



HONEY BEE HEALTH INITIATIVES

Modern agriculture practices can positively affect biodiversity. Monsanto advocates for biodiversity through efforts and collaborations aimed at protecting species and promoting sustainable landscapes. An important part of this commitment is understanding and promoting honey bee health.



1 in 3

bites of our food relies on honey bee pollination but honey bees face many challenges to their health, especially the parasitic varroa mite.

HONEY BEE ADVISORY COUNCIL (HBAC)

This external advisory panel, established in 2012, helps guide our honey bee health research and outreach. Members include representatives from the beekeeping industry, academics and other experts.

HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION

In 2013, Monsanto's Honey Bee Advisory Council (HBAC) and Project Apis m. held the first Honey Bee Health Summit in St. Louis. Summit participants went on to form the [Honey Bee Health Coalition \(HBHC\)](#) convened by the Keystone Center.

Today, the HBHC comprises more than 40 diverse organizations including beekeepers, farmers, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, conservations groups, nonprofits and consumer brands. SEE NEXT PAGE FOR HBHC FOCUS AREAS.

MONSANTO RESEARCH: **BIODIRECT™**

In addition to our work with the HBHC, Monsanto has invested millions of dollars annually since 2013 in research and development of a product that harnesses a naturally occurring process called RNA interference aimed at controlling varroa destructor mites, the largest factor in the decline of honey bees. We are field-testing a treatment applied to honey bee hives as part of typical beekeeping practices in several areas of the United States and Canada.

Visit our website for more information on our [biodiversity efforts](#)





HONEY BEE HEALTH INITIATIVES

Hive Management

Put the best available tools, techniques and technologies in the hands of beekeepers so they can best manage their hives.

Outcome Example

The Tools for Varroa Management Guide

- Downloaded 50,000 times
- Continually updated with new information

Forage and Nutrition

Promote improved nutrition for honey bees by developing bee-friendly landscapes and supplemental honey bee nutrition.

Outcome Examples

- The Bee Nutrition Challenge: An Innovation Award seeking creative, practical solutions to accelerate and pioneer the field of honey bee nutrition.

Crop Pest Management

Work to develop crop- and product-specific integrated pest management practices and messaging to improve bee and pollinator safety.

Outcome Examples

- Partnership with United Soybean Board and others to develop and promote best management practices.

Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3)

- Individualized plans for farmers created by states
- HBHC helps provide resources and expertise in the development of MP3 plans

Outreach and Education

Create resources and hands-on experiences that accelerate understanding and the adoption of practices and innovations that improve honey bee health.

Outcome Example

The Bee Integrated Demonstration Project

- Brings together beekeeper and farmer pairs to show how best practices can be implemented together in agricultural landscapes.

70+

pollinator-friendly habitats planted at Monsanto sites in conjunction with Pheasants Forever

HBHC Bee Understanding Project

Beekeepers, growers, entomologists and crop advisors swap jobs to see honey bees from another expert's perspective. The first swap is featured in a documentary video.



Scan QR code to connect to the video on your mobile device.

