

# COMB Courier

Mid-Michigan—Land of the bee

Vol. 2 No. 12

December 2015

Editor: mike ffrench

Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year !

from Mike, Debbie, and Jane

## Healthy Food Healthy Bees Connection Wraps Up its First Year

By Barb Barton, Leaning Trees Honey

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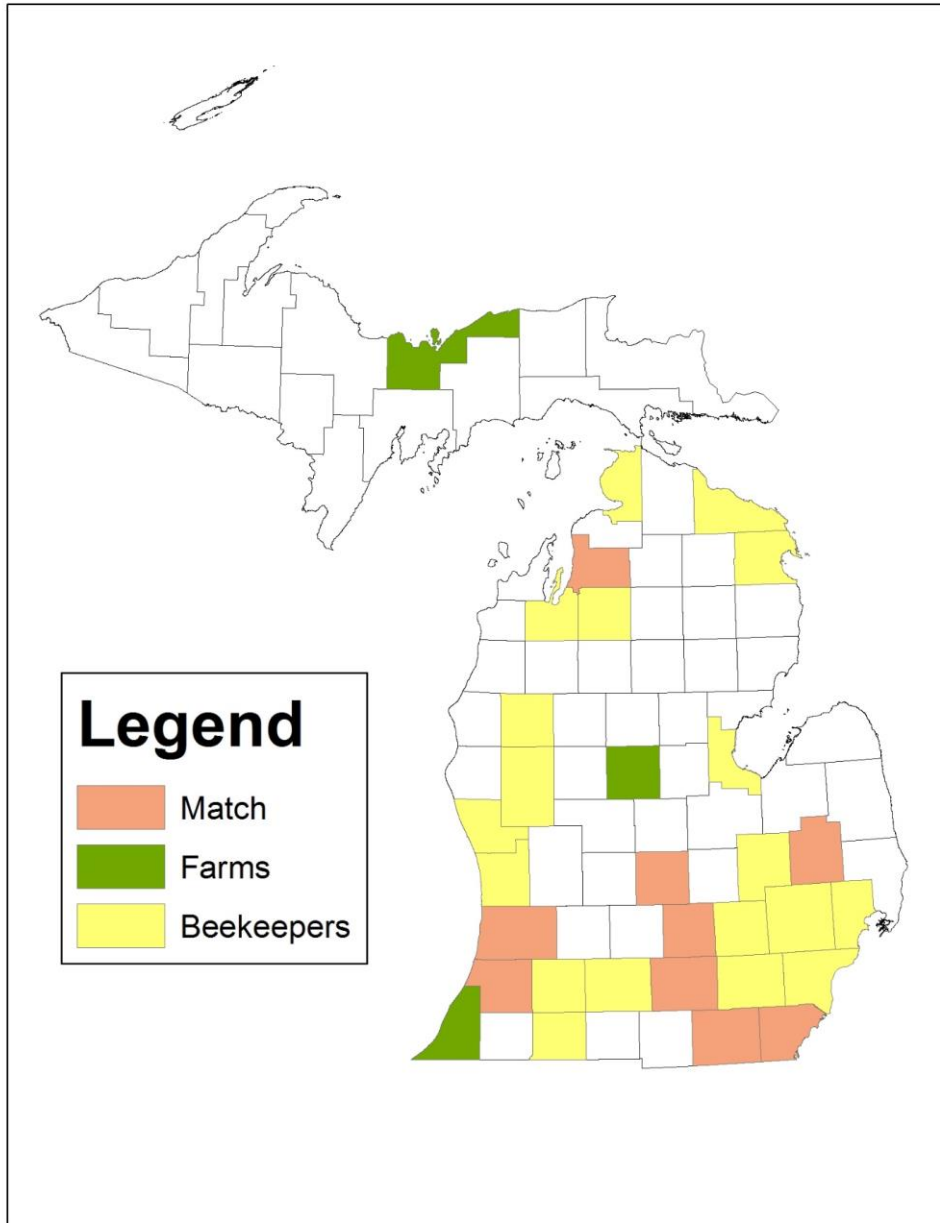
734-576-8427

We are excited to report that we had 36 beekeepers and farmers sign up to be a part of the Healthy Food Healthy Bees Connection in 2015! This is a great start for our effort to connect farmers and beekeepers across our great state of Michigan. Participants included 14 farmers representing 12 counties and 22 beekeepers offering to put bees in 26 counties (see map). Of those interested folks, we had 8 overlaps which means 8 potential matches.

