



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Gary W. Black, Commissioner

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June 29, 2018

Mr. David Strickland
22 Van Horne Drive
P O Box 1091
Tybee Island, GA 31328

Ms. Fawn Smiley
10 Cedarwood Drive
Tybee Island, GA 31328

Mr. Patrick Rossiter
Tybee Island Maritime Academy
714 Lovell Avenue
Tybee Island, GA 31328

Messrs. Strickland, Smiley, Rossiter:

This is a follow up to our investigation into your complaints alleging a decline of your bees due to possible exposure to pesticide applications.

Our field supervisor, Mr. Shelton Brigham, and field inspector, Ms. Krista McGukin, documented the facts relevant to this matter. Mr. Brigham documented that the following applications were made on Tybee Island:

Yates-Astro Termite & Pest Control Company

05/09/18 Fendona CS (cypermethrin)
Advion (indoxacarb)

Chatham County Mosquito Control

04/25/18 Altosid (S-methoprene)

During our inspection, the following samples were collected and sent to or laboratory in Tifton, Georgia, for analysis:

Table with 4 columns: Sample Number, Collection Sample, Description, Found. It lists four samples collected from Mr. David Strickland, including dead bees and honeycombs, with detected pesticide levels.

<u>Sample Number</u>	<u>Collection Sample</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Found</u>
051618KHM0105	Mr. David Strickland	Dead Bees	Detected S-methoprene (unofficial sample collected by Mr. Strickland)
051618KHM0201	Ms. Fawn Smiley	Dead Bees	Detected S-methoprene
051718KHM0301	City of Tybee Island	Dead Opossum	Lab unable to analyze due to decomposed condition. (unofficial sample collected by DNR)
051718KHM0302	City of Tybee Island	Clover	No detect (unofficial sample collected by City of Tybee Island – Shawn Gillen)
051718KHM0303	City of Tybee Island	Soil from Soccer field	No detect (unofficial sample collected by City of Tybee Island – Shawn Gillen)
051718KHM0304	City of Tybee Island	Sand from area where dead opossum was found	No detect (unofficial sample collected by City of Tybee Island – Shawn Gillen)

Based on the above sample results, it appears that the bees were exposed to the ingredients found in Fendona CS and Altosid. These ingredients were in the products applied by Yates-Astro Pest Control and Chatham County Mosquito Control. These two products appear to have been applied in amounts according to label directions; however, the Fendona CS label states not to use in areas where bees are foraging. The applicator for Yates-Astro Pest Control stated he did not make an application to the area across from Ocean Side Nursing Home where the clover was prominent.

Mr. Brent Levy, Landscape/Parks Foreman for the City of Tybee Island, stated the application information was posted on the city website and on social media by the city administration. However, the responsibility for the health and welfare of bees rests ultimately with the beekeeper. This responsibility includes taking steps to ensure the bees' health, practicing good neighbor skills and protecting bees from pesticide exposure. Communication is critical in limiting your bees to exposure and avoiding unnecessary bee kills.

We are enclosing a booklet entitled "Protecting Georgia's Pollinators." This contains some very helpful information, and may be helpful to you in protecting your bees in the future.

Sincerely,



Tommy Gray
Plant Industry Division

cc: Mr. Shawn Gillen
Mr. Mark Willman
Mr. Brent Levy
Mr. Ture Carlson
Mr. Shelton Brigham
Ms. Krista McGukin