

# FieldWatch: Innovative Technology for Protecting Pollinators



*BeeCheck, developed by FieldWatch, helps beekeepers communicate their beehive locations to pesticide applicators, promoting stewardship and protecting apiaries.*

**BY STEPHANIE REGAGNON,  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, FIELDWATCH**

Honey bees and other pollinators play a crucial role in agriculture. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, honey bees are responsible for pollinating over 100 commercially grown crops in North America. Agriculture is a complex industry with multiple operators who work alongside each other. Oftentimes, apiaries are located in the proximity of row crops. Row crops are treated with products that are vital to protecting them from weeds and pests, yet not beneficial for honey bees. In the case of traveling hives that are moved across many states to pollinating sites, pesticide applicators and farmers are simply not aware of the fact that apiaries are stationed next to their properties. While many states don't make it mandatory for beekeepers to register their locations, there is a clear benefit in making the location of apiaries known to pesticide applicators, so they can avoid them during spraying activities.

In order to enhance communication and mutual understanding among beekeepers and pesticide applicators, the nonprofit organization, FieldWatch®, provides free and secure online mapping tools that benefit both groups. BeeCheck®, developed by FieldWatch, helps beekeepers communicate their beehive locations to pesticide applicators, promoting stewardship and protecting apiaries.

Beekeepers who use the BeeCheck online platform and BeeCheck mobile app can map their apiaries and easily update their beehive locations through real-time GPS technology when out in the field. The BeeCheck mobile app is available free of charge

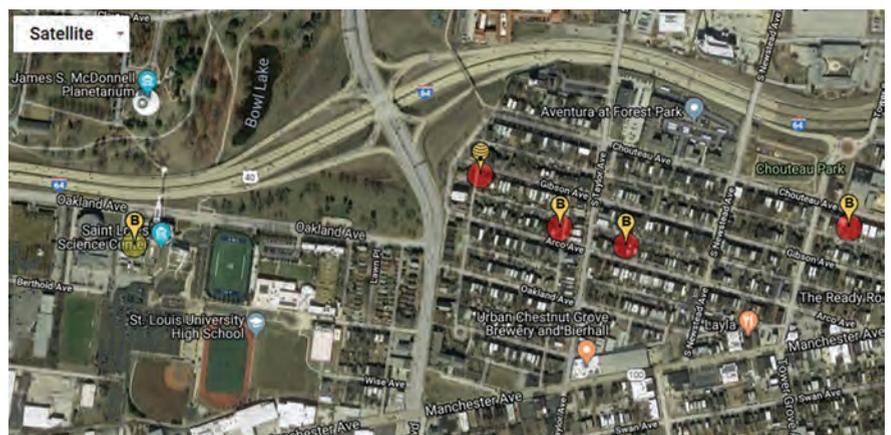
online or through the BeeCheck app (available on Android and iOS) and provides streamlined data input and access for FieldWatch members. With BeeCheck, beekeepers have access to the following features:

- Input start and stop dates to allow beekeepers to move hives on a planned basis
- Update the location of hives with real-time GPS technology
- Identify the number of hives at each apiary location
- Identify beekeepers as hobbyists or commercial
- Enter state registration data
- Mark locations private, so that only applicators who are registered with FieldWatch may see them

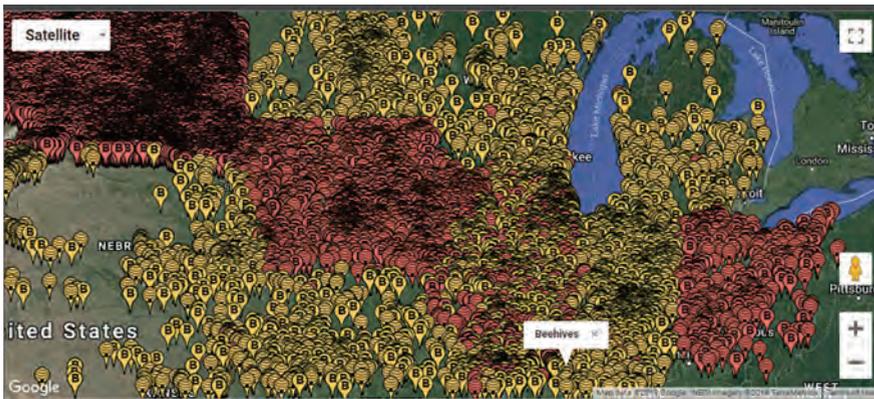
Beekeepers around the country have embraced FieldWatch's online mapping tool. BeeCheck has a total of 11,700 beekeepers using the software, with 21,696 apiary locations mapped

