

Maryland Pollinator Protection Plan (MP³) Update



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Ashley Jones



- Estimated 115,000-125,000 beekeepers in US
 - 90,000- 100,000 small scale operations (2% colonies)
- Value of honey bees as commercial pollinators*
 - Directly dependent crops = \$11.7B (2009)
 - Indirectly dependent crops = \$5.4B (2009)

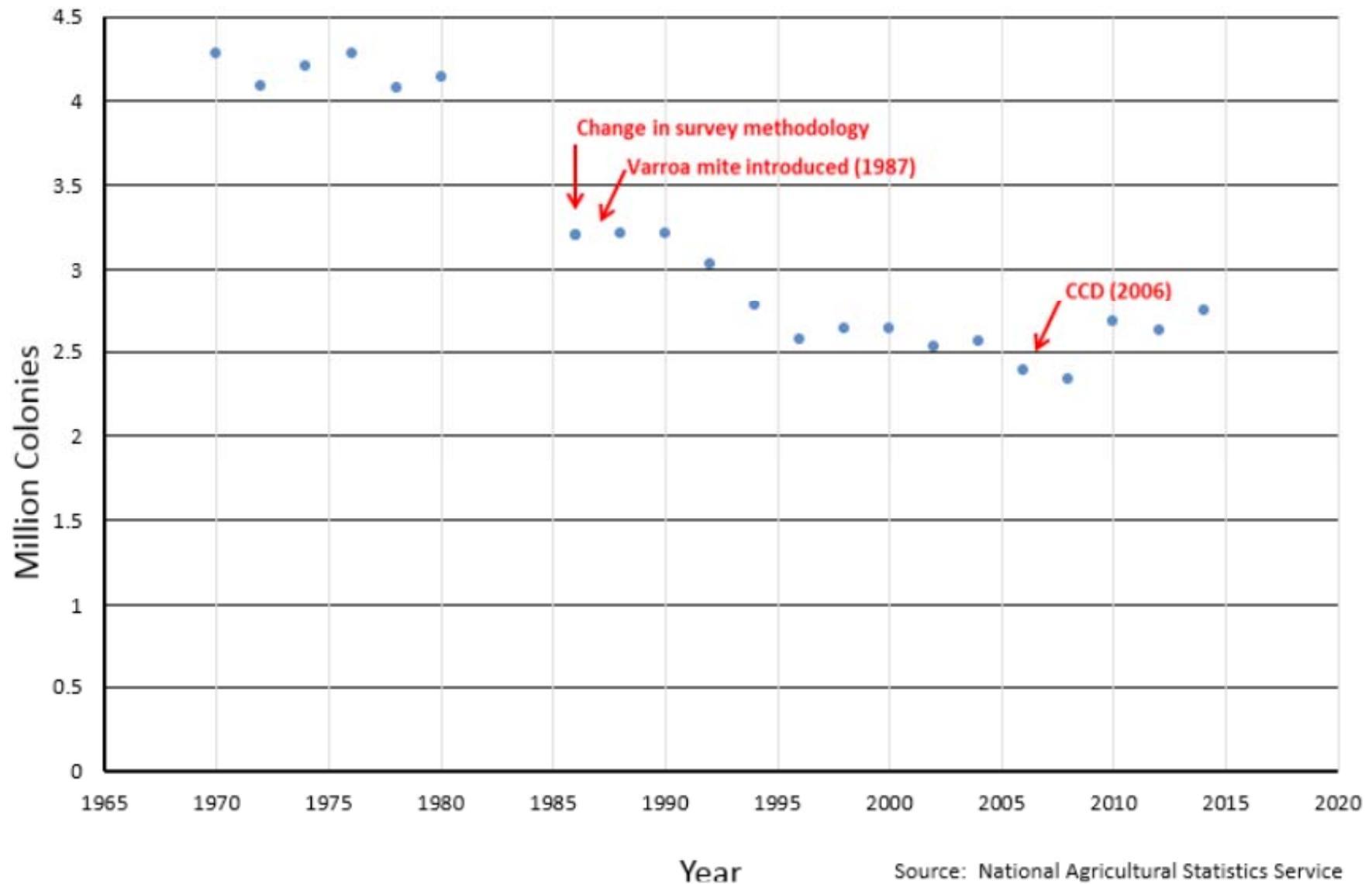


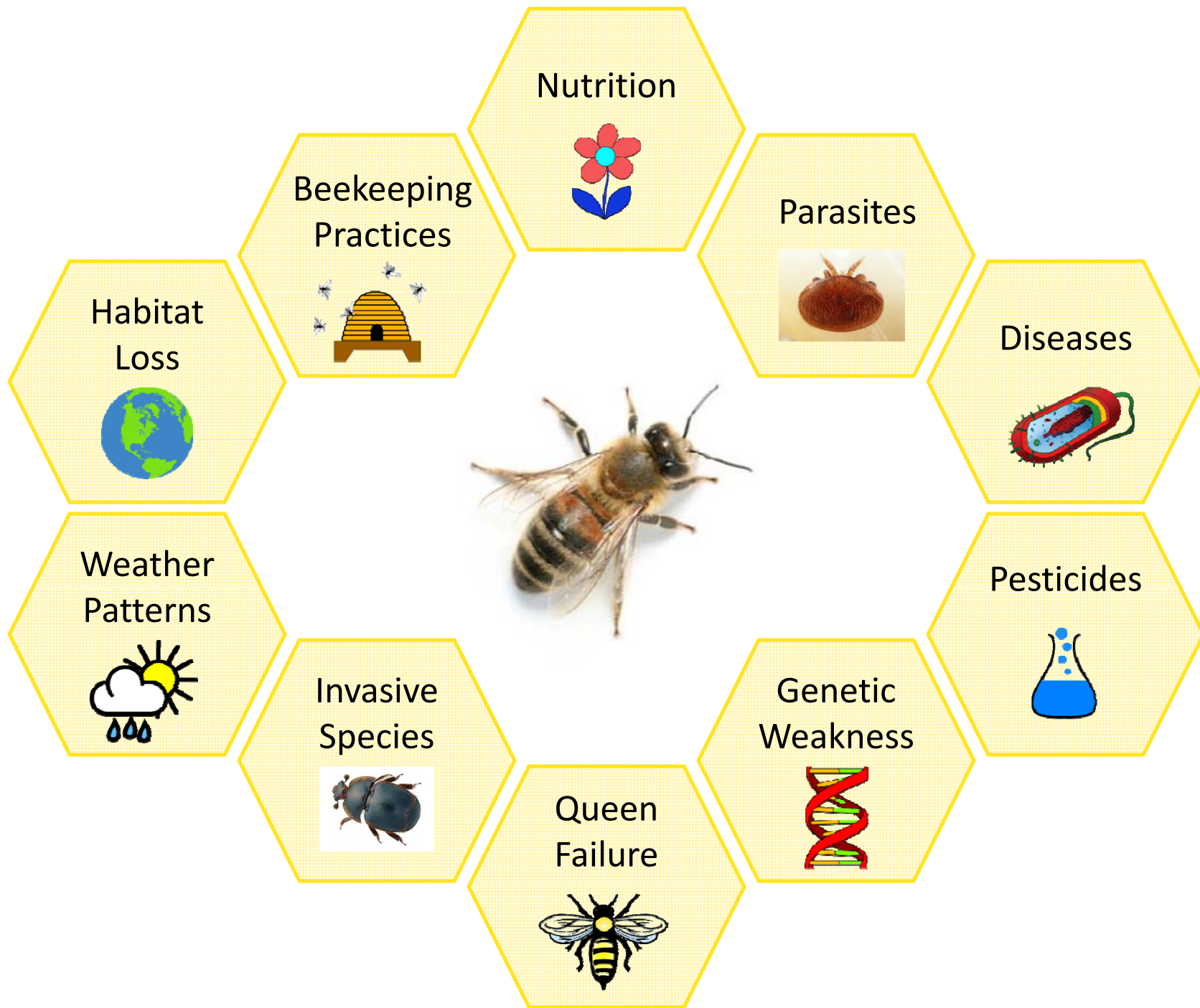
Honey bees introduced to US in 1622

*Calderone N. (2012)



