Two different beekeeping groups succeeded in having projects funded by grants from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB), governing body of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF).

The Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA) was approved for up to $128,808 in state funds over a two-year period to hire a part-time administrator to oversee its Kentucky Certified Honey Program, including KSBA website management and travel related to the promotion of the program.

For more information, contact David Shockey at (270) 307-8549 or kentuckycertifiedhoney@gmail.com.

The other grant was for approximately $5,000 in equipment to the Powell County Beekeepers Association to set up a Honey Bee Conservation Program that would provide mentoring and inspection of Powell County area beehives.

For more information, contact Valerie Stewart at (606) 663-6405 or vstewart@uky.edu.

Both these grants require matching funds, detailed budgets, timelines, and narratives discussing the projects’ importance to agriculture, and describing how these projects can help beekeepers see value from their hives. The KADB receives applications and reviews grants on a monthly basis.


Your local bank and KAFC can finance infrastructure or your re-entry to farming

If you once had agricultural experience and now want financial help getting re-started with farming, or if you want to add infrastructure to your current agricultural operation (such as a beekeeper building his or her own honey house), the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) wants to partner with you and your local lender.

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board works closely with the KAFC to equitably distribute financial aid for agricultural projects. Here are two types of loans beekeepers may want to consider:

- The **Beginning Farmer Loan Program** has a few conditions:
  — Successful applicants will not have been on the deed to a farm for more than 10 years,
  — Their net worth is less than $500,000, with W-2 income less than $125,000, and
  — The applicant must have had at least three years of agricultural experience.

  In addition, the Board wants to see that all beginning farmers work with an approved mentor.

- The **Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program** has funded various types of buildings in the past such as aquaculture structures, beef facilities, and equine facilities. A beekeeper could fit the application guidelines by applying to construct a honey house and/or other beekeeping-related infrastructure. The main priority for the Agricultural Infrastructure Loan, advises Bill McCloskey of the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP), is for the beekeeper to have estimates regarding the expense of the infrastructure and to have a local bank approve the budget. For instance, if a beekeeper wants to build a honey house, the KAFC will want to see estimates from builders of construction costs, quotes from plumbers on installing the pipes, estimates from electricians, and other figures.

  “You don’t want to have to keep coming back to the board because you underestimated how much the project will cost,” McCloskey explained.

  The first step to obtaining a KAFC loan is to reach out to your local lender. The loan officer will work with the KAFC staff on your behalf.

  KAFC’s monthly application deadline is each third Friday.

— Article reviewed by Marielle McElmurray, Director of Public Affairs, Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy.

Bill McCloskey, deputy executive director of the Governor’s Office for Agriculture Policy, can be reached for further information on eligibility for loan programs. contact Bill.B.McCloskey@ky.gov, or (502) 782-1766.
FSA extends NAP and ELAP deadlines after federal shutdown

Deadlines have been extended until Feb. 14 from the original Jan. 2 for the annual colony reporting requirement to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the current year.

Kentucky beekeepers must annually report their number of honey bee colonies on form FSA-578 by the adjusted date of Feb. 14 if enrolled in NAP for the current year, or if they want to be eligible for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) in case of an eligible disaster-related loss.

If the deadline does not apply to your situation, you still should report the number of your colonies within 30 days of the date colonies of bees are acquired, brought into, or removed from the county, said Lindsey New, FSA county executive director for Pulaski and McCreary counties.

This is a very important step to ensure eligibility for participation in NAP and other FSA programs, New said.

Regarding the NAP, the following forms and reports are now all due by Feb. 14:

- 2019 application for coverage;
- Notice of loss for 72-hour harvest and grazing (as applicable);
- Notice of loss for prevented planting and failed acres; and
- Applications for payment for 2018 covered losses.

More information: Lindsey New, County Executive Director, Pulaski/McCreary Co. FSA Office USDA – Farm Service Agency, 45 Eagle Creek Drive, Ste. 101, Somerset, KY 42503-3473 Phone: (606) 678-4842, Ext. 125 Fax: (855) 784-0872 Email: lindsey.new@ky.usda.gov.

If you’re cold, they’re cold ...

But the difference is, you can’t cluster with thousands of your friends to stay warm. Since bees have to “jog in place,” all cuddled together, to maintain a group temperature in the 50° F. range in the winter, an insulated hive might be a welcome idea. A hive wrap such as the one in this photo from Gary Grubbs costs between $11 and $28, plus shipping and handling, from bee supply stores.

Other FSA new program deadlines

USDA’s Farm Service Agency extended deadlines on many of its programs because of the government shutdown and the emergency nature of many of the programs. Below are updated deadlines.

