Pesticide residue in honey is becoming a growing concern because of the potential human health effects and negative impacts on beeswax. Urban beehives can be subject to increased pesticide use from spraying of commercial, park, and residential locations. This month’s cover article, “Pesticide Contamination in Central Kentucky Urban Honey: A Pilot Study,” tested honey and beeswax honeycomb samples for pyrethroid pesticides, organochlorine pesticides, and heavy metals. The study found that 72% of honey samples tested exhibited levels of pesticides exceeding U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tolerable daily intake levels. Of the samples tested for lead, 56% exceeded daily intake limits. These results indicate the need for regular monitoring programs to assess the potential risk to consumer health.

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