We notified the beekeepers and the farmers of their matches and let them take it from there. We are needing more farmers and beekeepers to sign up and fill out our county map.

Beekeepers order their honeybees in early winter so they need to know if they are going to be placing a new hive on a farm this spring, so it is important for our farmer friends to sign up early. The goal for 2016 is to double the number of farmers and beekeepers, so please consider registering for our program! It is free and easy to sign up for.

The Healthy Food – Healthy Bees Connection strives to put pollinators where they are needed most – where we grow our food. Many beekeepers are looking for additional locations for their bees, and many farmers are looking for more bees – we provide the match. *We are currently accepting applications for both beekeepers and farmers in Michigan for 2016.* Simply go to [www.northernbeenetwork.org](http://www.northernbeenetwork.org) and click on the Healthy Food Healthy Bees Connection! For more information contact Barb Barton, Leaning Trees Honey, at [akikwe@gmail.com](mailto:akikwe@gmail.com)



## Beekeeper's Prayer

May the winter be short. May our bees live forever. May chefs of the world declare honey as the food most sought after. May our government declare bees vital to our existence; put a moratorium on insecticides; and purge the chemical companies. May the hobbyists never lose hope, or be tempted to throw in the towel. May commercial beekeepers prosper, for we are all riding the same train. Most of all, let us share our knowledge and our bounty.

**C.O.M.B. Monthly meeting.**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month 6:30pm.  
 MSU Pavilion, Farm Lane, E. Lansing

# No Justice No Honey

By Jim Hightower

Bees make honey, which is healthy. Dow Agrosiences makes sulfoxaflor, which is a neurotoxic that kills bees.

So, which product did the Environmental Protection agency choose to protect in a 2013 ruling? You guessed it: Toxic corporate money trumped nature’s honey, even though sulfoxaflor has been linked to colony collapse disorder)CCD), the sudden decimation of entire colonies of bees, These massive kill-offs directly endanger your and my food supply, for bees are the major pollinators of 30 percent of the crops we consume, from berries to veggies. In the past year, US beekeepers lost 40 percent of their little pollinators to CCD.

In response, honey producers and environmentalists sued the EPA, charging, among other things, that the agency itself had found sulfoxaflor to be “highly toxic to honey bees.”

Lo and behold, justice prevailed! On September 10, 2015, a federal appeals court reversed the EPA’s approval of the poison, rebuking the agency for being so eager to favor Dow that it “attempted to support its decision retroactively with studies it had previously found inadequate.”

In a huge win for bees, us, and science itself, the court ruled that, henceforth, pesticides must be judged not only by their health impact on individual bees, but on their long-term damage to the “interdependent superorganism” of the hive.

Note: For more information, check out,

[www.earthjustice.org/features/infographic-bees-toxic-problem](http://www.earthjustice.org/features/infographic-bees-toxic-problem)

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## Bee Read

If you have a comment, query, problem, or an interesting story or anecdote concerning bees that you would like to share with your fellow beekeepers, here is your chance. Send it in to [mjbusybee@frontier.com](mailto:mjbusybee@frontier.com) or [debbie.foote@hotmail.com](mailto:debbie.foote@hotmail.com) or hand it in at the meeting. Jane Carhartt may be contacted at [janesbees@yahoo.com](mailto:janesbees@yahoo.com)  
 This is your newsletter, make use of it!

## Bee Classifieds

If you have any bee-related items you would like to buy, sell, or trade, this section is for you. This service is free for members of C.O.M.B. You may submit ads to Mike French or Deb Foote. There will be a nominal fee for associate members.

Deadline for next issue is December 31st