



**EXTENSION**

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# Honeybee Queen Quality for Ohio Beekeepers



*The queen in the photo on the left is feral and was collected in a swarm in southwest Ohio. Feral queens have been found to be healthier and more resilient compared with queens from some packaged bees (shown in the photo below)*



## SO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HONEYBEE QUEEN QUALITY?

*Feral Ohio honey bees, found in natural areas or collected as swarms, are often better adapted to thrive in Ohio's climate and improve genetics in bee yards. Using locally-raised queens will help diversify your bee yard to improve queen quality.*

### What You'll Need to Do:

**Consider honeybee genetics**—Diversity and outbreeding are key to healthy bees. Recent research at Central State University has shown that hives populated with feral Ohio bees are more likely to survive than hives that have been populated with package bees purchased from out-of-state.

**Find local bee sources for genetics**—Find locally-raised queens and nucs to purchase when populating your bee yard and to increase your queen quality.

**Learn how to make swarm traps**—Capturing feral honeybee colonies will increase genetic diversity for your apiary. Some feral colonies have been shown to display behavior that controls mites in a hive.

**Encourage genetic diversity for your bee yard**—Different types of honeybee strains will bring diversity to potentially improve quality of your queen bees.

### Needed to be Successful:

- Genetic diversity of queens in your bee yard
- Locally raised or feral queens and nucs used for populating your hive
- Patience as beekeeping is a slow process and successful bee yards

### For More Information:

Dr. Hongmei Li-Byarlay  
Entomologist, Central State University  
1400 Brush Row Rd., Wilberforce, OH 45384  
[hli-byarlay@centralstate.edu](mailto:hli-byarlay@centralstate.edu)

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