

Cooperative Standards Adopted by Louisiana Pollinator Cooperative Conservation Program (LPCCP)



One of every three mouthfuls of the foods you enjoy depends on pollination by honey bees and other insects. Crops such as apples, cantaloupes, nuts and many vegetables depend on pollination. Along with pollination services, honey bees produce commodities valuable to the state of Louisiana in the form of honey and honey related products. Much of the Louisiana agricultural landscape contains a wide variety of native plants that many pollinators depend on to sustain them throughout the year. As good land stewards, it is vital that we protect these pollinators and their habitats.



Communication among Landowners, Farmers, Applicators and Beekeepers:

Beekeepers, farmers, landowners and pesticide applicators are encouraged to cultivate and maintain open communication by exchanging contact information with one another to facilitate a strong level of communication and partnership. Basic information should include: name, telephone number (cell and home), hive locations on the property, agricultural and non-agricultural commodities grown in fields adjacent to hive locations. Information regarding the pesticides applied on these commodities, stored commodity fumigation practices or areas and application timings throughout the growing season also should be included.



“Bee Aware” Flags and Placement:

The LPCCP has elected to adopt Mississippi’s “Bee Aware” flag to help identify hive locations adjacent to an agriculturally managed crop or area. The use of this flag creates a unified recognition system highly visible to pesticide applicators and farmers who manage commodities across state lines. Flags should be placed near hives, clearly visible to aerial and ground applicators serving as a reminder that bees are in the vicinity and consideration should be given when making pesticide applications. Farmers and beekeepers should work together in deciding on flag locations so they are visible to both aerial and ground applicators. For flag ordering information: www.completeflags.com.



Hive Identification:

Beekeepers are strongly encouraged to place visible placards on at least one hive at each site providing contact information in case of an emergency or if an issue arises. Placards should clearly indicate owner information, and be visible from a distance. Hive registration with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry is mandatory. Contact information: <http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/consumers/horticulture-programs/apiary-programs/> (225) 952-8100.



Hive GPS Locations:

Beekeepers should make every effort to establish GPS coordinates of their hives and provide this information to the farmer and pesticide applicator to establish precise hive locations on farm property.

Ground and Aerial Applicator Awareness of Hive Locations:

Farmers should make every effort to notify employees of apiary locations and related bee flags on farm property. Farmers also should notify contractual parties and aerial applicators of apiary locations and related bee flags.



Annual Apiary Location Review:

Farmers, landowners and beekeepers should annually review hive locations on a farm property. This is especially important if hives are moved to new location on the farm. Physical locations on a map or pinned locations on a smart phone may help facilitate this process.

Pesticide Application Timing

Pesticide applications should only be made when wind conditions are blowing away from colonies and bee yards. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) label guidelines should always be followed and applications should only be made when economic thresholds are met. Honey bees actively forage in natural habitats surrounding the hive and consideration should be given when applications are made to areas with foraging bees.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Pollinator Programs:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers landowners and producers financial and technical assistance to offset the costs of planting pollinator species. Financial assistance is available for both the establishment of plant species on land taken out of production, as well as the integration of plant species into existing crop rotations, pastureland and forestland. For more information on conservation programs that benefit pollinator species, please contact your local NRCS conservationist.

Cooperating Agencies:

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
LSU AgCenter
Louisiana Department Agriculture and Forestry
Dow AgroSciences
Louisiana Aerial Applicators Association
Louisiana Agricultural Consultants Association
Louisiana Beekeepers Association
Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association
Natural Resource Conservation Service

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