across the country in the national registry. FieldWatch seeks input from beekeepers and strives to modify and innovate its tools to be more useful for its members. Feedback from beekeepers who use BeeCheck indicates that they like the easy to use tools and the ability to sync with the national registry and precision agriculture mapping systems.

Since its creation 10 years ago, FieldWatch has expanded its footprint to 21 states, welcoming California and Maryland into the fold in 2019. California's addition to the national registry is especially meaningful to commercial beekeepers who travel to the state every spring for the almond tree pollination. FieldWatch is the only organization that enables voluntary apiary registration in multiple states, giving beekeepers from all over the country confidence their bees will be safer while in California. California will also be part of a state-wide pollinator protection program



*Commercial, sideline, and hobbyist beekeepers may register and map their hive locations with BeeCheck®.*



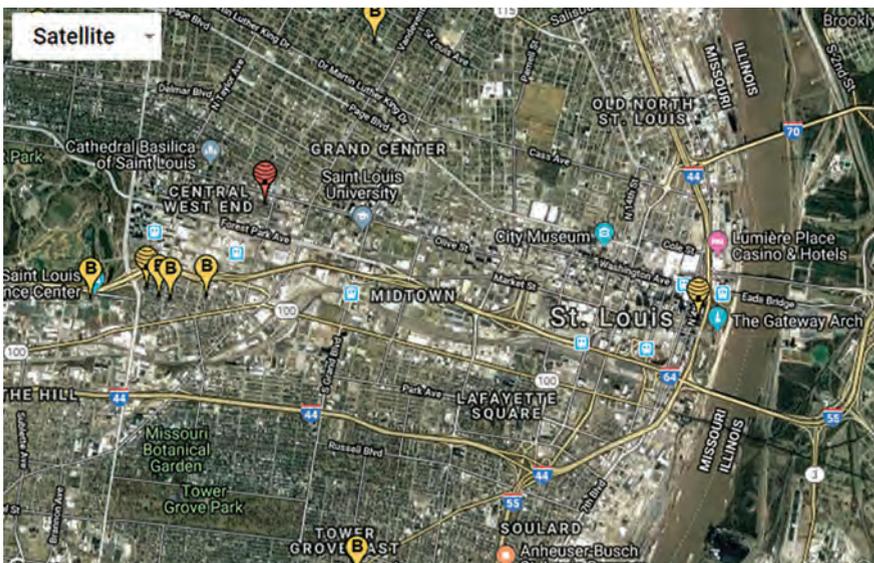
*BeeCheck has a total of 11,700 beekeepers using the software with 21,696 apiary locations mapped across the country in the national registry. The BeeCheck online mapping tool shows the high-level map view of apiary locations throughout the U.S.*

called “BeeWhere, powered by Field-Watch.” In addition to the U.S., Field-Watch also operates in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan and anticipates further expansion into Canada in the near future.

In addition to offering a technological solution that improves communication between beekeepers and pesticide applicators, FieldWatch engages with multiple organizations across the agriculture industry to build connections and promote stewardship. For example, since 2016, FieldWatch has been a member of the Honey Bee Health Coalition, an organization that brings together beekeepers, researchers, government agencies, growers and other key partners to improve the health of honey bees, specifically around production agriculture.

In 2019, FieldWatch launched a pilot program called Growing Good Neighbors®, that aims to help agri-

culture stakeholders, including beekeepers, build personal relationships through face-to-face interactions. This pilot program is designed to gather grape growers, retailers, crop growers, beekeepers, livestock owners, specialty crop growers, conservationists, and other interested community members over a shared meal to foster mutual understanding. The goals of the program are to establish good neighborly relationships, increase communication about crop and beehive locations and new technologies, and create resilient communities with a favorable environment for conflict resolution. In early 2018, the program hosted three community dinners at Missouri wineries to discuss issues that impact today’s agricultural communities and uncover common values. In 2019, Growing Good Neighbors will expand to several additional states. To learn more



*The BeeCheck online mapping tool shows apiary locations in St. Louis, MO. BeeCheck’s use and popularity is growing with urban and suburban beekeepers.*

about the program and hear from its participants, visit <https://fieldwatch.com/neighbors/>. FieldWatch hopes that organizations in other states will find value in such a model for improving communication and will replicate the program in their communities.

