



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture



February 2015

EPA Approved State-Managed Pollinator Protection Plan

Many types of plants, including nursery, fruit and vegetable crops, depend on pollinators to help produce our nation's agricultural products. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing a plan to protect bees and other pollinators from pesticides and the Colorado Department of Agriculture is playing an important role in the discussion.

EPA, in conjunction with the American Association of Pest Control Officials (AAPCO) and the State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG), is developing a proposed pollinator protection plan that, conceptually, will be delegated to states to implement. The state-managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) will allow states to address their own unique crop and pest problem issues by working with beekeepers, growers, pesticide applicators and other interested stakeholders.). The MP3 plan is intended to enhance the communication between applicators, growers and beekeepers with the goal of allowing needed pesticide applications to occur, while ensuring pollinator impacts are minimized or eliminated through the use of best management practices (BMPs)

State Departments of Agriculture are the primary agencies nationally that enforce pesticide use and therefore EPA currently plans to delegate the development of MP3 's to these state lead agencies. The Colorado Department of Agriculture would be the agency developing it for Colorado. CDA's Pesticide Program Section Chief is working directly with the AAPCO and SFIREG workgroup in these discussions.

A few of the minimum requirements currently being discussed for the state-managed plans include:

- A public participation process in the development of the plan
- Specific elements that the plan *must* include (such as how apiary sites can be identified, how communication between stakeholders can occur)
- There may be advisory and enforceable language that is an extension of the pesticide label (and therefore federal law)

Timeframe for the MP3

- EPA submitted its Pollinator Protection Plan recommendations to the President in December 2014 and is expected to make a formal announcement of the MP3 in the 1st quarter of 2015. It is understood that this announcement will direct the states in how they must move forward.
- Once this announcement is made, states will begin convening public stakeholder meetings to develop their state-specific plans. Some states may need to develop rules to address the development of state plans. Once final, the plans must be submitted and approved by EPA.
- This process of state meetings, development and finalization of the plan at the state level, then submission to EPA for review and final approval could take up to a year or more.
- Label language referencing the MP3 may possibly be seen on pesticide labels as early as 2016.

MP3's are still in the developmental stages and all timeframes and elements are still being discussed and subject to change.

Colorado does have the Colorado Pollinator Workgroup that was created in 2011 which meets one of the primary elements of the proposed MP3. This group will be the initial core stakeholder group as future pollinator plans are developed although all stakeholders will be welcomed to join in these discussions. CDA will provide more information as this issue continues to evolve.

Additional Resources

- [EPA Pollinator Protection](#)
- [EPA Best Management Practices to Protect Pollinators](#)
- [Colorado Department of Agriculture](#)
- [Colorado State University Pollinator Protection Information](#)