

SCI Free Public Evening Lecture

Lecture 134 - Mr Guy Smith Are farmers 'Bee Aware'?



The pollination activity of bees is worth £510million to the UK agriculture and horticulture sectors. There are many, including the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, that consider the use of neonicotinoids as a key factor in the decline of bee and other pollinating insects. However, evidence also shows that more than 90% of honey bee colonies survived from October 2013-March 2014, a time when bees were still exposed to crops treated with neonicotinoid insecticides.

Neonicotinoids: Damaging the environment?

Neonicotinoids are a class of neuro-active insecticides that are chemically similar to nicotine. In the late 1990s neonicotinoids came under increasing scrutiny over their environmental impacts. Neonicotinoid use was linked in a range of studies to adverse ecological effects; significant reductions in bee colonies and the resultant loss of birds. In 2013, the European Union and a few non EU countries restricted the use of certain neonicotinoids. More recently the UK government, via The National Pollinator Strategy, has called for a refocus to deliver a precautionary, hazard-based approach to pesticide use to help protect bees.

Call for Evidence Based Action

The National Farmers Union (NFU) believes that farmers need to continue to focus on evidence-based actions that will deliver real benefits for bees, particularly to provide more of the food and habitat they need and not be drawn into promoting ineffective approaches, regardless of their apparent popularity.

About the speaker:

Currently Vice President of the National Farmers Union, Mr Smith served for eight years on NFU Council as the Essex delegate, plus four years as a member of the NFU Governance Board and six years as Chair of the NFU Communications Group. He is also a Trustee of FACE (Farming and Countryside Education) and a past Chairman of the Landskills New Entrants Committee. Additionally, he has recently served on the Board of the HGCA (Home Grown Cereals Authority), retiring in March 2014. Guy is a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Society and recipient of an Honorary Doctorate for services to Agriculture from Essex University.

Next Public Evening Lecture:

Sir Paul Nurse - The Francis Crick Institute
When and Where: 30 Mar 2016 at SCI, London, UK

Mr Guy Smith, Are farmers 'Bee Aware'?

When:

Wednesday 10 February 2016

Registration 18:00

Lecture starts 18:30

Drinks Reception after the lecture

Where:

SCI, 14/15 Belgrave Square,
London SW1X 8PS

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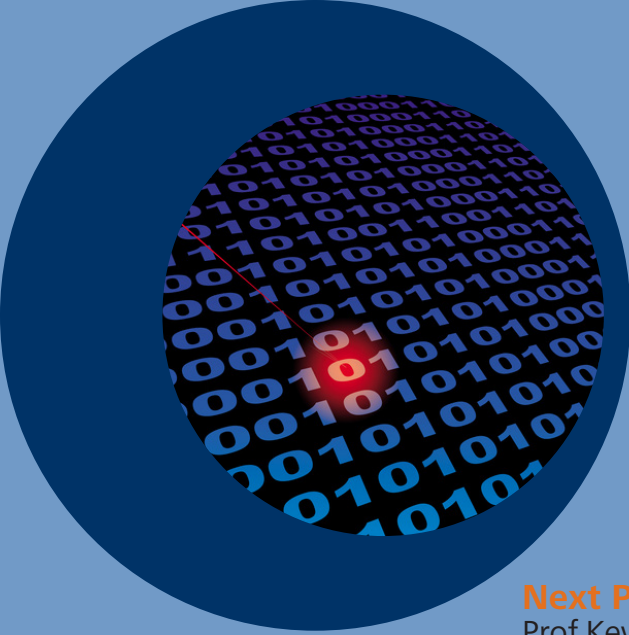
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Next Public Evening Lecture:

Prof Kevin Harrington - Turning Poachers into Gamekeepers: Using Viruses to Treat Cancer,

When and Where: 11 Nov 2015 at SCI, London, UK