For details on all program deadlines and extensions, view FSA National Notice CM-807.

- Market Facilitation Program
  Deadline to apply extended to Feb. 14, 2019.

- Marketing assistance loans
  - Peanut loans or Loan Deficiency Payments -- loan availability date now Feb. 28, 2019.

- Emergency Conservation Program

- Livestock forage disaster

- Livestock Indemnity Program

- Tree Assistance Program

- Acreage reporting

For inquiries related to these programs or any not listed above, please contact your local USDA Service Center.

— FSA news release
KSBA posts call for Program Manager/Director to lead Kentucky Certified Honey Program

Position Announcement: Program Manager/Director
Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA)

Salary: $20 per hour plus fringe.
Average Week: 30 hours per week, including Saturdays during the spring.
Employment Type: Contract.

The KSBA is seeking a Program Manager/Director to assist with the implementation and expansion of the KSBA’s new Kentucky Certified Honey Program (KCHP) across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

You would be required to perform administrative duties, coordinate event speakers, represent KSBA at scheduled events, and assist with promotional activities, website postings, and the annual events calendar.

Responsibilities:

- Review and process KCHP membership applications.
- Assist with the sale of KCHP labels.
- Maintain a specified database.
- Prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual reports.
- Focus on KSBA/KCHP 2019 and 2020 goals.
- Coordinate KSBA representative attendance to various bee schools and other events.
- Travel to bee schools on weekends, the Kentucky State Fair, and other beekeeping related events.
- Assist KSBA and KCHP with promotional activities at bee schools and other events such as the Kentucky State Fair and other beekeeping conferences.

Qualifications:

- Experienced background and knowledge of beekeeping.
- Good managerial skills.
- Ability and willingness to travel frequently within the state.
- A friendly non-confrontational demeanor/ professional.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Experience in giving PowerPoint presentations.
- Exceptional attention to detail and data collection.
- Strong organizational skills.
- Above-average skills with website management.

Note: This is initially a two-year contract position with the option for renewal.

Questions: David F. Shockey, Secretary, KSBA; (270) 307-8549

Mail Applications to: Kentucky State Beekeepers Association, P.O. Box 621, Elizabethtown, KY 42702

EOE M/F/D/V

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Honey Apple Nut Bundt Cake

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour a 9-inch bundt pan. In a large bowl, stir together the sugar and oil. Beat in the eggs until light, then stir in the honey and vanilla. Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and allspice; stir into the batter just until moistened. Fold in the apples and nuts. Transfer batter to prepared pan. Bake bundt cake until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean. Cook for 50 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes before inverting onto a plate to cool completely before frosting.

FROSTING: Whip cream cheese until soft; add butter, blend. Add remaining ingredients and whip till smooth and creamy. Spread on cake.

— Tina Smiley, Eastview, Ky.
BEEKEEPER EDUCATION - FEBRUARY

● **Feb. 9.** The Honey Depot, Mentoring Classes. 14005 Taylorsville Road, Louisville. 9 a.m.-noon EST or 1-4 p.m. Reserve on the website, $10 per person.

  More: The Honey Depot website, honeybearfarmsky.com, or facebook.com/events/746042782402207. Phone Joel or Bill at (502) 235-0727.

● **Feb. 9.** The Northern Kentucky Beekeepers Association (NKYBA) free beginner school, "Introduction to Beekeeping 101." Speaker: **Jim Coss**, owner of The Honey and Bee Connection. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. EST. Boone County Extension Office Enrichment Center, 1824 Patrick Drive, Burlington.

  Registration and details: nkybeekeepers.com, and facebook.com/nkybeekeepersassociation.

● **Feb. 9.** Introduction to Beekeeping, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Harrodsburg. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST. Cost: $55, includes box lunch. Honey bee life cycle, choosing hive equipment and assembly, hive site selection, pest management, costs of beekeeping, how to establish first hives, and what to expect as a first-year beekeeper.

  Registration: shakervillageky.org/events/introduction-to-beekeeping/. Phone (859) 734-5411.

● **Feb. 11.** "Beekeeping: D to Z (After the ABCs)," (second of four courses), 6-8 p.m. EST. Pulaski County Extension Office, 28 Parkway Drive, Somerset. Coordinator **Dorothy Morgan.**

  Topics: Managing queens and hives, why nucs are better than packages, and wood hives vs. polystyrene.

  Contact Beth Wilson at beth.wilson@uky.edu, or (606) 679-6361.