#### HOW TO USE BEECHECK

If you are interested in registering your beehives with BeeCheck, here’s a step-by-step guide on how to do it. Managers and owners of apiaries, commercial beekeepers and hobbyists may register their sites with BeeCheck. Apiaries registered through BeeCheck may be marked ‘private’ so only applicators registered in FieldWatch can view them and receive contact information. Commercial beekeepers may send a data file to FieldWatch so that their locations and information can be uploaded automatically.

##### 1. Registration and Login

To participate in FieldWatch, go to [www.fieldwatch.com](http://www.fieldwatch.com) and create an account. Users select the type of account for registration. Beekeepers select BeeCheck to easily set up a BeeCheck account.

##### 2. Add a Comment or Website URL

This is an optional field where beekeepers can enter a website address or additional comments that might be helpful to applicators.

##### 3. Locate Your Apiary

Enter the address or zip code of the area to register, and then click on the ‘Search’ button. This will focus the map on the general vicinity of the apiary. To find the apiary, navigate the map north, south, east and west by clicking the arrow buttons in the upper left corner of the map.

##### 4. Pin Your Apiary

Apiaries are located by simply clicking at the center of the apiary location. Submitted sites then go to the state’s Department of Agriculture for review and approval before appearing on the maps.

##### 5. Check Submissions

Once logged in, producers can check the status of submissions that appear in the left sidebar of the map page. In order to maintain the accuracy of apiary location data, BeeCheck registration and apiary locations must be confirmed annually.

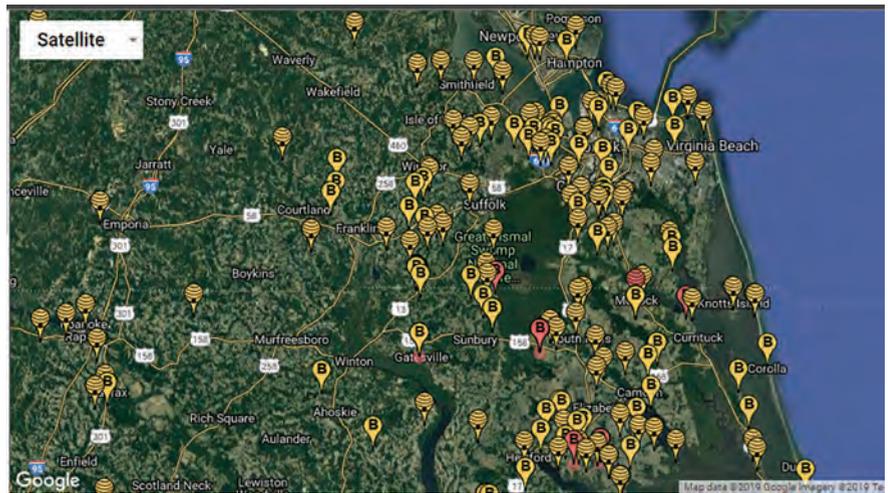
Learn more about mapping your hives with BeeCheck at <https://beecheck.org/>.

**FIELDWATCH'S OTHER MAPPING TECHNOLOGIES**

In addition to the mapping tool developed for beekeepers, FieldWatch operates two other registries, one for growers of specialty crops, called DriftWatch®, and one for growers of conventional or organic row crops, called CropCheck™. These registries feature an easy to use Google Maps™ interface that clearly shows pesticide applicators the locations of registered areas, so they can utilize the information in their ongoing stewardship activities before they spray.

DriftWatch is intended for commercial specialty crop growers and was designed by the Purdue University Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department with input and support from Purdue University's Cooperative Extension.

