Investigation Process for Alleged Pesticide Bee Kills as Related to Compensation

Agricultural Chemical Investigators conduct investigation according to MDA protocols; staff entomologist conducts hive health assessment and collects samples for mites & spores (immediate analysis) and viruses (delayed analysis), when possible.

Are pesticides present on/in dead bees? (Based on laboratory results from USDA National Science Laboratories and Minnesota’s State Laboratories)

- Yes
  - Do pesticide residues exceed EPA’s Level of Concern on/in dead bees?
    - Yes
      - May be ineligible for compensation; not a clear “acute pesticide poisoning” for program purposes
    - No
      - Are there ≥100 dead bees in/around a hive for every live frame of bees quantified?
        - Lower and Upper Limits
          - If 3 or fewer frames of bees present, a minimum of 300 dead bees needed.
          - If 10 or more frames of bees present, a maximum of 1,000 dead bees needed.
        - Yes
          - Eligible for compensation
        - No
          - Ineligible for compensation; not a clear “acute pesticide poisoning” for program purposes

- No
  - Ineligible for compensation; not an “acute pesticide poisoning”

Is the affected apiary registered with BeeCheck/DriftWatch?

- Yes
  - Provide beekeeper with Claim Form; includes USDA’s annual ELAP compensation value for colony replacement
  - Submit to experts for review and recommendation
  - Commissioner reviews claim for approval
  - Expert(s) consulted to:
    1. Provide necessary chemical and colony health analytical services and interpretation
    2. Review death & illness investigations ineligible for compensation:
      - For research into associations between sub-lethal pesticide impacts and colony health
      - May engage experts for additional site visit
    3. Review eligible compensation cases seeking upward adjustment to standard compensation

- No
  - Ineligible for compensation due to law restrictions

Is beekeeper electing to upwardly adjust claim and provide supporting documentation?

- Yes
  - Submit to experts for review and recommendation

- No
  - Commissioner reviews claim for approval

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Legend

- Existing MDA investigation protocols
- Bee Kill Compensation program components established by Advisory Group of academic experts and beekeepers or by legislature initiated change
- Annual report – Publicly available in late winter