



**ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION**  
Since 1881

---

## **Breaking News from PMRA on Neonics and other Timely News. August 17, 2018**

- **Health Canada announces proposed decision to phase out Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam**
- **OAHN presents Varroa Mite Workshops this month across Ontario**
- **The Super Bowl of Beekeeping**
- **Do you own more than 50 colonies? Time to consider Agricorp's Bee Mortality Insurance**



### **Health Canada announces proposed decision to phase out Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam**

Last year Health Canada proposed the phasing out of one of the popular neonicotinoids, Imidacloprid, based on risks to aquatic invertebrates. On Wednesday, Health Canada publicly released their preliminary recommendations to phase out over three to five years the remaining two neonicotinoid molecules: Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam, after a [90 day public consultation process](#).

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency's (PMRA's) conclusions stated that:

“The environmental assessment showed that, in aquatic environments in Canada, clothianidin and thiamethoxam is being measured at concentrations that are harmful to aquatic insects. These insects are an important part of the ecosystem, including as a food source for fish, birds and other animals. Based on currently available information, most outdoor uses in Canada are not sustainable.”

While at first glance this appears to be great news for the health of bees and other organisms devastated by the current practice of overuse of neonics on field crops and in foliar sprays, we urge the need to be cautious and vigilant:

- The consultation process allows for pesticide companies and others who may be opposed to this phase-out to present evidence and arguments why it should not go into effect.
- The phase out period of three to five years makes no sense. If a produce is deemed harmful why would we not stop using it immediately?
- The evidence for the toxicity to aquatic invertebrates is proof of the persistence and prevalence of neonics in our environment. Why would PMRA in their pollinator risk assessment conclude that the risks to bees from the same exposure to these same chemicals is acceptable?

Ontario beekeepers' colonies continue to suffer exposure to the widespread use of neonics on field crops as seed treatments and foliar sprays.

**In the next 90 days, the OBA will prepare a strong and careful response to PMRA, pointing out the errors in their assessment of pollinator risk and the need to act at once to phase out neonics in accordance with the Precautionary Principle.**

See selected news stories this week:

**CBC News:** [Health Canada to ban pesticides blamed for bee losses, but farmers wonder about alternatives](#)

**Globe & Mail:** [Canada to phase out most uses of pesticides linked to bee deaths](#)

Read [Full PMRA Proposal on Clothianidin](#)

Read [Full PMRA Proposal on Thiamethoxam](#)

## OAHN presents Varroa Mite

## Workshops this month across Ontario

Mites are a devastating pest in honey bee colonies and their population amps up dramatically in the fall. Bee prepared to monitor and treat this fall to ensure healthy colonies this winter and next spring.



The Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) is offering free workshops this month led by experienced local beekeepers. Take advantage of this timely and important tool in your beekeeper tool kit. Suitable for all beekeepers. See more [here](#) or check out these dates and locations:

[Toronto Aug 21](#)

[Richmond Hill Aug 23](#)

[Hamilton Aug 26](#)

[Orangeville Aug 29](#)

[Cookstown Aug 30](#)

[Richmond Hill Aug 30](#)

## The Super Bowl of Beekeeping

(from the *New York Times*)

Almond growing in California is a \$7.6 billion industry that wouldn't be possible without the 30 billion bees (and hundreds of human beekeepers) who keep the trees pollinated — and whose very existence is in peril.

Every February, white petals blanket first the almond trees, then the floor of the central valley, an 18,000-square-mile expanse of California that begins at the stretch of highway known as the Grapevine just south of Bakersfield and reaches north to the foothills of the Cascades. The blooms represent the beginning of the valley's growing season each year: Almond trees are first to bud, flower and fruit. At the base of the trunks sit splintered boxes — some marked with numbers, some with names, some with insignias — stacked two boxes high on a wooden pallet that fits four stacks. Inside the boxes are bees, dancing in circles and figure-eights and sometimes just wagging. With almond season comes bee season.

Everyone in the valley knows when it's bee season. There are bee-specific truckers; motels occupied by seasonal workers; annual dinners to welcome the out-of-towners; weathered pickups with license plates from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas and Florida parked in front of orchards at all hours of the night. And those ubiquitous boxes.

View full [story](#)

## Do you own more than 50



## colonies? Time to consider Agricorp's Bee Mortality Insurance

The Production Insurance plan for bee mortality is designed to cover colony losses that occur during the overwinter period. A payment may be made if an insured peril causes the number of surviving colonies to fall below your total number of guaranteed colonies.

Current subscribers receive renewal packages in the mail.

New subscribers should [contact Agricorp](#) directly. **Enrollment is due by September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

See more [here](#).

[OUTREACH](#) | [BEE INDUSTRY INFO](#) | [ISSUES & ADVOCACY](#) | [SALES & SERVICES](#) | [COMMUNITY](#) | [INSIDE OBA](#) | [SIGN IN](#)  
[UNSUBSCRIBE << TEST EMAIL ADDRESS >>](#) | [UPDATE YOUR PROFILE](#) | [FORWARD TO A FRIEND](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#)



*Copyright © 2018 Ontario Beekeepers' Association, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you either; subscribed to the Ontario Beekeepers' Association mailing list, are an OBA member, or opted into the OMAFRA mailing list.

**Our mailing address is:**

Ontario Beekeepers' Association  
[8560 Tremaine Road](#)  
Box 476  
Milton, On L9T 4Z1  
Canada