● **Feb. 16.** Eastern Bluegrass Extension Bee School. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. EST, Winchester. Pre-registration preferred.

  More details: David Davis, david.davis@uky.edu, or Clark County Extension Office, (859) 744-4682.

● **Feb. 19.** Sustainable Communities Network meeting. 10 a.m. EST, Berea College Forestry Outreach Center, 2047 Big Hill Road, Berea. Discussion of grant from North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) for 20 school pollinator gardens. Planning for upcoming March trainings, for events at the Outreach Center, for June National Pollinator Week, and for the Oct. 16-19 NAAEE conference in Lexington.

  Jim Embry, (859) 270-3699; Sustainable Communities Network, sustainlex.org.

● **Feb. 22-23.** The Kentucky Department of Agriculture helps sponsor the third annual Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference at the Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability in Jackson. The conference is open to all, not just eastern Kentuckians. Scholarship information for early registrants available from Joni Nelson, joni.nelson@kysu.edu.

  Conference website: rcars.ca.uky.edu/content/eastern-kentucky-farmer-conference. More: Sister Kathy Curtis, kathy@cfaky.org, and facebook.com/EasternKYFarmerConference./

● **Feb. 23. (Note change from 28th.)** Indiana Bee School. Decatur Central High School, 5251 Kentucky Ave., Indianapolis. 7 a.m. EST, program 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. $35 members, $45 non-members. Preregistration strongly encouraged.

  More: indianaabeeker.com/contact_us/indiana_bee_school_vii. Email Mike Seib: mike@seibshoosierhoney.com.

● **Feb. 23. (Note change from 28th.)** Northeastern Kentucky Beekeeping School, Maysville. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. EST. Pre-register before Feb. 20. $20 adults pre-registration; $25 at the door. Children $75.

  Send check payable to LRBA to Bobby Fore, 1338 Stevens Road, Owingsville, KY 40360. lickingriverba@gmail.com, or (606) 247-5817.

**MARCH**

● **March 2.** Audubon Beekeepers Bee School. Keynote Speaker: Former Kentucky State Apiarist **Phil Craft.** Henderson County Cooperative Extension Expo Center, 3341 Zion Road, Henderson. Preregistration $15 for adults, $5 for 12 years and younger. Registration at the door, $20. Lunch included.

  More: Larry Stone, (270) 339-7245; Jan Powell, (270) 860-2942; or visit audubonbeekeepersassocation.com.

More education at kyagr.com
Visit the Kentucky Department of Agriculture website for the entire spring schedule of seminars and workshops, plus updates and late-breaking information.
KDA plays key roles producing helpful publications

State Apiarist assists research team

Honey Bee Health Coalition releases two new resources for informed hive management

Guides to reduce pesticide exposure, treat for pests and diseases, and ensure adequate nutrition

The Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) has unveiled two new resources for beekeepers:

- a best management practices guide for hive health,
- a decision support tool for taking on Varroa mites, the most dangerous honey bee parasite.

Best path to hive management


“The guide includes information about safety considerations, apiary setup and maintenance, pesticide exposure, pests and diseases, queens, and nutrition,” said the guide’s lead author, Dewey Caron, University of Delaware emeritus professor of entomology and wildlife ecology. He said these management practices will be updated periodically to ensure access to the best resources and strategies.

Potter said, “There is a saying in the beekeeping world: You’ll be a beginner for 20 years. However, these best management practices can shorten that learning curve exponentially. The guide helps all beekeepers — from hobbyist to commercial — establish and maintain the conditions necessary for healthy hives. It is full of photos and graphics, and each chapter is followed by a summary of ‘Key Points to Remember’ as well as resources should beekeepers seek more information.”

Much questionable information circulates that is not based on the latest best practices, said American Honey

Kids and Bees Handbook is a colorful, valuable teacher guide

By Sarah Red-Laird, author

Many years ago, the International Bee Research Association produced a 20-page booklet of curriculum, beekeeping vocabulary, stories, honey-based recipes, and more, aimed at European educators. I was so inspired by the project, I wanted to create a similar version of the booklet for Americans, in partnership with the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) and the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees (FPHB).

The official launch date last month coincided with the Kids and Bees event at the ABF Conference and Trade Show in Myrtle Beach, California.

The colorful, lushly illustrated handbook is a guide for educators to begin or build on their own bee programs and events. It is a collection of curriculum, lists of educational materials and supplies, ideas on funding your program, thoughts on safety and waivers, and more.

The Kids and Bees Handbook is being translated into many languages. The handbook is posted on the Bee Girl and the ABF websites.

