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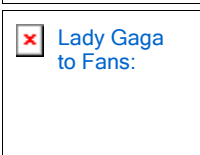
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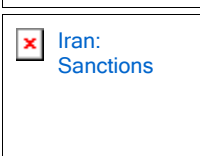
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Jan. 24, 2008

What's Wrong With The Bees?

Steve Kroft Reports On The Mysterious Disappearance Of Bees



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Over the past year, some beekeepers have lost up to 90 percent of their hives. The losses could have serious effects because honeybees help produce a third of the foods we eat. Steve Kroft reports.



Beekeeper Dave Hackenberg (CBS)

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(CBS)
But the seasons don't wait for science. With losses mounting and contracts to fill, the

Hackenbergs decided to borrow hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy new bees and rebuild the hives.

Hackenberg admits he thought about giving up. But asked why he didn't, he says, "Well, I got a lot of farmers out here who depend on me. "

Brian Campbell of Berwick, Pa., is one of those farmers. He grows pumpkins. Without bees, he tells Kroft, his business wouldn't be profitable.

Campbell figures he needs 30 bee visits per flower to pollinate 300 acres of pumpkins, all headed to Wal-Mart for the Halloween trade. "If it's not pollinated, this is gonna dry up and fall off," he explains.

And with bees in short supply, Campbell was more than willing to pay Hackenberg \$27,000 to rent 12 million of them for six weeks, double the usual price. "We need those bees. They've got to come up with a conclusion here," Campbell says.

Congress is expected to fund additional bee research with the new farm bill, but hardly anyone is talking about helping the beekeepers, who David Hackenberg calls the "ugly stepchildren" of agriculture. He told *60 Minutes* *the cold weather this fall and winter will pose a crucial test for him -- and for his bees.*

What will happen if there is another die-off?

"I'm probably out of business," Hackenberg predicts.

Asked what he would do, Hackenberg says, "I don't know. This is all I've done [in] my life."

"If there's another big die-off of bees, some beekeepers, maybe many beekeepers are going to go out of business," Professor Spivak predicts.

What would that do to fruits and veggies at your local supermarket?

Says Spivak, "We won't have the quality fruits. We may not have the quantity of fruits and vegetables. And this could mean higher prices at the grocery store. And it'll hit the public directly."

"Just yesterday, you know, the farm manager of one of the largest blueberry companies in the United States called me to see, 'How are you doing? How are the bees doing?' You know, they're concerned, because they need these bees next year. I mean, we got through this year, but what's gonna happen next year?" Hackenberg wonders.

"And you don't know?" Kroft asks.

"That's right, we don't know," Hackenberg says. "Nobody knows."

*That was six months ago. So far this year, the news is not good. When **60 Minutes** caught up with David Hackenberg this week in California, he told us more than half of his bees had once again*

disappeared.

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Produced By Andy Court and Keith Sharman




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

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