Industry Buzz: BASF Crop Protection Joins the Honey Bee Health Coalition

BASF has joined the Honey Bee Health Coalition, a growing and diverse group focused on improving the health of honey bees in North America. As a member, BASF will work with other Coalition members to improve bee health and protect the future of honey bees and the food supply.

“Honey bees play a critical role in the agriculture industry as many important crops, such as almonds, apples, tomatoes and alfalfa, rely on honey bee and other native and managed pollinators,” said Maximillian Safarpour, director, government and regulatory affairs with BASF. “We look forward to working with the Coalition’s network of members to continue improving honey bee health in North America.”

Joining the Honey Bee Health Coalition is part of the continued commitment of BASF to pollinator health. BASF supports research projects that investigate the causes of increased honey bee colony mortality, and is working to develop new products to control bee pests, pathogens and diseases. Through its rigorous stewardship program, BASF provides guidance to growers on proper application and product use, and supports several joint initiatives to support bee health, including beekeeper associations, research institutes and governmental authorities.

“We are pleased to have BASF Crop Protection join the Coalition,” said The Keystone Center’s Julie Shapiro, the Coalition’s facilitator. “By building off of the excellent collaboration among Coalition members and with the help and support of new partners like BASF, we can achieve our goal of substantially improving honey bee health.”

The Honey Bee Health Coalition is an initiative of The Keystone Center, a public policy-focused organization that has been involved extensively in agriculture issues over the years. Members of the Coalition include beekeepers, growers, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, conservation groups and others. The Coalition is focusing its efforts in four key areas: forage and nutrition, hive management, crop pest management, and outreach, education and communications. More information about the coalition and its goals can be found at: http://www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org

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