#1 – From a bee club membership:

At your local bee club meeting, several members speculated that they had recently lost bees to a pesticide kill. Your community incudes urban, suburban and rural properties with some area farming including a variety of crops. The club members look to you for guidance to determine if their colonies did experience a pesticide related kill.

What is your advice?

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*Answer should contain at least* **3** *of these points:*

*\** As soon as possible, collect samples of both dead bees inside and outside the hive. If possible, collect a sample of live but unhealthy acting bees as well.

\* Protect your samples with immediate refrigeration, keep dry.

\* Check with your state agency responsible for overseeing honey bee colony health, such as the State Department of Agriculture or your Apiary Inspectors, inquiring where your samples could be sent.

\* Be able to explain the differences between pesticides, herbicides and fungicides.

\* Get to know your neighbors and what pesticides, herbicides or fungicides they may be using. Use the friendship to build a bridge strong enough to share your knowledge of the role of honey bees for insect pollination of their plants. Keeping the honey bee healthy benefits us all.

\* Be prepared to explain the potential risks from products designed to limit yard pests or support or control vegetation. (direct bee kill, loss of habitat, potential disruption of pollen ripening to bee bread)

\* Certain circumstances, such as weather conditions or various application procedures can result in inadvertent dispersal such as drift.

*Answer should contain at least 1 of these points:*

*\** Analysis for pesticide exposure is more difficult to obtain than those of brood and adult bee diseases, in part due to chemical residues rapidly breaking down and the limited number of labs equipped for testing.

\* Pesticide analysis can be expensive and may not be conclusive.

\* Understand your neighbor’s desires for their plants and yard while encouraging them to help you keep bee colonies and other pollinators healthy.