



ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION
Since 1881

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS FOR MPP MEETINGS OR CANDIDATE DEBATES

1. **Neonicotinoid pesticides are what's killing our bees:** Health Canada via the Pesticide Management Regulating Agency (PMRA) has confirmed the link between neonicotinoids on corn and soy and bee kills in Ontario and Quebec in both 2012 and 2013.
2. **Science supports this contention:** Europe reviewed over 100 scientific papers before deciding to ban these pesticides. Since then over a dozen papers have been published from Europe, the UK, the U.S. and Canada identifying the negative impacts of neonicotinoid exposure on honey bees, wild bees, bumble bees, butterflies and birds.
3. **Beekeepers cannot escape the problem:** Ontario has a unique problem. Over 4.2 million acres of corn and soybean are grown in the province. There is no way to avoid exposure to these pesticides.
4. **Pesticides are being used indiscriminately:** 100% of Ontario's corn and 65% of soy acreage is treated with neonicotinoid pesticide whether the crops need it or not. Using a pesticide as a preventative breaks every rule of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
5. **Best Management Practices are not the solution: dust is not the problem.** BMPs focus on the dust from planters. Dust exposure in the treated fields is only part of the problem and research is showing lethal amounts of neonicotinoids in spring flowering trees and shrubs adjacent to corn and soy fields and on water and soil in and near the corn and soy fields.
6. **The impact on Grain Farmers will be minimal.** Ontario government field crop specialists estimate that only 10% to 20% of acreage requires the application of neonicotinoid pesticides. Research in Europe is showing nil to only slight decreases in yield when neonicotinoids are not available.
7. **The Government of Canada cannot be counted on to do anything.** PMRA has stated that their registration review of neonicotinoids will not be completed before 2016 and likely 2018.
8. **The Province of Ontario can take the lead and act on its own.** While pesticide registration is a federal jurisdiction, under its Pesticide Control Act the province can suspend usage as they did with Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticide ban.