



# Beekeeping at a Crossroads



## 3 WAYS YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE BEES

Honey bees are critical to California's food supply — pollinating our fruits, nuts, and vegetables. But they're dying at alarming rates, and commercial beekeepers are struggling to keep colonies alive.

Here's how you can help protect the bees that feed us all:

1

### Open Public Lands for Bee Foraging

*Healthy bees need healthy food.*

- ✓ Commercial hives need access to large, diverse landscapes to find proper nutrition.
- ✓ Public lands across California could provide this habitat — but managed bees are often kept out.

**Action:** Support policies that allow managed honey bees to forage on public lands, alongside native pollinators.

**Why it matters:** Better nutrition makes bees stronger, healthier, and more resilient to disease.

2

### Speed Up Approval of New Tools to Fight Varroa Mites

*The Varroa destructor mite is the #1 threat to honey bees.*

- ✓ This parasite spreads quickly, weakening entire colonies.
- ✓ Beekeepers have too few tools to fight it — and new treatments take years to be approved.

**Action:** Urge regulators to fast-track safe, science-based miticides to protect our bees.

**Why it matters:** Beekeepers need effective tools now to prevent catastrophic losses.

3

### Buy Genuine U.S. Honey

*Support the beekeepers who care for America's bees.*

- ✓ 74% of honey sold in the U.S. is imported — often blended or mislabeled.
- ✓ Local producers can't thrive without your support.

**Action:** Support efforts that build consumer demand and confidence in the authenticity of honey sold in California, including enforcement of California's standard of identity. When buying honey, always check the label for "California Grown" or "Made in the U.S.A."

**Why it matters:** Every jar of local honey helps sustain American beekeepers — and the bees that power our food system.

To learn more about the value of honey bees and the important role commercial beekeepers play in producing our food, please visit: [www.californiastatebeekeepers.com](http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com)