Kentucky State Apiarist Tammy Potter, an FPHB board member, contributed editing services to the handbook.


See RESOURCES, page 6
Company researches to find, promote best plants to attract pollinators

Best Bees of Boston showed their HoneyDNA-certified pollinator plant tag at the recent Baltimore Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS).

Best Bees is known to beekeepers for creating, installing, maintaining and harvesting from artist-designed, hand-painted beehives at residential and commercial properties in a number of locations nationwide.

But also, Best Bees has analyzed DNA collected from honey in nine different regions of the country to determine what plants the local bees were visiting, in what percentages. With this information, they advise garden retailers which pollinator-friendly plants the local honey bees enjoy the most, and they tag those plants to enhance sales.

“I like this company because they keep taking the extra step,” wrote blogger Ellen Wells on the GreenTalks sustainability blog. “They could have stopped at pretty hives or installations in one part of the country. But they take the extra steps — adding services and locations and exploring ideas — not just as part of a business plan, but because they believe the bees need help,” Wells wrote.

RESOURCES . . . from page 5

Producers Association vice president Chris Hiatt. “This guide both promotes in-hive practices that strengthen bee populations and encourages beekeepers to communicate and work with farmers and landowners to improve bee health. The guide and other Coalition tools help beekeepers get their mite levels under control, which in turn helps neighboring bee yards by reducing mite drift,” he said.

Varroa fighting guide

The Coalition also launched a free, mobile-friendly tool to accompany its Tools for Varroa Management guide. The Varroa guide, first released in 2015 and now in its seventh edition, helps beekeepers implement practical techniques to control the Varroa mite, one of the honey bee’s most destructive pests.

“The Varroa guide is downloaded thousands of times every month, but in talking to beekeepers, we find many still confused about which treatments are right for their situation and conditions,” said Mary Reed, Texas Apiary Inspection Service chief apiary inspector. “With this new tool, they can input their hive conditions and management preferences and receive a list of techniques and treatment options that fit. They can then study their options using the provided information and videos before making a decision.”

Reed and James Wilkes, HiveTracks CEO and chief science and technology officer, helped the Coalition develop the tool.

“The tool guides beekeepers through five questions to determine relevant treatment options and provides information they need if they don’t know the answers,” Wilkes said. “As the beekeeping community moves toward the best practice of regularly monitoring and managing Varroa, this tool will help all beekeepers make wise treatment choices.”

The HBHC has a series of Varroa management tools at their website, including videos that go step-by-step through Varroa control applications.

HBHC’s free Varroa resources: honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/
By Kim Kaplan

Beltsville, Maryland — Beekeepers and researchers will welcome the unveiling of the genome of the small hive beetle (SHB) by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists.

The SHB is a major parasite problem of honey bees. There are few effective treatments.

A genome is the sum total of all an organism’s DNA, in genetic code. The SHB (Aethina tumida Murray) genome was recently published in *GigaScience*.

This genetic information will provide crucial keys that should lead to better, more targeted SHB control methods, including insecticidal treatments and possibly even genetic/breeding solutions.

Can bypass beetle defenses

The SHB has a strong gene-guided system that lets the beetle detoxify many insecticides. Having the genome will allow researchers to gain a more precise understanding of these detoxification genes, so more effective choices for control treatments can be made.

Geneticist Jay Evans, who ran the project and is also leader of the ARS Bee Research Laboratory, said one strategy is to look for insecticides for which the honey bee has detoxification genes but that the SHB does not.

20K colonies lost in one Florida summer

A native of sub-Saharan Africa, the SHB was first found in the United States in 1996. During the summer of 1998, the SHB was blamed for losses of more than 20,000 honey bee colonies in Florida alone.

Today, the SHB has spread throughout the United States. It is a major problem especially for queen breeders and honey producers.

SHBs eat everything and anything in a bee colony: pollen, brood, honey, dead adult bees, and combs. They also cause honey to ferment in the process. If the number of SHBs is high enough, adult bees will abscond from the hive.

One avenue to which the SHB genome has already pointed is where to look for clues for how the SHB finds bee hives — what pheromones or other smells SHBs follow to target honey bee colonies.

Will help fight other pests

Although there are about 350,000 beetle species and subspecies, only seven beetle genomes, including the SHB, have been completed and published.

Among the SHB’s close relatives are the destructive and invasive Asian longhorned beetle along with other sap beetles that are pests of sweet corn, tomatoes, strawberries, and other fruit and vegetable crops.

--- USDA ARS news service

Information will also help fight other parasites