"The case has become quite clear that these chemicals are causing harm and their use is largely unjustifiable." - Dr. Jeremy Kerr

ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
Since 1881

JUNE 12, 2018

beecause ACT NOW

From CBC Radio and *Quirks & Quarks* - Scientists say restrictions on neonic pesticides aren't enough to save bees - we need a ban

Concerns over the widely used agricultural pesticides known as neonicotinoids — or neonics — have reached their peak when 242 scientists from around the world call for an urgent ban.

That's what happened a little more than a week ago when, in an open letter addressed to international governments, the scientists wrote: "the balance of evidence strongly suggests that these chemicals are harming beneficial insects and contributing to the current massive loss of biodiversity."

"As such, there is an immediate need for national and international agreements to greatly restrict their use," the letter read.

This led to an episode focused on neonics on Saturday's edition of *Quirks & Quarks*, CBC Radio's popular science show.

OBA president, Jim Coneybeare, provided his comments, following OBA's report of severe winter losses. The OBA has been a longtime advocate for restrictions on the use of neonics in Ontario.

See the story and listen to the episode here.

Interested in learning more about the Economics of Pollination (US-based)?

C-FARE and USDA Economists Group Summer Webinar Series
Webinar: Pollinator Economics in the United States - Demands, Costs, and Logistics
Tuesday, June 26th from 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

Moderator: Val Dolcini, President & CEO, The Pollinator Partnership
Presenters: Peyton Ferrier, USDA Economic Research Service and Brittney Goodrich, Auburn University

Since 2006, winter losses of managed honey bee colonies in the United States have averaged 29 percent, approximately double the 15 percent historical rate. These elevated losses have raised concerns that agricultural and food supply chains will suffer disruptions as pollination services become costlier and less available. Among pollinated crops, almonds and plums have had the largest increases in pollination service fees, rising about 2.5 and 2.4 times, respectively, in real (inflation-adjusted) terms since the early 1990s, with the largest portion of the increase occurring between 2004 and 2006.

California almond production required over 75 percent of honey producing colonies in the United States in 2016 for its pollination needs. The magnitude of demand relative to the national supply of managed honey bee colonies has created a complex interaction between honey bee colony health and almond production. During this webinar, speakers will discuss the demand, costs and logistical issues associated with pollination of crops in the United States.

Register here.

Share our e-news with your network.

Beekeepers' Association mailing list, are an OBA member, or opted into the OMAFRA mailing list.

Ontario Beekeepers' Association
8560 Tremaine Road
Box 476
Milton, On L9T 4Z1
Canada