



## COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION STARTS WITH EVERYONE

The stakeholders listed here are committed to educate their respective members on the components of the Tennessee Pollinator Conservation Plan and the advancement of its goal and purpose.

Farmers and beekeepers are encouraged to foster a strong level of communication with each other during any cooperative arrangement. Both the farmer and beekeeper should exchange some basic information including name, phone number, locations of hives on the farm property, commodities grown in the fields adjacent to hive locations, and general information concerning insecticides applied on these commodities and timing of these application during the normal growing season. Cooperators are encouraged to have open dialogue about this information every year to foster that strong level of communication that should exist in such arrangement.

Both the beekeeper and farmer should generate and review a comprehensive list of all apiary locations that occur on the farm property or on adjacent property not owned by the farmer annually. This is especially important when hives are moved to new locations. Bees located near agricultural fields could be exposed to chemical drift during applications. Bees may forage on any flowering plant whether it is a crop plant or “weed” without regard to landowner boundaries.

The presence of a yellow and black striped “Bee Aware Flag” will be used across the state to clearly identify the locations of honey bee hives that are on a farm property or near crop fields. These flags will serve as a visible reminder to farmers and pesticide applicators that honey bees and other pollinators are present in the area. All flags should be placed so as to be visible to applicators from both the ground and air.



## CONSIDERATIONS FOR BEEKEEPERS

**Hive Identification:** The beekeeper should have a placard placed on a prominent hive within an apiary that clearly identifies the owner of the hives with emergency contact information. This placard should be highly visible from a distance.

**Bee Aware Flag:** All parties should work together to select a prominent location for the Bee Aware Flag that will be visible to applicators from the air or ground.

**Apiary Locations:** In any strong working cooperative agreement between farmers and beekeepers, all parties will discuss proper hive locations on or adjacent to the farm property where the bees will be kept beforehand. It is encouraged that beekeepers provide GPS coordinates to the farmer and his applicator to show exact locations of hives on or adjacent to the farm property. The beekeeper knows the best honey bee habitats and can help select an apiary locations that (1) uses natural barriers such as tree lines to mitigate against exposure to insecticide drift, (2) will best facilitate the entrances to hives from directly facing fields, and (3) are not too close to the immediate edges of fields.

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR FARMERS AND PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

**Notify Ground and Aerial Applicators of Hive Location(s):** The farmer should make his employees (or other contractual parties) aware of all apiary locations and the associated bee flags on the farm property or adjacent property and should notify his aerial applicator (if applicable) of apiaries on farm property as well.

**Timing of Insecticide Applications:** When possible, especially when bees are actively foraging, farmers should consider applying insecticides as late in the afternoon as possible on fields that are near hive locations. Selecting this time to apply insecticides in sensitive areas near hives will help mitigate many risks of bee losses. Further, insecticides should always follow label guidelines and be made when pests reach economic threshold levels.

**Wind Direction:** Insecticides should only be made when drift onto bee hives is not likely (e.g., when winds are blowing away from the hive location(s)).

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to develop and promote a voluntary program of cooperative standards among farmers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators when bees are located in or near crop production areas to ensure the compatibility of crop production, apiculture, and pollinator health.

## TENNESSEE POLLINATOR CONSERVATION PLAN

A program presented and adopted by the following stakeholders to foster cooperation among beekeepers, pesticide applicators and agricultural producers for the purpose of preventing honey bees and pollinators from the unreasonable exposure to pesticides through education and stewardship recommendations in the state of Tennessee:

*Tennessee Beekeepers Association, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, Tennessee Aerial Applicators Association, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Independent Crop Consultants, Tennessee Fruit and Vegetable Association, Tennessee Agricultural Production Association, Tennessee Soybean Association, and University of Tennessee Extension.*



## BEEKEEPER INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Hive Locations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## FARMER INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Crops Grown on Property: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name/Contact Info for Applicator(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

*For questions concerning the  
Tennessee Pollinator Conservation Plan please contact:*

*Dr. John Skinner, UT Extension Apiculturist  
at 865-974-0209 or [jskinner@utk.edu](mailto:jskinner@utk.edu)*

*or*

*Dr. Scott Stewart, UT Extension Entomologist  
at 731-425-4709 or [sdstewart@utk.edu](mailto:sdstewart@utk.edu)*

**T E N N E S S E E  
P O L L I N A T O R  
C O N S E R V A T I O N P L A N**