

# Introduction

Dean Coleman

Owner – Sweet Endeavors, LLC

Started keeping bees in 2017

2017: 2 Hives at 1 Apiary

2022: 35 Hives at 5 Apiaries

# Problems Facing Bee Colonies

- Varroa Mites
- Small Hive Beetles
- Wax Moths
- Pesticide Exposure
- Adequate Food Sources





# My Experience

- We feed bees in the early spring (1:1)
- We feed again after honey harvest (2:1)
- We use a candy board (dry sugar) over the winter
- Mite Treatment is necessary
- Small Hive Beetle Treatment



# We keep bees because:

- Beekeepers love their bees
- Without supporting treatments and management procedures bees are at risk from parasites, diseases, pesticide contamination, and starvation
- We can all work together to help mitigate some of these problems including:
  - The contamination from pesticides and starvation
  - Pesticide contamination occurs due to excessive and inappropriate use of pesticides
  - starvation is a result of a lack flower diversity and scarcity



# What Can Farmers Do to Help Bees

- Don't Mow Road Ditches or other areas where flowering plants grow when they are in bloom
- Plant perennial bee friendly and native flowering plants around your house and property
- Limit pesticide use
  - Don't spray fence rows
  - Apply pesticides and other chemicals in the morning/evening after bees return to the hives
- Visit [ia.beecheck.org](https://ia.beecheck.org) to see where are bees are kept near you

## About BeeCheck

BeeCheck™ is operated by FieldWatch, Inc, a non-profit company created by Purdue in collaboration with interested agricultural stakeholder groups. For more information, visit [www.fieldwatch.com](https://www.fieldwatch.com).

This mapping tool is meant to help pesticide applicators and beekeepers communicate more effectively to promote awareness and stewardship activities to help prevent and manage drift effects.

This site features a [powerful map interface](#) that clearly shows applicators the locations of registered sites so they can use the information in their ongoing stewardship activities before they spray.



# What can Farmers Do to Help Bees

Plant appropriate floral resources.

Important early spring flowers include:

- Maple Trees – (Feb – Apr)
- Crab Apple Trees – (Apr – May)
- Fruit Trees – (Apr – May)
- Magnolia Trees - (Apr)
- Dandelions – (Apr – May)
- Violets – (Apr – June)
- Bloodroot – (Mar – May)
- Pasque Flowers- (Mar – Apr)
- Dog Wood – ( Apr – May)
- Whichhazel – (Feb – Mar)





# What Can Farmers Do to Help Bees

- Plant and Maintain Prairie Strips
  - Help prevent erosion of the soil
  - Reduces runoff into waterways
  - Provide habitat for bees, birds, and other pollinators
  - Supports a wide array of flowering plants that may allow the bees to produce honey earlier and later into the year



## If you have questions

- Dean Coleman:  
[iowahoneyman@gmail.com](mailto:iowahoneyman@gmail.com)
- We will be around for a few minutes after the presentation

