

**Improving Survival Success Rates with Honey bee Colonies through Supportive Cohorts**

Meeting #12 Winterizing Preparation 2 & Producing Quality Honey with PA Honey Judge Valerie Hawthorne

Project Leader: Tiffany Ayres, CEO Keys to Bees, Master Beekeeper  
 Project Consultant: Marty Jones, PhD  
 Project Partner: Kim Patten, Manager Diakon Wildemess Greenhouse  
 Project Partner: Lindsey Lyons, Director of Sustainability Learning Dickinson College

This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under subaward number PG24-021.



1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Improving Survival Success Rates with Honey bee Colonies through Supportive Cohorts**

Meeting #12 Winterizing Preparation 2 & Producing Quality Honey with PA Honey Judge Valerie Hawthorne

Project Leader: Tiffany Ayres, CEO Keys to Bees, Master Beekeeper  
 Project Consultant: Marty Jones, PhD  
 Project Partner: Kim Patten, Manager Diakon Wildemess Greenhouse  
 Project Partner: Lindsey Lyons, Director of Sustainability Learning Dickinson College

This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under subaward number PG24-021.



2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education**

SARE made funding possible.

SARE is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture with funding through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

The NIFA fund research and education projects to support sustainable agriculture; funding projects that help farmers, ranchers, and educators develop new ideas and strategies.

This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under subaward number PG24-021.

\*Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.\*

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**AGENDA**  
**WINTERIZING PREPARATION 2 & PRODUCING QUALITY HONEY**

Honey Judging - with Valerie Hawthorne

What is this and what to do if found?

Hive condensing - Winterization show -n- tell

Honey tasting

Honey judging complete

www.keystobees.com

4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**VALERIE HAWTHORNE - first and only PA Certified Honey Judge**

- I am a transplant from Dillsburg PA. I retired from the Federal Govt and have been a beekeeper for 11 years. I became a beekeeper after a force called me to visit the PA Farm Show bee training table, no particular other reason. I still feel the draw of that force. I am active in the York County Beekeeping Club and the PA Beekeepers club as a mentor and am a member of the Dillsburg Swarm Chasers. I became a certified honey judge with the American Honey Judge Training Program last summer and am the first one in PA. What drove me to become certified was the lack of a training program in PA and the condition of our state's honey show exhibits and programs. What tickles me most in the beekeeping world is the ignorance of the public which allows me to wow them with information on our honey bee. Fun fact: I am highly allergic to the honey bee.

www.keystobees.com

5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Can anyone identify what eggs are on this slide?



Hive Beetles can become a real problem and can be devastating to a small/weak colony.

www.keystobees.com

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Time for Show - n - Tell

Time for Honey Tasting

www.keystobees.com

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**2025 Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference**  
Friday, NOV 14 - Sunday, NOV 16, 2025  
Ramada Conference Ctr  
State College, PA

- Deep Hive of VENDORS
- 1st Ever Pennsylvania Honey Show
- Honey Judge 101 Training Sat., Nov 15
- New PA Honey Queen Crowned
- PA Beekeeper of the Year Award
- LIVE Auction! - Door Prizes - RAFFLES

Featuring: David Burns, Dr. Nina Sokolow, Dr. Larry Connor, Penn State Extension, ANSTC Senior Honey Judges & Fellow Beekeepers

Registration is OPEN!

www.pastatebeekeepers.org  
www.honeyshowpa.com

**THE NORTH AMERICAN 2026 HONEY BEE EXPO**  
January 8-10, 2026  
Kentucky Expo Center - Louisville, KY

www.keystobees.com

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NEXT MEETING 9/24/25**

9/24/25 Virtual Meeting

Jeremy Barnes ~ Challenges Facing Beekeepers

**SOUTH CENTRAL PA LOCAL CLUBS**

**YCBA** - meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7:00pm-9:00pm at Aldersgate Church, 397 Tyler Run Rd., York

**CABA** - meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 7:00pm-9:00pm at HACC, 1 HACC Dr., Harrisburg

**LCBS** - meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 6:30pm-8:30pm at Millersville University, Roddy Hall Room 261

**PCBC** - meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 2:00pm at Penn State Ext. Office, 8 S. Carlisle St., New Bloomfield

**FCBA** - meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 6:00pm-8:30pm at locations vary check on website fcbapa.com

**PSBA** - Annual Conference 11/14-11/16 @ State College website www.pastatebeekeepers.org/Fall-Conference

**SARE**  
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---