This slide deck is designed to accompany the video

IPM Strategies for Managing Pathogens and Protecting Pollinators in Blueberries
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgTni-B99Ks&t=1s

Please see the final slide for more information and acknowledgements.

IPM Strategies for Managing Pathogens & Protecting Pollinators in Blueberries

Oregon State University
Oregon IPM Center

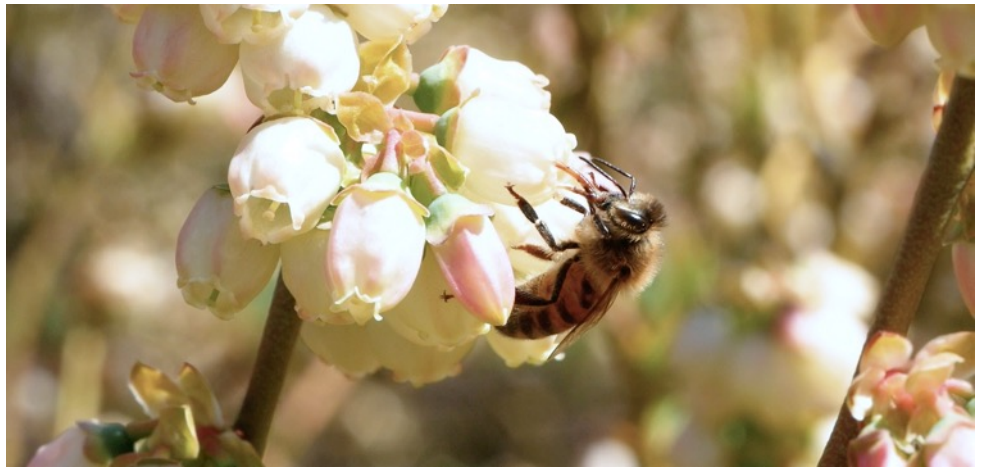
Overview

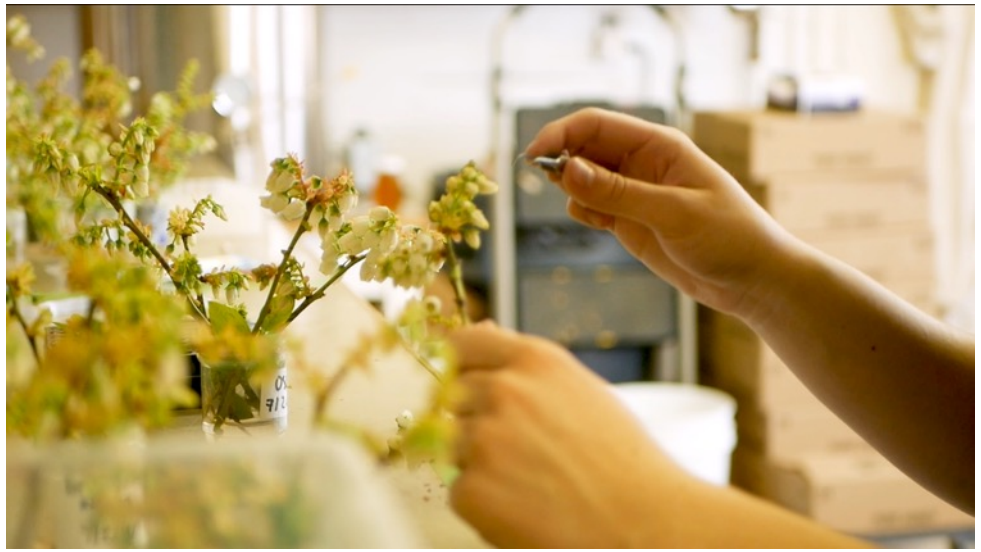
- Why are fungicides necessary in blueberries?
- IPM Strategies for protecting pollinators
- Practices for supporting pollinators
- Summary: Pathogens and Pollinators

Why are fungicides necessary?

- Blueberries are very susceptible to many diseases, including
  - botrytis, pseudomonas, alternative, mummy berry and more.
- Fungicides are applied preventatively to manage these pathogens

What is the concern to beekeepers?

