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Decline of Native and Honey Bees

a bit of word repetition

The nation is facing a huge problem that needs to be fixed: the declination of bees. North Dakota is one of the states that is facing this ^{How so?} issue head on. Many people are probably unaware of the ~~problem, but there are serious concerns.~~ issue, but the problems that this issue raises if it goes unfixed are scary and probably don't even seem realistic. The problem has gotten so bad that ~~we now have a bee species,~~ Rusty Patch ^{ed} ~~Bumblebee,~~ ^{the} that is endangered.

To begin, native and honey bee colonies have been decreasing steadily in the past decade. Between the winter ~~years of~~ 2007 and 2018, around 30 percent of colonies ~~would~~ ^{die} die every winter. This statistic is mind blowing. There are currently around 500,000 bee colonies in the ^{North Dakota} ~~state~~ that foster up to 250 species of native bees. I was shocked at how many species of bees there are in the state because when I think of a bee, I think of a standard black and yellow striped bee, but many of these native bees do not look like the typical bee everyone is used to.

quid
1st person

Next, the bee declination is caused by a few main factors. First, many bees are not exposed to the many pesticides that agriculturalists use. This causes a problem because when the bees land ~~in~~ on flowers ~~that are located~~ in fields or ~~in~~ ditches, they aren't used to being around these chemicals. The over usage of pesticide in my opinion often goes unchecked and its effects really show ⁱⁿ ~~towards~~ towards the bee population. Another factor is the lack of forage and nutrition. This basically means bees are having a tough time finding habitat that has the right food, or nutrition, ~~for them.~~

Sadly, many people don't realize how important bees are in environment. ^S Bees pollinate many fruits such as berries and melons. They also pollinate nuts such as almonds. Without bees, many agriculturalists in these farming industries are in big trouble. With no one to pollinate ~~there~~ ^{their} their crop, there would be basically no crop.

Finally, we need to ~~solve and~~ fix this issue. Some ways to do this include watching the levels of pesticide use in ~~your~~ fields and ditches. I live on a farm and we are constantly spraying pesticides and it never crossed my mind ^{until} ~~til~~ now of how threatening it was to the bees. Another way to help this problem could be planting pollinator habitats. This year, my family farm planted a pollinator habitat because I now understand how important it is that we keep ~~these~~ bees alive and thriving. North Dakota State University offers a great way to help you get ^a ~~you~~ pollinator habitat started through their website. One of these publications is called "Bee-utiful Landscape" ^{Extension} ~~x~~ which offers a great guideline to get you started.

The task ahead of us to help save the bees may be a bumpy road, but it is worth the ride. We need to have everyone working together. Without bees, we may have foods that we take for granted, not being able to be eaten. I am personally a fan of fruits and nuts, and if we take these foods away just by having the silly mistake of not helping these species, I will not be happy. I can also guarantee that the fruit and nut farmers won't be either. Now I know how everyone thinks that bees are harmful because they sting you and it hurts, but if we all look back at what great and necessary things that bees do for us, we can soon all come to understand that the bees need help. This needs to be one small step for bees and one giant leap for bee kind so that these essential species can continue to thrive.

~~long sentence~~
long sentence

~~Try not to editorialize in a feature story. That's best left for an editorial or a column.~~