



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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WHY DOES BEE HEALTH MATTER?

The Science Surrounding Honey Bee Health Concerns and What We Can Do About It

Washington, DC—June 14, 2017, for Immediate Release – A summary of research and recommendations on honey bee and pollinator health will be the subject of NCFAR's seminar on Monday, June 19—the beginning of National Pollinator Week—at noon in 1300 Longworth House Office Building, and again at 3 in 328A Russell Senate Office Building. The presenter is Dr. Marla Spivak, Department of Entomology, University of Minnesota.

"The plight of bees is something everyone can remedy now," says Spivak. "The first steps are to provide bees with good clean food, by increasing and maintaining flowering resources, and keeping those flowers free of pesticide contamination."

"This presentation provides an excellent example of the value of federally funded food and agricultural research, extension, and education in producing the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities," says Andy LaVigne, President of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR).

Highlights: Pollinators are responsible for about 1/3 of our human diet by volume. Although honey bees are one of nearly 20,000 bee species, they support more than \$19B in food and crop production in the United States each year. A serious decline in honey bee health has significant implications for agriculture. Sick and weakened bees diminish the colony's resiliency, leading to a condition often referred to as colony collapse disorder. Most scientists agree that there are four main stressors affecting the bees: parasites, pathogens, pesticides, and poor nutrition. This paper provides a summary of the scientific issues, current research, and recommendations related to bee health, as well as opportunities for beekeepers, land managers, crop producers, homeowners, and policymakers to engage in helping understand and address the problems to ultimately restore healthy populations of honey bees and other pollinators.

The seminar is open to the public and the media.

The **National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR)** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based, and *customer-led* coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and Extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, Extension, and education. National C-FAR's Hill Seminar Series, now in its tenth year, regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. The Hill Seminar Series helps demonstrate the value of public investment in food and agricultural research—investment that returns 45 percent per year on average, and \$20 in economic benefit from every \$1 investment in food and ag research.

Go to http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp for more information about the seminar series and past topics. Interviews with National C-FAR President Andy LaVigne are available by request. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com or (703) 509-4746.