

# **Ontario Beekeepers' Association Issues Management Update November 15, 2019**

**Dennis Edell, Chair Issues Management Committee**



**The OBA is a voice for Ontario beekeepers in issues that effect the health of bees, the operations of beekeepers or the business of beekeeping.**



# **Current Issues Affecting Ontario Beekeepers**

## **Ontario**

**The status of Ontario Class 12 legislation**

**Small Hive Beetle**

**Changes to the Bees Act and the Thirty  
Meter Rule**

**Access to antibiotics**

## **Federal**

**PMRA decisions on Neonic De-registration**

**Adulterated and mislabeled honey**

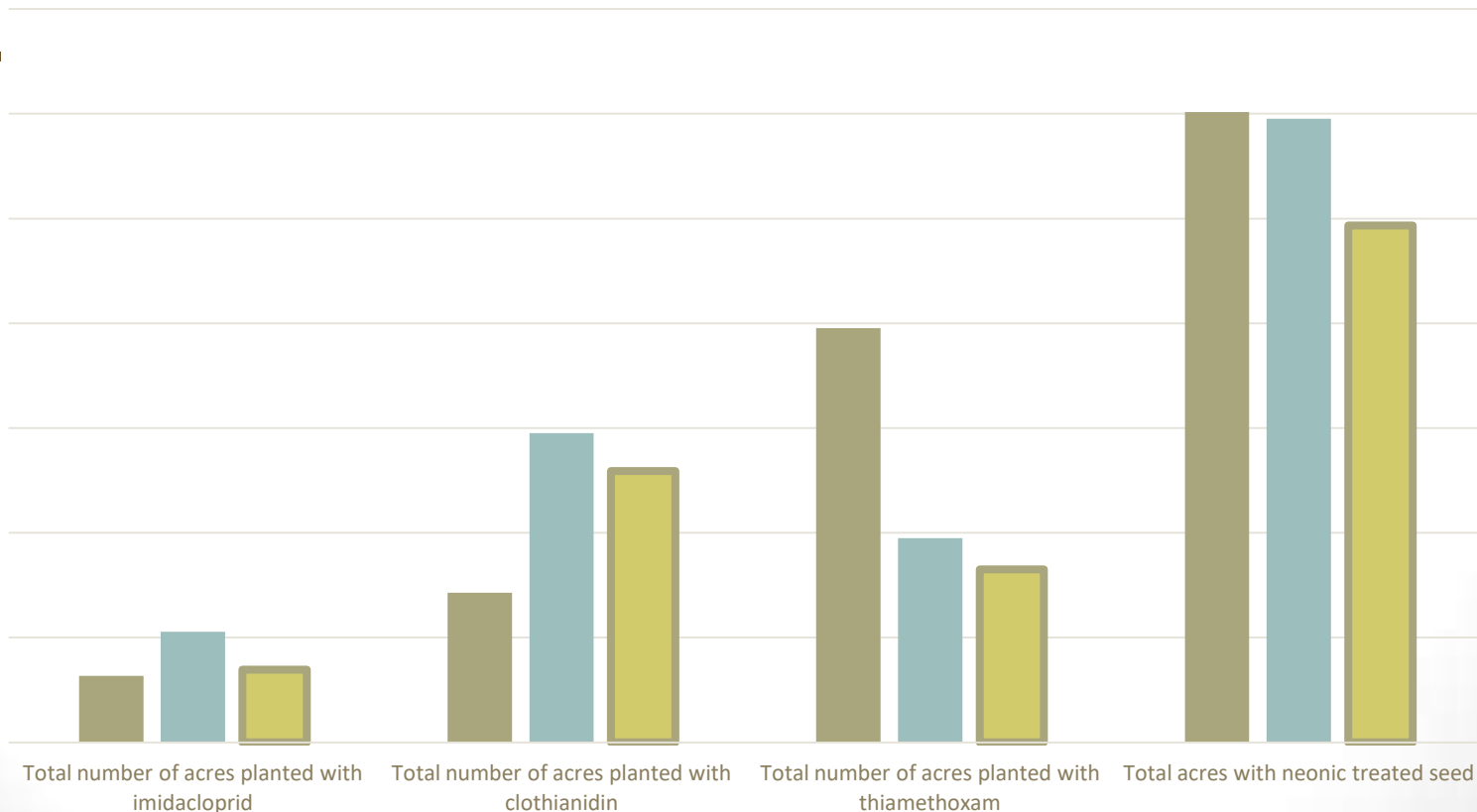
**Ontario beekeepers continue to experience unsustainable overwinter losses, widespread queen failures and historically lower honey production.**

