Each year, migratory beekeepers transport millions of hives across the country to pollinate our food crops. Although important for the production of our food, this high density of hives during crop pollination could lead to increased disease transmission. We conducted an experiment to test: 1. **Do migratory hives acquire more pathogens than their stationary counterparts?**and2. **Upon return to winter yarding areas, do migratory hives transmit diseases to stationary hives?**

In February 2017, we simulated migratory conditions by trucking North Carolina hives to California for almond pollination, then returning them, where they resided with a control group of stationary hives. We tested both groups for pathogens and colony strength before and after the migration. To test for disease spread from the migratory hives to their stationary counterparts, we tested both groups one month later. We compared disease loads of the exposed stationary hives to an isolated control group of hives.

**We found both negative and positive effects of the migratory conditions. Compared to the stationary control hives, we found that migratory hives returned with fewer bees and higher black queen cell virus loads but similar Varroa loads. However, one month after the migratory trip, mite loads in the migratory hives dropped significantly lower than the stationary group, probably due to slower colony buildup in the migratory hives. The exposed stationary hives that foraged alongside the migratory hives for one month had significantly higher deformed wing virus loads than the isolated control group of hives. This manipulative experiment shows the effects of migratory conditions on colony health. It also provides some evidence that returning migratory hives could play a role in the transmission of disease to neighboring hives upon their return.**