

SPOTLIGHT ON:

# BEE HEALTH

## Supporting Our Pollination Partners



### BEES + ALMONDS: EXPLAINED

Honey bees play a vital role in our food supply, pollinating over 90 crops grown in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> Almonds are one of those, but did you know the bees and beekeepers benefit too?

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- 1** Prior to almond bloom, beekeepers transport their hives to orchards across California where the blossoms will be the bees' first natural food source of the year.
- 2** As they buzz around pollinating the crop, the bees gather high-quality pollen and nectar containing all 10 of the amino acids their diets require.<sup>2</sup>
- 3** Bee hives regularly grow in strength and size thanks to this nutritious diet. After bloom, beekeepers often split strong hives into two.
- 4** With more hives available for crop pollination and making honey, beekeepers fan out across the U.S., bringing their bees to pollinate sunflowers, apples, blueberries, peaches, citrus and more.

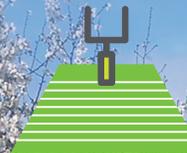
## Bee-Friendly Orchards

Every almond you eat exists because a honey bee pollinated an almond blossom. And every honey bee who visits an almond orchard gets its first natural food source of the year there, building up reserves of worker bees and stored food to support a healthy start to their pollination season.<sup>3</sup>

Because of honey bees' essential role in almond production, ABC has invested more in honey bee health research than any other crop group,<sup>4</sup> with 125 projects funded to date. And what's more, farmers have widely adopted voluntary measures, like Honey Bee Best Management Practices, to protect bees in the orchard and beyond. Some farmers are even planting pollinator habitats in or near their orchards as additional food sources before and after almond bloom. Not only do those blooming plants support honey bees, they provide food sources for native bees.

### PLANTING BEE PASTURES

Since 2013, almond farmers have planted over **25,000 football fields worth of bee pastures** through Project Apis m.'s Seeds for Bees program.<sup>5</sup> This makes for happy honey bees and native bees too!



### Meet Elina Niño

EXTENSION APICULTURIST  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

The Almond Board of California is a very proactive and progressive partner. They are at the forefront of pollinator research, continuously funding projects supporting honey bee health not only in California, but throughout the country. It is motivating to have grower partners work so closely with the beekeeping industry.



### ADDRESSING THE FIVE FACTORS IMPACTING HONEY BEE HEALTH

1. World Atlas, March 2019; 2. Ramesh Sagili, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University; 3. USDA-ERS, Land Use, Land Cover and Pollinator Health: A Review and Trend Analysis, July 2017; 4. Gene Bratkoff, Vice President, American Beekeeping Federation; 5. Emily Synek, Director of Pollination Services, Project Apis m., November 2019. Represents total plantings from 2013-present (34,000+ acres).