

## **Branch Spray Liaison Officer**

1. The Branch Spray Liaison Officer provides a single point of contact for farmers and spray contractors who are going to spray pesticides and need to inform beekeepers in their area. The Code of Conduct for using Plant Protection Products (see below) and the BBKA recommend that to minimise risks to flying insects, spraying should be done either first thing in the morning or, preferably, in the evening when bees have stopped flying.
2. Arrangements should be made so that farmers/contractors who intend to spray should notify the Spray Liaison Officer with at least 48 hours' notice with the information listed below:
  - 2.1. Name of Farmer and/or Spray Contractor plus contact telephone number and email address.
  - 2.2. Postcodes or Grid Reference of areas to be sprayed and name of town or village nearby.
  - 2.3. Date and time of proposed spraying.
  - 2.4. Crop to be sprayed.
  - 2.5. Chemicals to be sprayed, including active ingredients where known.
3. The Information should then be sent to beekeepers in the area and allow them time to take any necessary precautions.

*Note - The Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products, January 2006, can be found in the 'Bees & Honey' Area of the DBKA website. The code covers plant protection products used in agriculture, amenity, horticulture and forestry; covers all aspects of the safe use of pesticides including safeguarding the environment and human health. It requires the assessment of possible environmental effects and identification of precautions which should be taken to protect wildlife and the environment. It describes the practices and procedures that users of plant protection products should follow in order to minimise any adverse impacts on non-target organisms such as honey bees. Spray Liaison Officers should understand the obligations of the users of pesticides towards honey bees and when the beekeeper is arranging for permission to place hives on a landowners' property, be able to remind the landowner of their obligation towards honey bees. Pesticides might be used on flowering crops including top and soft fruit, oilseed rape, beans, cereals, maize and pea crops, where there are neighbouring flowering crops, and/or where there are flowering weeds and wild flowers.*