# Committed to Honey Bee Health

The decline in honey bee health has been linked to five complex factors, and the California almond industry is working to help address each one.

#### **VARROA MITES**

Investigating treatment options and supporting beekeeper outreach on best approaches to control this devastating pest

### PESTICIDE EXPOSURE

Understanding if the pest control materials needed to protect the almond crop also impact bees and providing farmer training to minimize impacts

#### SINCE 1995 ABC HAS FUNDED

125 RESEARCH PROJECTS

supporting honey bees, more than any other crop group?

## MANAGING PESTS + DISEASES

Kickstarting Tech Transfer Teams that work with beekeepers to monitor hives and advise on pest and disease treatment

Protecting bee health in almond orchards with widely adopted<sup>1</sup>

HONEY BEE BEST

MANAGEMENT

PRACTICES
RELEASED IN 2014.

THE NUMBER OF U.S. HONEY BEE HIVES IS AT A 20-YEAR HIGH?

99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

However, beekeepers still experience significant over-winter losses and must work hard to rebuild healthy apiaries in time for crop pollination.

#### PLANTING POLLINATOR HABITAT

To provide additional food sources for bees before and after almond bloom, some farmers are planting flower pastures near or within almond orchards. Not only do those blooming plants support honey bees, they provide food sources for native bees as well.

**LACK OF** 

**GENETIC DIVERSITY** 

Partnering with

organizations to bring

new, foreign genetic material into the U.S.

as improved breeding

stock for beekeepers

LACK OF FORAGE

AND NUTRITION

Outlining the benefits and management practices

for on-farm pollinator

habitat and supporting

the distribution of

wildflower seed

Since 2013, almond farmers have planted over 34,000 acres of bee pasture through Project Apis m.'s Seeds for Bees Program.<sup>4</sup>

1. California Almond Sustainability Program. August 2019. 2. Gene Brandi. Vice President. American Beekeeping Federation. 3. USDA-NASS. Honey Production Report. 1999–2018. 4. Billy Synk. Director of Pollination Services. Project Apis m. November 2019. Represents total plantings from 2013–present.