**OBA Survey, Ontario Beekeepers'  
Overwinter Colony Losses Winter 2017-  
2018 vs. Winter 2018-2019  
as of April 15.**



**With the support of the OBA, the government of Ontario passed legislation in 2015 to reduce by 85% acreage planted with neonicotinoid treated corn and soy seed. After three planting seasons, Ontario has only reduced neonic usage by 25%.**

Neonicotinoid Treated Seeds Sales by Acres Planted




A new insecticide seed treatment, Dupont's Lumivia (Chlorantraniliprole), has been substituted for NNIs as a seed treatment on corn sold by Pioneer in Ontario this season (2019). New research points to possible problems with Lumivia.

## SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

Article | [Open Access](#) | Published: 15 February 2019

Honey bees long-lasting locomotor deficits after exposure to the diamide chlorantraniliprole are accompanied by brain and muscular calcium channels alterations

Aklesso Kadala, Mercédès Charreton, Pierre Charnet & Claude Collet 

*Scientific Reports* **9**, Article number: 2153 (2019) | [Download Citation](#) 



**Bayer's Movento (Spirotetramat), a systemic, water soluble pesticide highly toxic to bees, was prescribed by OMAFRA for mealybug control (leaf curl virus) in Niagara vineyards without regard for its extreme toxicity.**

**OBA has worked with grape growers and OMAFRA to create awareness for the impact of Movento on honey bees and successfully piloted an alternative mealybug treatment.**

**TOXIC to bee brood. Bee Brood may be exposed to residues in/on pollen and nectar brought back to the hive by bees foraging on flowering crops and weeds. DO NOT apply this product during crop flowering period or when flowering weeds are present in the treatment area. Minimize spray drift to habitats close to the application site. Movento Label**

**While class 12 legislation has fallen far short of its 85% reduction target, Ontario, with pressure from pesticide mfrs and grain growers proposes to ease regulatory requirements and discontinue tracking of sales of NNIs.**

### Ontario is looking to weaken pesticide rules, environmentalists say

JEFF GRAY > QUEEN'S PARK REPORTER  
PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 14, 2019  
UPDATED 15 HOURS AGO



Environmental groups are concerned that Ontario could weaken restrictions on pesticides that some blame for harming bee



**The OBA will respond to Ontario's proposed amendments to NNI legislation.**

**We believe that easing the regulatory burden of Class 12 legislation must not weaken protection of honey bees and insect pollinators.**

**Moreover, there is a need for the Ontario Government to amend its legislation to be more effective at protecting insect pollinators from the overuse of all systemic, water soluble pesticides. Progress toward this goal must be measured and reported.**

