

FARM BILL POLLINATOR HIGHLIGHTS

H.R. 2409 as passed by the House may be accessed at:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h2419eh.txt.pdf

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HASTINGS POLLINATOR PROTECTION AMENDMENT ADOPTED: The Hastings (D-FL) Pollinator Protection amendment [Hastings (FL) amendment (No. 8) that adds a new section for "Pollinator Protection" that authorizes research funding to reduce North American pollinator decline and understand Colony Collapse Disorder]

[http://www.pollinator.org/Resources/hastfl_048_xml%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.pollinator.org/Resources/hastfl_048_xml%20(3).pdf) was incorporated into an en bloc amendment by Agriculture Committee Chairman Peterson, which was adopted by voice vote late Thursday evening. The Hastings amendment (Section 11315) incorporates core provisions of (1) Senator Boxer's research bill (S. 1694) [which broadened provisions in Hastings' original bill, HR 1709 to include habitat and native pollinator concerns]; and (2) Rep. Blumenauer's habitat conservation bill (HR 2913).

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SEC. 11315. POLLINATOR PROTECTION.

(a) Short Title- This section may be cited as the 'Pollinator Protection Act of 2007'.

(b) Findings- Congress finds that--

- (1) many of the crops that humans and livestock consume rely on pollinators for healthy growth;
- (2) pollination by honey and native bees adds more than \$18,000,000,000 annually to the value of United States crops;
- (3) 1/3 of the food supply of the United States depends on bee pollination, which makes the management and protection of pollinators an issue of paramount importance to the security of the United States food supply system;
- (4) colony collapse disorder is the name that has been given to the latest die-off of honey bee colonies, exacerbating the continual decline of pollinators in North America;
- (5) honey bee colonies in more than 23 states have been affected by colony collapse disorder;
- (6) if the current rate of decline continues, the United States will be forced to rely more heavily on imported foods, which will destabilize the food security of the United States through adverse affects on the availability, price, and quality of the many fruits, vegetables, and other products that depend on animal pollination; and
- (7) enhanced funding for research on honey bees, native bees, parasites, pathogens, toxins, and other environmental factors affecting bees and pollination of cultivated and wild plants will result in methods of response to colony collapse disorder and other factors causing the decline of pollinators in North America.

(c) Authorizations of Appropriations-

(1) AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE- There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Agricultural Research Service--

(A) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, to be used for new personnel, facilities improvement, and additional research at Department of Agriculture Bee Research Laboratories;

(B) \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009, to be used for research on honey and native bee physiology, insect pathology, insect chemical ecology, and honey and native bee toxicology at other Department of Agriculture facilities in New York, Florida, California, Utah, and Texas; and

(C) \$1,750,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010, to be used for an area-wide research program to identify causes and solutions for colony collapse disorder in affected States.

(2) COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE- There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to be used to fund Department of Agriculture extension and research grants to investigate--

(A) honey bee biology, immunology, and ecology;

(B) honey bee genomics;

(C) honey bee bioinformatics;

(D) native bee crop pollination and habitat conservation;

(E) native bee taxonomy and ecology;

(F) pollination biology;

(G) sublethal effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on honey bees, native pollinators, and other beneficial insects;

(H) the effects of genetically-modified crops, including the interaction of genetically-modified crops with honey bees and other native pollinators; and

(I) honey, bumble, and other native bee parasites and pathogens and effects on other native pollinators.

(3) ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE- There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, \$2,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to conduct a nationwide honey bee pest and pathogen surveillance program.

(d) Annual Reports- The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Agricultural Research Service and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, shall submit to the Committee on

Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the status and progress of bee research projects that are carried out by the Secretary.

(e) Giving Pollinator Habitat and Protection a Priority in Conservation Programs- Section 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

` (c) Native and Managed Pollinators- In carrying out any conservation program administered by the Secretary, except the farmland protection program, the Secretary shall establish a priority and provide incentives for--

` (1) increasing habitat for native and managed pollinators, especially native habitat; and

` (2) establishing cropping systems, integrated pest management regimes, and other practices to protect native and managed pollinators.'.

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2. "SPECIALTY CROP POLLINATION" ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH FUNDS: Section 7411, Specialty Crop Research Initiative, established in the USDA to *develop and disseminate science-based tools to address needs of specific crops and regions, including (1) research in—“(H) specialty crop pollination;”*

Wide range of entities eligible for funding, including private organizations and individuals.

\$100 million annual authorization over 5-year life of the farm bill.

Competitive specialty crop research is funded at \$215 million [mandatory] over the 5-year life of the farm bill.

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3. POLLINATOR HABITAT EQIP INCENTIVES PAYMENTS ELIGIBILITY: In Title II, Conservation, Section 2105, producers are eligible to receive EQIP incentive payments for pollinator habitat. “(1) AVAILABILITY OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall make incentive payments in an amount and at a rate determined by the Secretary to be necessary to encourage a producer—“
“(2) *in paragraph (2), by inserting “pollinator habitat,” after “invasive species,”.*

4. POLLINATOR-BENEFICIAL CONSERVATION REPORT LANGUAGE: In the Report accompanying H.R. 2419 as reported out of the House Agriculture Committee, this EQIP provision is reinforced and broadened through report language, which states “*The Committee included pollinator [habitat] to the list of practices eligible for incentive payments under EQIP. In addition to wildlife benefits, crop pollination represents a major agricultural input, especially for specialty crop producers. The Committee encourages USDA to clarify that habitat and other conservation measures benefiting honey bees and other managed pollinators and native pollinators are eligible for cost-*

share and incentive payments in other conservation programs as appropriate, and to encourage such practices.” The conservation provisions in the Hastings amendment [from Blumenauer bill] provide statutory substance to the intent of the report language.

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5. USDA CCD ANNUAL REPORT: In Title X, Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, Subtitle A, Section 10001. ANNUAL REPORT ON RESPONSE TO HONEY BEE COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER.

“The Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress an annual report describing the progress made by the Department of Agriculture in investigating the cause or causes of honey bee colony collapse and in finding appropriate strategies to reduce colony loss.”

No funding indicated.

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6. INCREASE CONSERVATION FUNDING: Title II, Subtitle D, Administration and funding. SEC. 2401. FUNDING OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMS UNDER FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985.

The House-passed 2007 farm bill provides a significant increase in mandatory conservation spending, meaning more resources will be provided to programs that can benefit pollinators, pollinator habitat and the agricultural and wildlife ecosystems that depend upon pollination services provided by managed and native pollinators.

Maintains current acreage enrollment cap in Conservation Reserve Program at 39.2 million (P. 259), with contracts paid through mandatory funding. Suspends any new Conservation Security Program contracts until 2011, while providing \$1.5 billion mandatory funding to honor existing contracts through 2012, and \$0.5 billion for new contracts in 2012. Provides \$8.5 billion for EQIP over the 5-year life of the farm bill, ramping up to \$2 billion in 2012. Other funding, authorizations as listed.