

Improving Survival Success Rates with Honeybee Colonies through Supportive Cohorts

Meeting #1 Introductions

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



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1



Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

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

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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.

2

AGENDA Meeting #1 3-19-25

- Introduction of Project Leaders & Partners
- Introductions of Cohort Participants
- Review Project Purpose
- Meeting Schedule
- Team Expectations
- Knowledge Base #1 of #3



3

PROJECT PURPOSE

Improving Survival Success Rates with Honey Bee Colonies through Supportive Cohorts

STATISTIC show an average of 80% of new beekeepers quit beekeeping due to challenges with keeping their honey bees alive.

STATISTIC show annual honey bee losses of 43-48% nationally over the last decade. (ref. BIP)

REASONS for losses vary. We can make a difference with quality stewardship and awareness:

- Varroa mites
- Starvation
- Weak Bees

HOW do we do this?

- Identify current knowledge base
- Timely exchange of information
- Reporting
- Photos & videos



7

EXPECTATIONS

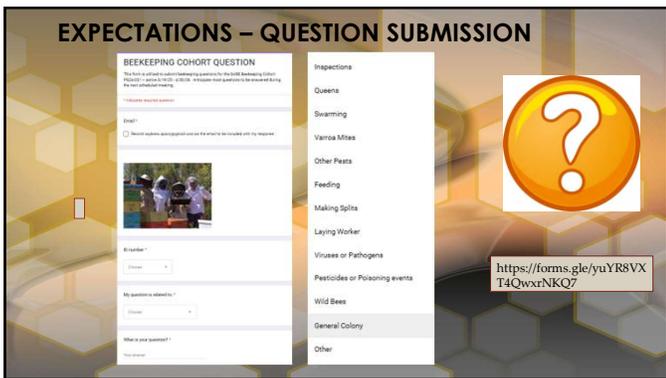
PROJECT LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT:

1. Participation and attendance in scheduled meeting events.
2. Session preparedness: Start & End on time.
3. Provide "State of the Bees" as current to Cumberland Co.
4. Best practices and lessons learned to be shared.
5. Seek additional experts to share alternate beekeeping practices.
6. Provide a safe environment of sharing.
7. Provide cohesive structure for the project.
8. Establish a repeatable plan format for the future.




8

EXPECTATIONS – QUESTION SUBMISSION



<https://forms.gle/yuYR8VXt4QwxrNKQ7>

9

EXPECTATIONS

PARTICIPANTS COMMITMENT:

1. Attend and participation in scheduled meetings.
2. During meetings be prepared to share your findings.
3. Ask questions through project mediums.
4. Complete routine colony inspections and submit monthly inspection and mite check reports.
5. Share one's own pictures and video clips as able.
6. Consider working in additional sub-cohorts.




10

Cumberland County Participants	Township/Borough	Years Beekeeping	Number of Colonies
Juliet Szagola 101	South Middleton Township	< 1 year	1-4
Shelly Boback 102	Dickinson Township	< 1 year	1-4
Bryon Laird 103	Middlesex Township	4-5 years	5-9
Charlie Powell 104	Mt Holly Springs	3-4 years	1-4
Joyce Wertz 105	South Middleton Township	1-2 years	1-4
Ann Fiduccia, DVM 106	South Middleton Township	< 1 year	1-4
Abbey Moyer 118	Lemoyne Borough	< 1 year	1-4
Michael Skalak 119	Carlisle Borough	1-2 years	1-4
Kate Pratt 132	Silver Springs Township	1-2 years	1-4
Geoffrey James 117	Lower Allen Township	< 1 year	1-4



11

Dauphin County Participants	Township/Borough	Years Beekeeping	Number of Colonies
Irv Moyer 107	West Hanover Township	< 1 year	1-4
Jeff Webb 108	Lower Swatara Township	< 1 year	1-4
Melissa Minnick 109	Susquehanna Township	< 1 year	1-4
Lindsey Moyer 122	Lower Paxton Township	< 1 year	1-4
Gregory Hare 128	Lower Paxton Township	3-4 years	1-4



12

Bucks County Participant	Township/Borough	Years Beekeeping	Number of Colonies
Jaime Mertz 131	Bedminster Township	1-2 years	1-4

Franklin County Participants	Township/Borough	Years Beekeeping	Number of Colonies
Monica Dean 120	Fannett Township	< 1 year	1-4
Alana Michael 133	St. Thomas Township	< 1 year	1-4

Fulton County Participant	Township/Borough	Years Beekeeping	Number of Colonies
Ryan Poole 134	Union Township	1-2 years	1-4



13

Lancaster County Participant	Township/Borough	Years Beekeeping	Number of Colonies
Alexander Degenhardt 129	Lancaster Township	< 1 year	1-4

Perry County Participant	Township/Borough	Years Beekeeping	Number of Colonies
Lance Laird 130	Saville Township	3-4 years	1-4

Tioga County Participant	Township/Borough	Years Beekeeping	Number of Colonies
Mike McGuire 121	Westfield Township	1-2 years	1-4



14

York County 1 of 2 Participants	Township/Borough	Years Beekeeping	Number of Colonies
Michele Yeagy 110	Franklin Township	4-5 years	1-4
Tracey Smith 111	Springettsbury Township	< 1 year	1-4
Roxane Weaver 112	North Codorus Township	< 1 year	1-4
Traceyanne Saltmarsh-Forest 113	York Township	1-2 years	1-4
Eric Jeschke 114	Fairview Township	5+ years	1-4
Heather Moore 115	Newberry Township	< 1 year	1-4
Bill Niehenke 116	West Manchester Township	< 1 year	1-4
Anna Mathew 123	West Manchester Township	1-2 years	1-4



15

York County 2 of 2 Participants	Township/Borough	Years Beekeeping	Number of Colonies
Michelle McWilliams 124	York Township	< 1 year	1-4
Katrina Updike 125	Warrentown Township	3-4 years	1-4
Theresa (Sia) Schatz 126	Shrewsbury Township	< 1 year	1-4
Melissa McMurphy 127	North Hopewell	2-3 years	10 +
Karen Tynes 135	Warrington	< 1 year	1-4
William Toothaker 136	Goldboro	2-3 years	10 +

16



17

MONTHLY DOCUMENTS

INSPECTION REPORT
<https://forms.gle/hFs4oBULFHJHChc9>

MITE COUNT REPORT
<https://forms.gle/WKT2zSC77hqXRyu9>

18

NEXT STEPS

STEPS:

1. Do you know your ID #?
2. Complete testing - this link should be in your email, if you have any technical issues call me at (717) 968-9359.
3. Complete test within the next hour - exam closes after 60 minutes.
4. If you wish to retain your email privacy, reach out to me by this Thursday 3/20/25. On Friday, contact information will be shared for the opportunity to establish sub cohort groups; this will be your decision and left up to you to individually coordinate.
5. Review the link for the inspection report and submit any questions.
6. Review the link for the mite report and submit any questions.
7. Attend next meeting - 4/9/25 same meeting link at 6:30 pm.



19

IDENTIFY CURRENT KNOWLEDGE BASE

LIFE IS A JOURNEY OF KNOWLEDGE - WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HONEY BEE?

TIFFANY AYRES (717) 968-9359
Call if you have trouble entering the testing site or do not receive the link to enter.




20

HAVE QUESTIONS:

Questions will be submitted through google forms.

<https://forms.gle/SoQGKsXbi4W7AHgC9>




21
