

Dear Friend,

Honey bees fly 2-5 miles from their hive to find sources of food – nectar and pollen. Nectar and pollen are collected from flowering plants and carried back to the hive, stored in wax cells, and used as a protein-rich food source for the colony members. So, what happens when a bee finds a food source that is contaminated with an insecticide? The results are exactly what you would expect; the bee brings the contaminated pollen and nectar back to the hive. IF bees are insects (which they are) AND insecticide kills insects (which it does) THEN – the outcome is not a happy one - the hive dies.

Visitors at RTB experienced this first hand this past October when RTB social entrepreneur, Lucy Tabit, conducted a hive opening workshop during our monthly Open Market Day. Lucy has four of her hives at RTB. She has approximately two dozen working hives at various locations in Westport and Dartmouth. You may know her better around town as Hana's Honey. Fairly early into the workshop, Lucy spotted that one of her hives had a pile of dead bees outside of it. She looked at us and said, "That doesn't look good." Sure enough, when she opened this hive, the entire population was dead and the hive was robbed out – no honey. She immediately suspected insecticide because this hive had been a healthy, vibrant hive only three weeks earlier. Lucy informed us that for a hive to be taken down that quickly, it was most likely poison. [Read More](#)

Don't miss RTB's last Open Market Day of the year this Saturday, December 13th from 10:00AM - 4:00PM:

- Geoff will be selling beef, lamb and pork sausages for your special holiday meals. Consider giving someone the gift of locally and ethically raised meat this year. Our cows and sheep are 100% grass-fed and grass-finished, they don't do drugs (they are antibiotic and hormone free), and are pastured (they eat only their natural diet) - same with the pigs but they are also fed a non-GMO feed.
- Ashley will be selling an array of root vegetables, kale and cabbages.
- Join us on a family-fun farm tour beginning at 2:00pm.
- Enjoy some tasty samples fresh from the grill and holiday cheer for all to share!

With gratitude,



Elizabeth Wiley
Program Manager
Round the Bend Farm - *A Center for Restorative Community*