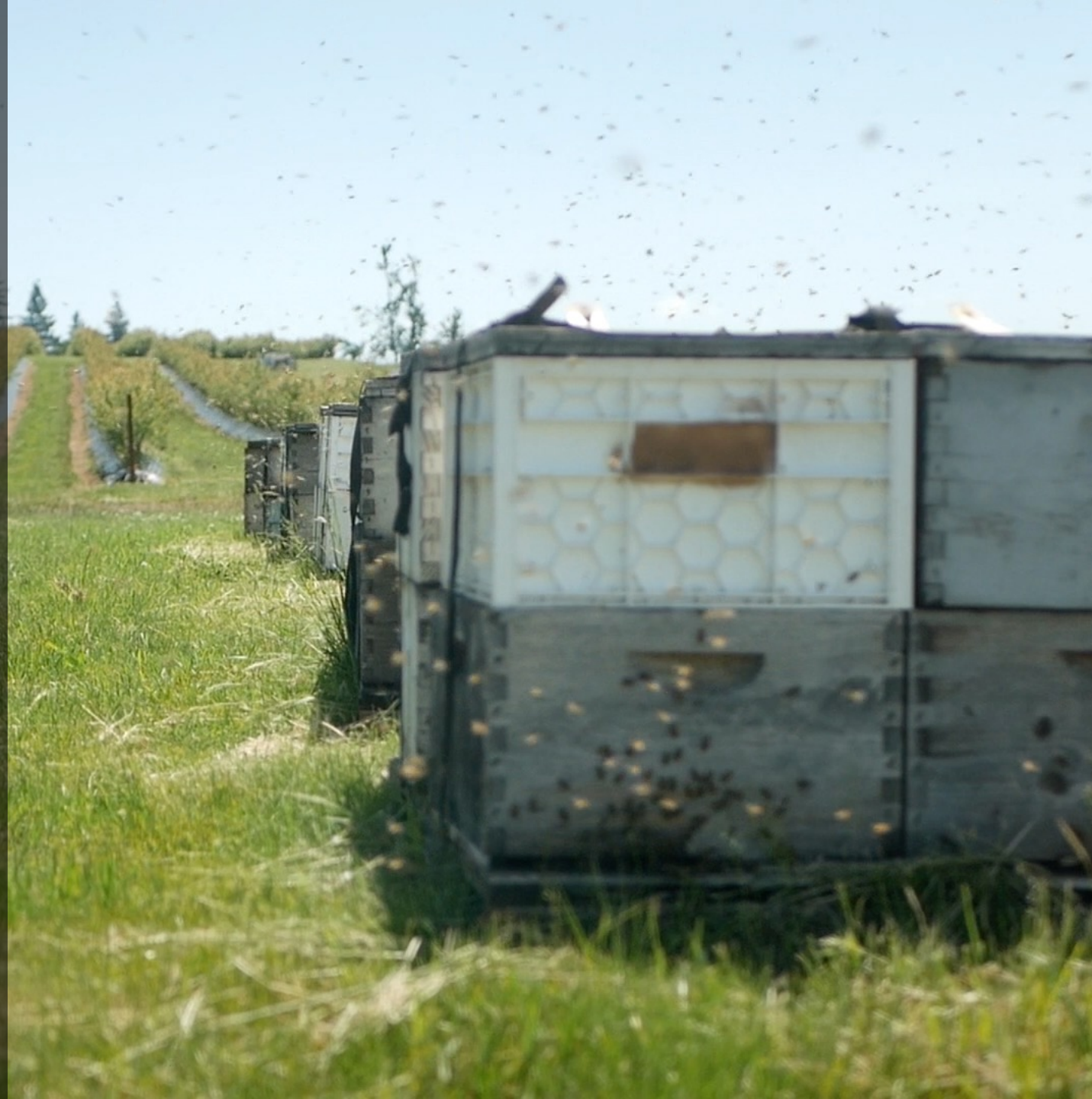




- Some commercial beekeepers are concerned that the fungicides may be having effects on honeybee health when exposed to these products.
- Research into the potential effects of fungicides on pollinator health is currently ongoing.

