplife.org.au/beeconnected](http://www.croplife.org.au/beeconnected)
Matthew Cossey
Chief Executive Officer
CropLife Australia

+61 2 6273 2733

@matthew_cossey @CropLifeOZ