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## House Agriculture Committee Holds Hearing On Bee Disappearances that May be Linked to Pesticides

Subcommittee Investigates Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder

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U.S. House Agriculture Committee - Press Release, March 29, 2007

Straight to the Source

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressman Dennis Cardoza, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committees Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, held a hearing to investigate colony collapse disorder in honey bee colonies across the United States.

Colony collapse disorder (CCD) is characterized by the sudden die-off of honey bee colonies. The cause of CCD has not been determined, and the Subcommittee heard about the situation and its impact on agriculture from scientists and bee keepers, as well as a farmer who relies on bees to pollinate his crops.

"I am deeply committed to raising awareness of CCD and its impact on American agriculture," said Subcommittee Chairman Cardoza. "Farmers and beekeepers across the country are dependent on honey bees for their livelihoods. It is imperative that we move swiftly to get to the bottom of this, before the problem becomes even more serious. The insight and perspectives we heard in todays hearing will be very useful as we consider the next steps in addressing this threat to honey bees, and to the livelihoods of commercial beekeepers and crop producers."

"Honey bee pollination is vital to flowers and many fruit, vegetable, nut and forage crops, as well as forages and flowers. In addition, pollination from honey bees increases yield and food quality and creates billions of dollars of crop value for farmers. Agriculture has a strong interest in maintaining a sound supply of pollinators, and I encourage researchers to work closely with producers to find a solution to the current colony collapse," said Subcommittee Ranking Member Randy Neugebauer.

#### Witness Opening Statements

Thursday, March 29th - 10:00 a.m.

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**Fair Trade/Social Justice**

- Buy Local Movement
- Protest Starbucks

1302 Longworth House Office Building  
 Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture - Public Hearing.  
 RE: Review of colony collapse disorder in honey bee colonies across the United States.  
<http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/statements.html>

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**Planting Peace**

**Farm Issues**

- Honey Bees
- Supporting Local Farmers

Associate Administrator Caird E. Rexroad, PhD, Agricultur...USDA,  
 Washington, D.C.

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Dr. Diana Cox-Foster, PhD, Professor, Pennsylvania State University,  
 University Park, Pennsylvania

**Politics & Democracy**

**Take Action:**

- OCA Action Center
- Host a House Party

Dr. May R. Berenbaum, Professor and Head, Department of Entomology,  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

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Mr. Paul Wenger, First Vice President, California Farm Bureau Federation,  
 Modesto, California

**OCA Campaigns:**

- Nutri-Con
- Breaking the Chains
- SOS: Safeguard Organic Standards
- GE Free Zones
- Mad Cow USA
- Children's Environmental Health
- Coming Clean
- Millions Against Monsanto
- Clothes for a Change
- Protest Starbucks

Mr. David Ellingson, Commercial Bee Keeper, Ortonville, MN

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Mr. Gene Brandi, Legislative Chairman, California State Beekeepers  
 Association, Los Banos, California

Mr. Jim Doan, Commercial Bee Keeper, Hamlin, New York

Mr. Richard Adee, Legislative Committee Chairman, American Honey Producers  
 Association, Bruce, South Dakota

A full transcript of the hearing will be posted on the Committee website in 4-6 weeks.

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**OCA Publications**

- *Organic Bytes* - Weekly
- *Organic View* - 2 per year

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