

Saving Our Bees

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The Importance Of Bees and Pollination

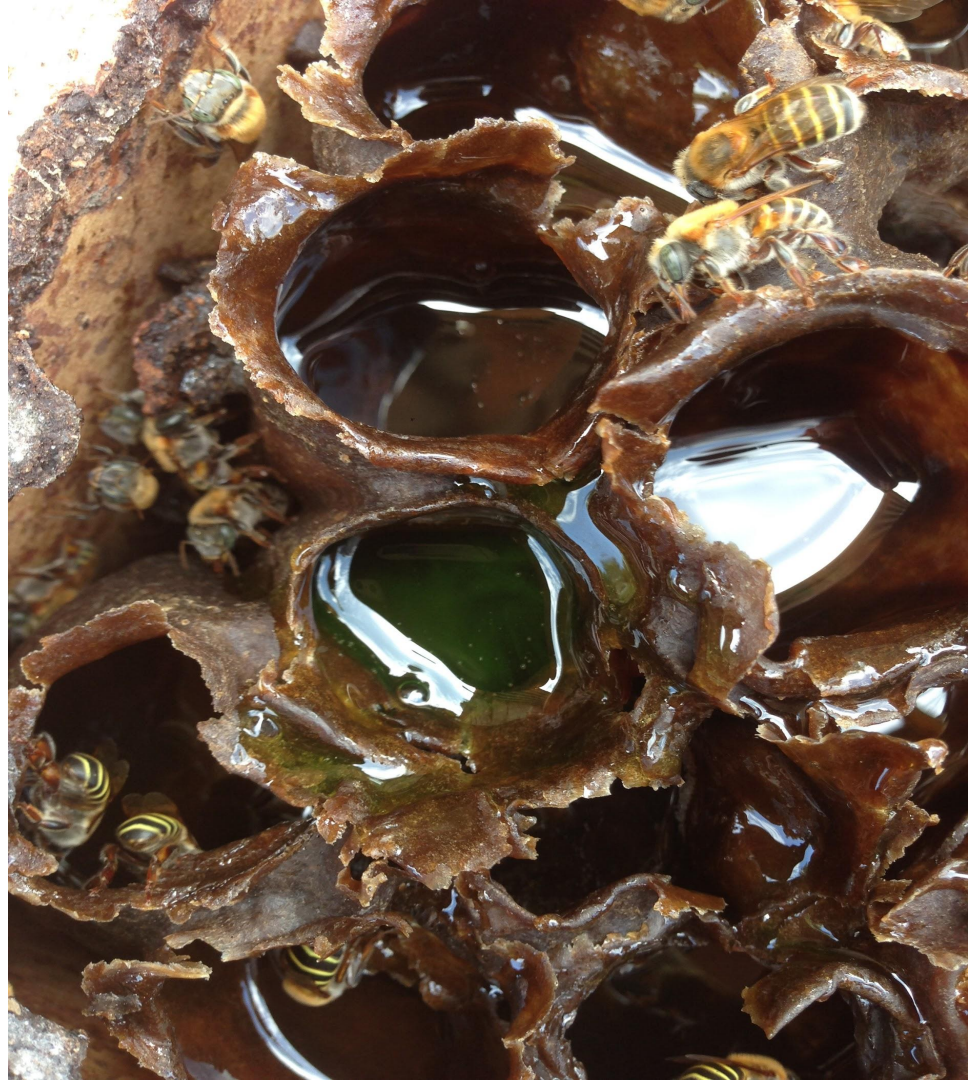
- Honey Production
- Crop Production:
 - Without Bees, We'd Lose: 100% Almonds, 90% Apples, 90% Onions, 90% Blueberries, 90% Cucumbers, 90% Carrots
- Human life and Health
 - In traditional medicine, people use honey when treating a wide variety of conditions
- Wildlife
 - Bees not only help with food crops, but they also pollinate wild plants. Wild plants are major components of biodiversity. They provide food to a wide variety of insects, birds and animals that constitute nature.
 - Lack of oxygen
- Employment
 - Bee farms are major sources of employment in the US.

The Decline - why

- The loss of honey bee colonies are caused primarily by biological and environmental stressors.
- The colony Collapse Disorder: the phenomenon that occurs when the majority of worker bees in a colony disappear and leave behind a queen, plenty of food and a few nurse bees to care for the remaining immature bees and the queen.
- Pesticides :
 - Memory
 - reproduction
- Parasite:
 - Varroa mite

What Is Being Done

- Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue created the “National Pollinator Week”
- University of Nevada researchers have been experimenting with a virus that attacks a bacterial disease that affects honey bees.
American foulbrood disease (AFB)
- Michigan State University scientists are developing sustainable pollination strategies such as enhancing the effect of bee-friendly wildflowers.
- The U.S. Forest Service and the Farm Service Agency has been creating and restoring hundreds of thousands of acres of pollinator habitat, while the Natural Resources Conservation Service has provided financial assistance to landowners to protect or restore 30,000 acres of private lands.
- MeliBio has just launched the world's first real animal-free honey, made without any bees.



Conclusion

1. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, more than half of North America's 4,000 native bee species are in decline, with 1 in 4 species at risk of extinction.
2. The number of honey bee hives in this country has decreased from 6 million in the 1940s to about 2.5 million today.

Honey Bee colonies continue to decline, in order to conserve the remainder of the bee population it is crucial that the government step in to take action and continue to make policy that protects our environment.