CropCheck enables voluntary communication between row crop producers and pesticide applicators to increase collaboration and stewardship. Originally launched in 2018 as a pilot project in Arkansas, CropCheck



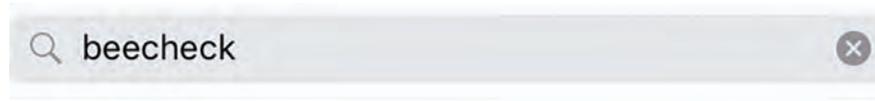
*The BeeCheck online mapping tool shows apiary locations in Virginia and North Carolina. BeeCheck's use and popularity is growing with urban and suburban beekeepers.*

is expanding to three additional states in 2019. With CropCheck, row crop producers may submit crop site information to the registry. Pesticide applicators can access the site to help determine the scope and location of organic crops or crops that are not tolerant to herbicides (conventional crops) to help prevent damage from spraying.

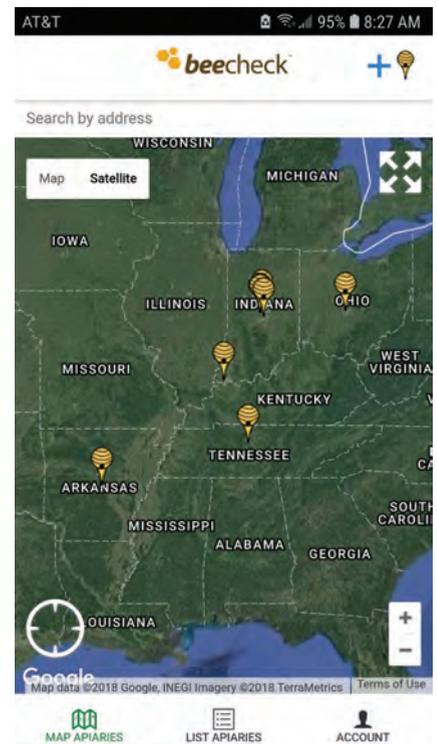
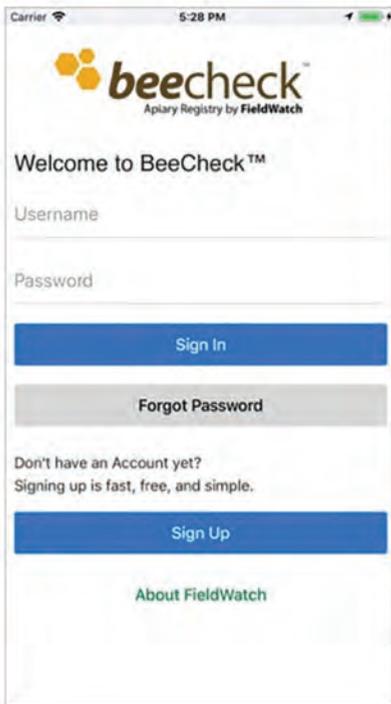
Applicators can now customize their experience with a new data annotation layer

**DATA ANNOTATION LAYER**

Applicators can now customize their experience with a new data annotation layer



**BeeCheck**  
FieldWatch, Inc.



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*The BeeCheck mobile app is available free of charge online or through the BeeCheck app (available on Android and iOS) and provides streamlined data input and access for FieldWatch members.*

notation layer, a recent innovation. This add-on feature can reference 'out-of-scope' data, such as locations of beehives or crops not tolerant to herbicides, or private gardens, as an example. The data on this new layer

will be wholly owned and managed by the applicator and will not go through the approval process that is typical of sites submitted by individual growers and apiaries. Applicators will also have the ability to share their annotation layer with others.

All applicators – including roadside, right of way, railroad, agriculture, and home owners – can use and register for FieldWatch. If you have questions about FieldWatch or BeeCheck, you can send your inquiry through <https://fieldwatch.com/contact-us/>.

Download the BeeCheck app on your IOS at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/beecheck/id1347318866> and for Android at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.fieldwatch.beecheck>.

**Stephanie Regagnon** is the President & CEO of FieldWatch, Inc., a non-profit company promoting stewardship and collaboration in agriculture. FieldWatch works to



increase communication between growers of specialty crops, beekeepers and pesticide applicators in support of ongoing stewardship activities and is currently operating in 21 states and one Canadian province as the preferred specialty crop and apiary registry. Stephanie has worked in the agriculture and renewable energy industries in Washington, DC, and St. Louis, MO for close to 20 years.

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