

Final OCSPP FY 2020-2021 National Program Guidance

**B. ASSIST IN NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL POLLINATOR PROTECTION EFFORTS**

**DESCRIPTION**

Through risk assessment, mitigation, education, and outreach, EPA's goal for pollinator protection is to ensure all pollinators, including native and managed pollinators (e.g. honey bees) are protected from potential adverse effects from pesticide exposure. Regional offices play a key role promoting and overseeing pollinator protection activities through their frequent communication with states and tribes.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Assist with the development of managed pollinator protection plans (MP3s), the appropriate revision to such plans, and outreach for state and tribal pollinator protection plans. Regional offices should support states who are developing or revising MP3s as well as tribes who are developing broader tribal Pollinator Protection Plans (P3s). Further, regional offices should assist states and tribes with their implementation efforts throughout FY 2020-2021.
- The American Association of Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG), and the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) developed a survey for state lead agencies regarding various aspects of MP3s. The results of the survey will be used by EPA as a line of evidence in determining the effectiveness of MP3s in reducing pesticide exposure to pollinators over time. EPA regional offices should encourage states to complete and submit the survey so that AAPCO/SFIREG can provide a summary to EPA. Tribes have the option to complete the survey as well and/or develop alternate means of assessing the effectiveness of their Pollinator Protection Plans.
- Conduct outreach and education on pollinator protection approaches and efforts as well as the Monarch Protection Strategy. Regional offices should disseminate existing outreach materials to promote pollinator protection Best Management Practices (BMPs), and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in crops attractive to bees. For a listing of bee-attractive crops, see the USDA publication at: [https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/OPMP/Attractiveness%20of%20Agriculture%20Crops%20to%20Pollinating%20Bees%20Report-FINAL\\_Web%20Version\\_Jan%202018.pdf](https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/OPMP/Attractiveness%20of%20Agriculture%20Crops%20to%20Pollinating%20Bees%20Report-FINAL_Web%20Version_Jan%202018.pdf).
- Existing EPA-developed pollinator protection material can be found on EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/epa-actions-protect-pollinators>.
- In addition, an extensive amount of outreach and educational materials are available through the USDA extension: (<https://www.extension.org/tag/pollinators/>) and Natural Resources Conservation.

**Service websites**

- (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/>), and on stakeholder websites, such as the Pollinator Partnership (<https://pollinator.org/>), the Honey Bee Health Coalition (<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/>), Monarch Watch (<https://www.monarchwatch.org/>), and Xerces Society (<https://xerces.org/>).
- Identify opportunities to partner with other agencies and organizations interested in promoting pollinator protection. The National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators includes ideas for partnerships. Regional offices should consider: Partnering with USDA regional IPM Centers to leverage opportunities for outreach on pollinator protection BMPs. (<https://nifa.usda.gov/regional-integrated-pest-management-ipm-centers>).

## Linking to the Pollinator Partnership Action Plan

([https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/Blog/PPAP\\_2016.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/Blog/PPAP_2016.pdf))

- Reviewing the Pollinator Research Action Plan of the National Strategy which has sections on “Research to Application” and Partnerships.  
(<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/Pollinator%20Research%20Action%20Plan%202015.pdf>)
- Promote the EPA Bee Inspection Guidance and encourage timely state and tribal responses to all suspected pesticide incidents involving pollinators. During end-of-year reviews with the states and tribes, regions should review all enforcement case files closed during the fiscal year that involve bee kill complaints. Provide additional outreach to states and tribes to encourage the use of the Bee Inspection Guidance (<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2013-09/documents/beeinspection-guide.pdf>) and ensure more uniform incident investigations. Regional offices should work with states and tribes to promote national consistency on reporting the completed investigations of all pesticide-related incidents involving pollinators to OPP at: [beekill@epa.gov](mailto:beekill@epa.gov).

## MEASURE

EPA will review the data provided by the AAPCO/SFIREG survey referenced above, which will provide detailed information about the effectiveness of the state’s MP3s. In addition, EPA will review pesticide incident information and any other qualitative data available, to evaluate the effectiveness of regional progress towards this national priority focus.