Minimize impact to pollinators

- Select products that have a minimal effect on pollinators
- Apply pesticides when bees aren't active, such as nighttime
- Keep weeds and flowers out of rows
- Use buffers to avoid forage areas and hives
- Communicate about placement of hives



IPM Strategies for managing pathogens

- **Scouting** for signs of disease and applying when necessary
- **Selecting products** that don't persist in the environment

IPM Strategies for protecting pollinators

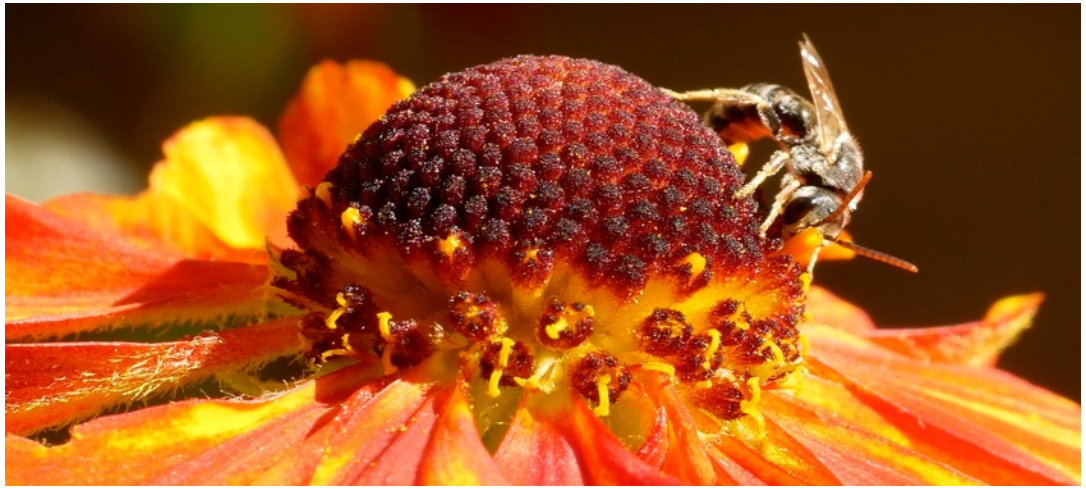
- **Communication** with beekeepers is critical
  - Hive placement
  - What is being sprayed

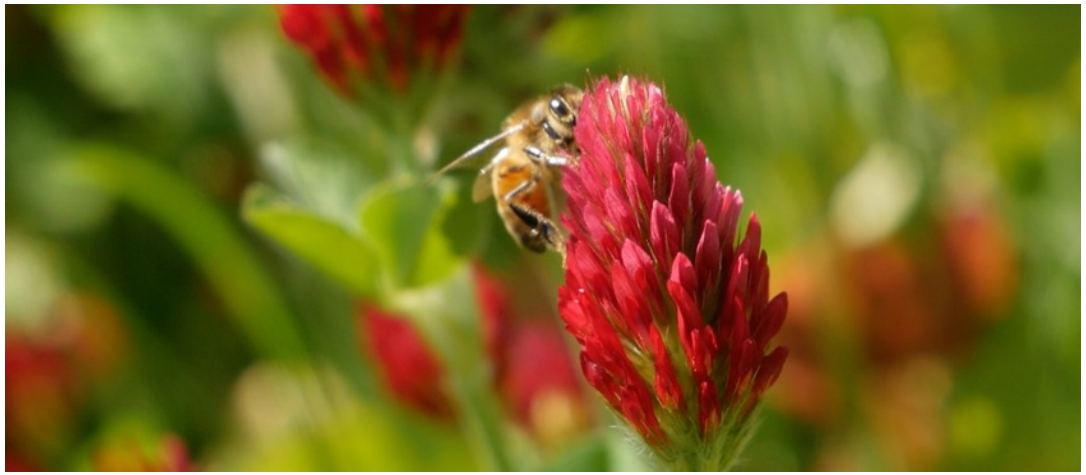
Application timing: Apply pesticides at night when bees are not actively foraging on blossoms

Remove alternate hosts from application areas

- Keep rows free of weeds that may retain some pesticides
- **Use buffers** to avoid drift onto nearby forage or hives