Number of managed honey bee colonies in the United States







NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF HONEY BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS

Pollinator Health Task Force

MAY 19, 2015



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- Document the number of **state/tribal pollinator protection plans** addressing the need for improved communication between growers/applicators and beekeepers with respect to pesticide applications under development and the number of plans implemented.



Guidance on State Pollinator Plans

Jim Gray, ND Department of Agriculture

- Plans called MP³s (Managed Pollinator Protection Plans)
- Divided into two sections:
 - Critical Elements
 - Optional/Recommended Elements
- Importance of state flexibility
 - Regulatory or voluntary approaches
 - State flexibility to expand plans to address other issues



Critical Elements of State MP³s

- Public stakeholder participation process
- Managed pollinator location and beekeeper contact information available for growers/applicators
- Recommendations on minimizing risk of pesticides to bees
- Public outreach
- Mechanism to measure effectiveness





Maryland MP³ Stakeholder Engagement

- Teamed up with Keystone Policy Center
 - Non-profit mediation group
 - Facilitating Honey Bee Health Coalition meetings
- Statewide stakeholder summit meeting
 - January 20, 2016 – Strategy Input



Stakeholder Groups

- Beekeepers
 - State Beekeeping Association
 - Local Beekeeping Associations
- Crop Producers /Crop Advisors
 - State Farm Bureau
 - Grain Producers
 - Vegetable/Fruit Growers
 - Agricultural Service Businesses
- Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Professionals
 - Landscape Applicators
 - Turfgrass
 - Golf Course Superintendents
 - Arborists
- Universities
- Extension
- Right-of-Way /Utilities / Transportation
 - State Highway Administration
 - Utility Companies
- Other Government Entities
 - State Department of Agriculture
 - State Department of Natural Resources
 - EPA
 - USDA
 - USGS
- Agribusiness
- Conservation and other NGO Sectors
- Structural Pest Control



Summit Structure

- Structured the meeting to be as productive as possible
 - Three educational presentations
 - MP³ Background
 - Drivers of Honey Bee Losses
 - Augmenting Managed and Native Pollinators
 - Breakout Discussions (small table w/ facilitator)
 - Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Pest Control
 - Forage and Nutrition
 - Pollinator Pests, Disease, and Genetics
 - Other
 - Report Outs
 - Electronic Polling



Summit Results



- Participants agreed that educational materials were desirable
 - Homeowner/Landscape Guides
 - Beekeeping Practices
 - Pollinator Habitat/Forage Guides
- Interagency cooperation would be very beneficial
 - Pollinator forage discussions in the near future
- Participants supported a more voluntary approach (vs. regulatory)



MD MP³ – Overview

- Four user-friendly sections
 - Landscapes (homeowner and professional recommendations)
 - Pollinators in Agricultural Settings
 - Beekeeping Recommendations
 - Pollinator forage plan references and activity in MD
- 2 – 4 pages each section



We encourage you to provide comments
on the plan to:
pollinator.protection@maryland.gov



MD MP³ – Post-Comment Period

- Draft went out in June for public comment
 - In the process of going through public comments
- Would like to have the next draft out in early December
 - “Next” draft because this is a fluid document
 - Will be revisited at least on an annual basis



House Bill 132 – Pollinator Habitat Plans

- DNR, MES, SHA, and MDA must create pollinator habitat plans by July 1, 2017.
 - BMPs for maintenance, creation, enhancement, and restoration
- Make plans available to public by Sept. 1, 2017
- Implement plans by July 1, 2018



Thank you

