

BEEKEEPING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR MENTORS

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.



SARE Northeast Partnership Grant

Program: Improving Survival Success Rates with Honey Bee Colonies through Supportive Cohorts

Program Leader: Tiffany Ayres, Master Beekeeper

Program Consultant: Marty Jones, PhD

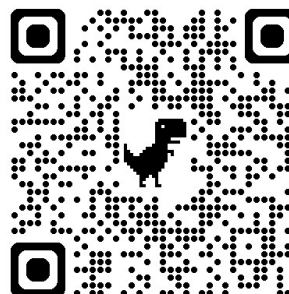
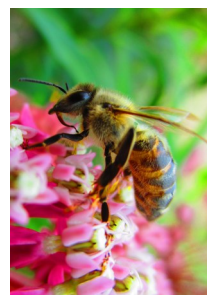
Beekeeping Leadership

With support from SARE Partnership Grant ONE24-432, an experimental online platform was developed to support new beekeepers and provide structured lesson plans for mentorship programs. These lesson plans feature guidance from local beekeeping leaders in the Cumberland County area and cover key topics including swarming, colony splitting, honey processing, honey judging, honey bee health issues, varroa mites and other pests, winterizing colonies, inspections, hive assessment, and seasonal colony management.

Research indicates that as many as 80% of new beekeepers discontinue the practice within their first three years, often due to colony loss. This platform provides mentors with additional resources and outlines a cohort-based support model designed to guide new beekeepers throughout the beekeeping season.

The grant project produced encouraging results. Participants demonstrated a 26% increase in knowledge, and colony survival rates improved by 19.8% compared with the national average, as recorded by the Apiary Inspectors of America. These outcomes suggest that the program offers meaningful value and warrants further consideration.

Questions: Please contact Tiffany Ayres at (717) 968-9359 or Saybees.apiary@gmail.com.



"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."

www.KeysToBees.com (717) 968-9359