Create non-crop habitat to support beneficials





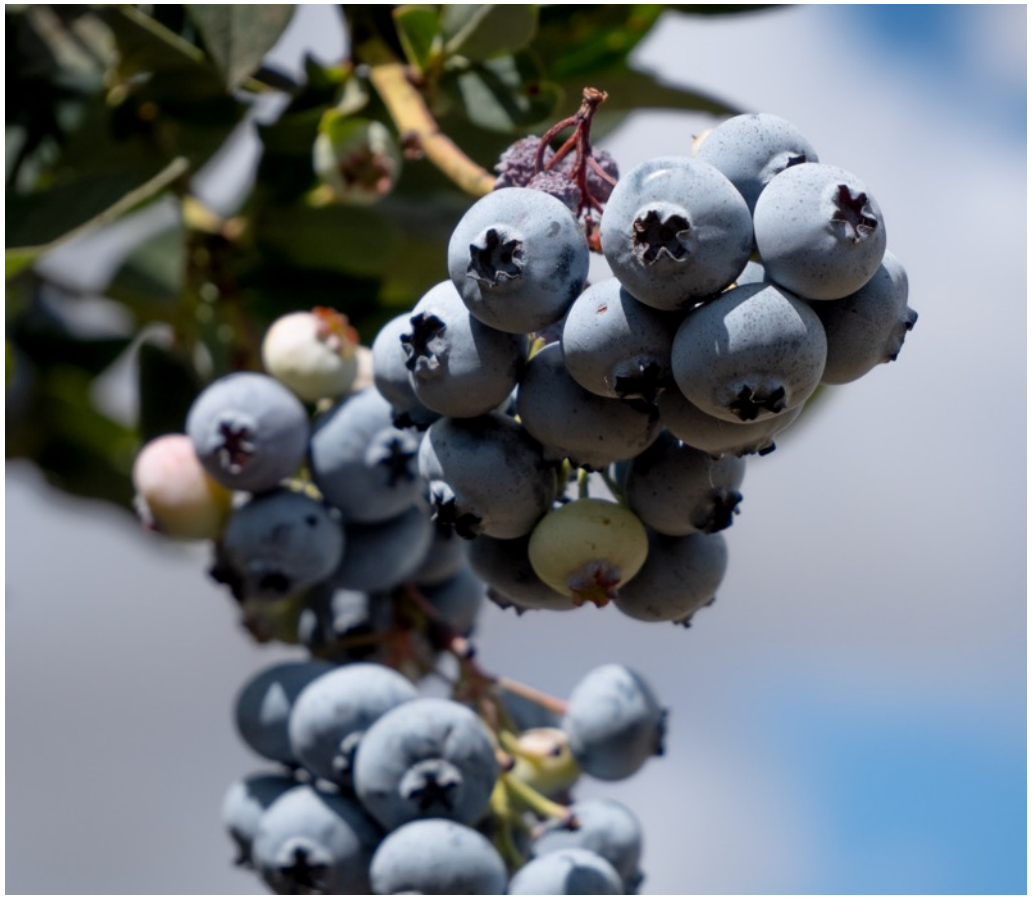
- Designating or using adjacent non-crop areas for habitat encourages and supports beneficial insects
- Provides resources and refuge for:
  - Pollinators
  - Natural enemies
- Create habitat or hedgerows **based on site goals** and resources
- **Communicate** to applicators about the importance of these areas

Creating on-farm habitat works to increase beneficial insect populations

"We've been tracking a lot of these [on-farm habitats] and collecting data on beneficial and wild pollinator insects. What we've found is we really see benefits starting from the first year of planting and just building from there...**year after year, we've seen a consistent increase in the level of beneficials and wild pollinators on those farms.**

- Jason Myer, Peerbolt Crop Mngr.

What's the future for IPM in blueberries?



- *"Growers and managers are adopting to new IPM strategies and thinking more about the whole farm ecosystem"*
  - *Jason Myer, Peerbolt Crop Management*
- *"IPM is an important part of what we're doing and something we take very seriously."*
  - *TJ Hafner, Agricare*

Summary: Fungicides and Pollinators

- Blueberries are susceptible to many pathogens
- Growers use preventative fungicides to manage these pathogens
- Pollinators may be at risk during these applications
- Blueberry growers are using **multiple IPM strategies** to reduce the risk to pollinators

Thanks to:

T.J. Hafner and Danielle Schapker Mendez
Agricare Agricultural Specialists

Jason Myer
Peerbolt Crop Management

Priya Chakrabarti Basu
Mississippi State University

Ellen Topitzhofer
Oregon State University Honeybee Lab

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NM STATE

THE OREGON BEE PROJECT

MP3
Managed Pollinator
Protection Plan

This project was funded in part by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture,
through the Western Integrated Pest Management Center

Western IPM Center

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture