**Pollination Guidelines for Small Farms**

**Large Farms Use Migratory Pollination**

Migratory pollination is usually single-crop pollination where hives are moved into the crop during the bloom and removed immediately following bloom. Wildflowers and competing nectar sources are eliminated.

**Small Farms are Different**

On a small farm, there is usually a diversity of crops blooming within close proximity. Simultaneous blooms, including wildflowers, might compete for honey bee pollination.

**Principles of Stationary Pollination on a Small Farm**

- **Honey bees**: forage up to 5 miles, but prefer to forage closer to hive.
- **Strong honey bee hives**: forage many crops.
- **The diversity of crops and blooming flowers**: that is typical of a small farm might also attract native bees. Honey bees and native bees working together shown to be a very effective pollination solution.

**Benefits of Stationary Pollination**

- Season-long, multi-crop pollination
- Less stress for bees
- Multifloral honey (in a good year)

**Beekeeping Tips for Small Farmers**

- **Orient hives** close to the target crop, but as far away from pesticide drift as possible.
- **Register your apiary** on DRIFTWATCH.org

**Cold Climate Winter Hive Preparation**

**Wind and Moisture**

Add fence, windbreak or move hives to a protected area. Add reflective insulation to further minimize wind. Insulate under the hive cover, then add a layer of canvas to absorb condensation.

**Mice**

Install a mouse guard before temperatures drop.

**Starvation**

Check for honey stores and include a candy board for extra food.

**Mites**

Treating mites helps bees fight pests and diseases.

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This project is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2014-38640-22156 through the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under subaward number FNC15-1019. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or SARE. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

**Second Nature Honey**

Urbana, IL