Bee health can be a puzzling topic, but researchers and scientists have determined that the complex interactions among multiple stressors impact the country’s pollinators. What are some of the factors that influence pollinator health?

1. **The Varroa Mite**
   - Identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture as the major factor underlying colony loss in the U.S. and other countries.

2. **Neonicotinoids**
   - Found to have led to an overall reduction in the risks to the agricultural environment from the application of insecticides.

3. **Weather**
   - Especially unusually cold weather, can have a negative effect on bee colony health and lead to high losses.

4. **Pathogens**
   - Bees face many different viruses, bacteria, mites, and other pathogens that negatively affect their health, and more are being discovered all the time. These include: Varroa mites, tracheal mites, wax moths, American foulbrood, nosema, chalkbrood, deformed wing virus and sacbrood virus.

5. **Insufficient Nutrition**
   - Plays a direct role in bee health. Lack of forage can weaken the honey bee’s immune systems and make bees more susceptible to other threats, such as pathogens.
   - Farmers are encouraged to plant diverse and plentiful sources of nectar and pollen to boost forage for native pollinators and honey bees.

6. **Pesticides**
   - When not applied according to label directions, pesticides can have a negative impact on bee health. It’s important for applicators to follow the label instructions to help prevent adverse effects on pollinators.

---

Additional resources:
- [Pollinator Health Concerns](https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/pollinator-health-concerns#factors)
- [Varroa Mite Impact](https://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/E04602A5E7AA60468525F004A12D3)
- [Climate Change Impact](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/beekeepers-feel-the-sting-of-climate-change/)
- [Pathogens and Pests](http://uaex.edu/farm-ranch/special-programs/beekeeper/hive-petite-disease.aspx)
- [Nutrition for Pollinators](http://www.ars.usda.gov/news/docs.htm?docid=15572)