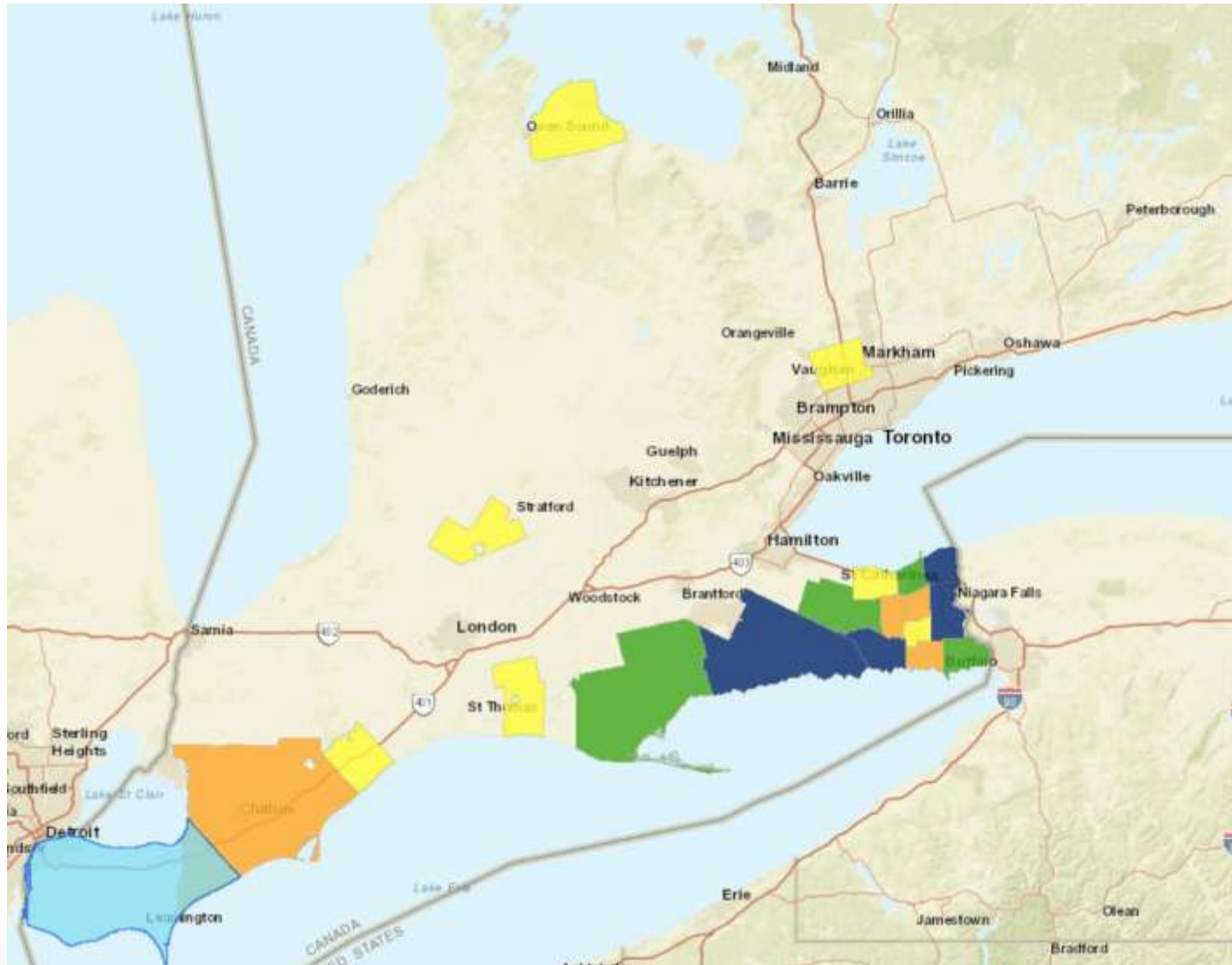
**In 2019 PMRA concluded their pesticide review of neonicotinoids and proposes removal of some uses of neonics on vegetables and fruits. They concluded that based on dust reduction and the low number of *reported* incidents the risk to insect pollinators from NNI treated corn and soy is acceptable (with some label modifications).**

**However PMRA also concluded that the risk to aquatic invertebrates requires suspension of their use. After consultation the final decision will be announced in early 2020. PMRA proposes a 3 – 5 year phase in period.**

**“The environmental assessment showed that, in aquatic environments in Canada, neonics are being measured at concentrations that are harmful to aquatic insects. Based on currently available information, most outdoor uses in Canada are not sustainable.”**

**The OBA has submitted responses to PMRA proposed actions and has strongly objected to the protracted three year phase out period of these chemicals.**

# Small Hive Beetle continues to expand into new areas Ontario and in established habitats such as Niagara Region



**While the spread of SHB is likely inevitable, it is worrisome for many beekeepers. With almost ten years of experience with SHB in Ontario we believe that SHB is manageable and causes far less damage than wax moth.**



## **Replacing the Thirty Meter Rule**

*No person shall place hives or leave hives containing bees within **30 metres of a property line** separating the land on which the hives are placed or left from land **occupied as a dwelling or used for a community center, public park or other place of public assembly or recreation.***

**The current rule does not provide adequate guidelines for Ontario's growing population of urban beekeepers. The OBA will publish suggested changes to the Thirty Meter rule for comment.**

**However the rule cannot be changed until the Government of Ontario and the OBA resolve the future of the Bees Act.**



**The Canada No 1 mislabelling issue has been resolved and new rules are published and are being phased in.**

**The Canadian Honey Council, has been lobbying CFIA to do more inspections of honey imported from suspect countries, to prevent dumping inferior or cheap honey. The CHC will be speaking to this issue at this meeting.**



**What's on your mind?**

**There are many issues that affect bee health and or the  
beekeeping operations of our members.**

**We may be able to help or at least we can let you know  
what we know.**

**Keep us informed.**