

## How you can help . . . . .

- ✓ Support beekeepers by buying local honey
- ✓ Consider becoming a beekeeper
- ✓ Plant a pollinator garden
- ✓ Use less pesticides and use responsibly
- ✓ Support research at your state university



MAAREC, The Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium, established in 1997, is a regional group focused on addressing the pest management crisis facing the beekeeping industry in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

*For more information,  
visit the MAAREC web site:  
[MAAREC.psu.edu](http://MAAREC.psu.edu)*



# The Value of Honey Bees in the Mid-Atlantic Region



## Honey Bee Pollinators



~ Honey bees are a critical component of our country's food supply. They are responsible for the pollination of more than 90 crops and one out of every three bites of food we eat.

~ In order to perform their service as pollinators, beekeepers must prepare and move their colonies to crops at the time they are flowering.

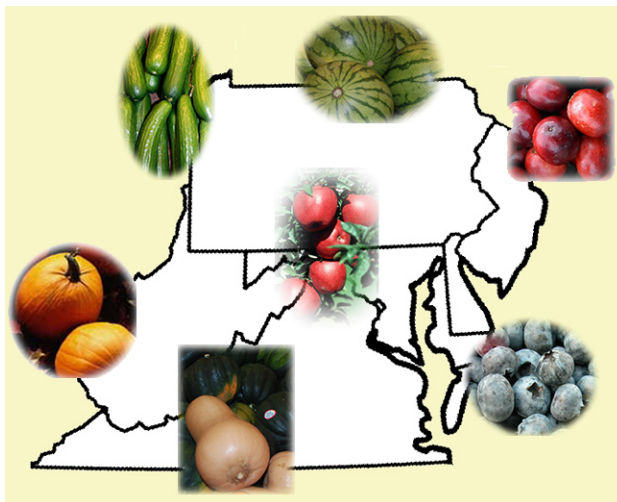
~ In the Mid-Atlantic region there are about 7,000 beekeepers, managing 113,000 honey bee colonies.

~ While these colonies produce about 4 million pounds of honey valued at more than 7 million dollars, the true value of honey bees is the work they do as pollinators.

~ These crops alone are valued at well over \$170 million.

**Honey bee pollination  
of these crops  
is valued at \$131 MILLION!**

## Important Honey Bee Pollinated Crops in the Mid-Atlantic Region



## Honey Bees as Well as Other Pollinators Are in Trouble

Beekeepers and scientists agree that the health of honey bees has been in decline for years, and the rate of decline appears to be accelerating.

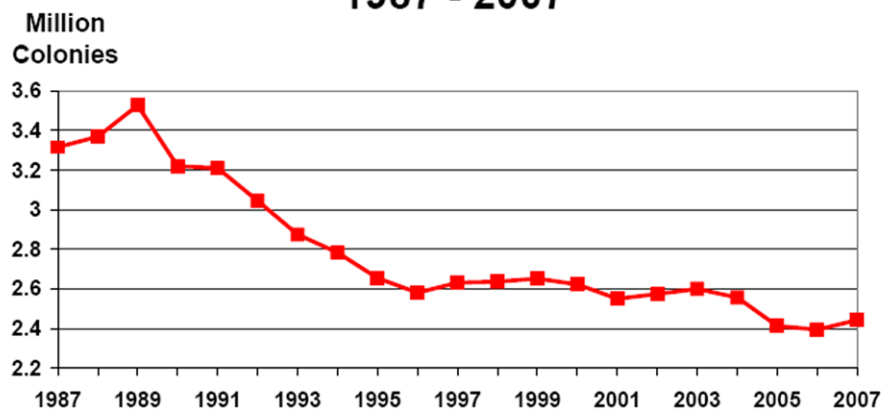
A 2007 survey estimated a loss of about 1/3 of US honey bee colonies during the winter of 2006 - 2007.

In addition, a 2007 publication by the National Academy of Sciences documents a decline in many North American pollinators.

### Likely reasons responsible for the decline in honey bee populations include:

- ~ introduced parasitic mites
- ~ disease
- ~ pesticide exposure
- ~ a phenomenon know as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)

## Honey Producing Colonies United States 1987 - 2007



© Honey, February 2008, Ag Statistics Board, NASS, USDA