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**To:** [Patterson, Megan L](#); [Lund, Jennifer](#)  
**Subject:** Field Watch to protect beehives from pesticide applications  
**Date:** Friday, November 01, 2019 1:37:04 PM

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I was at a regional meeting of Crop Life America a couple of weeks ago and saw a brief presentation on a program for farmers, beekeepers, and commercial applicators called Field Watch. At the time, I had the thought this is something I need to bring to the attention of BPC staff. The agenda for next weeks' BPC meeting prompts me to sit down and send this information to you now, as it may be timely and pertinent to some discussion. Here is a link to information on the program.

<https://fieldwatch.com/> In a very brief summary, here is what I found interesting about the program. The State pays a small fee to be part of the program and then has some costs associated with administering the program within the state. This has been a mid-western program and they are now ramping it up to cover more states. In the larger agricultural states it was indicated that it requires .1-.15 FTE to administer the program. The program is free for farmers, beekeepers, and commercial applicators who choose to participate. Modern mapping software is used to provide detail and accuracy. A farmer can list his fields and crops that may get pesticide usage. Beekeepers can register the location of their hives. Commercial applicators can go online in real time and determine where beehives are located in the vicinity of planned applications. The program is completely voluntary. We were told that participation is high because of no cost and a perceived good benefit to all involved.

Perhaps some of the commercial beekeepers who bring bees into Maine for blueberry pollination have experience with this from other states they work in? It may be useful to check with some of them and get their assessment of the program if they are familiar with it.

I will try to be at the meeting on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>. I do not know that I can add much to what I have described above, but sometimes a few encouraging words can be useful in moving things along.....

Regards,  
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