

Massachusetts Beekeepers Association

Uniting beekeepers through education, advocacy, and sponsorship so as to protect and foster honeybees and beekeeping in Massachusetts and beyond.



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We have officially turned the corner into Spring and the honeybees are well on their way enjoying the warm weather and the plethora of floral sources. Since it was such an unseasonably warm winter and "early spring", please be sure to check your over-wintered hives carefully for early signs of swarming. I have already heard of swarms occurring.

A big thank you to the Essex County Beekeepers for hosting the Mass Bee Spring meeting. A lot of work goes into hosting this meeting and Mass Bee appreciates your hard work. The meeting was very well attended with beekeepers from across the whole state and New England. Interesting information was presented by EAS master Beekeeper Bill Hesbach, MDAR Biologist Dr. Elizabeth Barnes, UMASS Amherst PhD student Caro Munoz Agudeo, and MDAR Chief Apiary Inspector Dr. Kim Skyrn. Thank you to John Cheetham for organizing such a diverse and interesting group of presenters. Thank you to all the vendors.

Congratulations to Dr. Dick Callahan from the Worcester County Beekeepers Association who is the 2023 Massachusetts Beekeeper of the Year. He has contributed to the beekeeping community at the local, state, and national levels. Please take a moment to reach out and congratulate him and ask him a tough bee question.

I am very pleased to announce that the annual Mass Bee/Franklin County Field Day will take place this year on June 15th at the UMass Agricultural Learning Center in Amherst. It was greatly missed last year, and we are pleased to get this valuable event back on the schedule for this summer, so please mark your calendar for the Annual Mass Bee Field Day. We are looking for beekeepers to present at this event. Can you present on making a split? Value of a nuc? Opening a hive for beginners? etc..

On a personal note, I would like to extend my sincere thank you to the entire Mass Bee community for all the support that was extended to me during the passing of my mother. My mother was always impressed by the powerful sense of community among the beekeepers in the State. My family greatly appreciated the lovely flowers that were sent by Mass Bee, the Eastern Apicultural Society, and the Worcester County Beekeepers Association.

Mass Bee is a vibrant organization, but it is very much in need of new folks to step up and contribute to advancing its offerings. If everyone contributes a little, then we can accomplish a whole lot and keep Mass Bee on the forefront of beekeeping. Please consider reaching out to an officer to lend a hand on a project.

Bee Well,

Mary Duane

President Mass Bee
EAS Master Beekeeper



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MASS BEE FIELD DAY 2024

06/15/2024 09:00 • UMass Agricultural Learning Center, 911 N. Pleasant St. Amherst, MA
Hosted by Franklin County



Franklin County Greenfield Bee Festival

Saturday May 18th 2nd Congregational Church where Lorenzo Langstroth preached in the 1850's 9am to 12pm

MASSACHUSETTS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION FALL 2024 MEETING + HONEY SHOW

11/02/2024 08:00 am • *To Be Determined*



About Mass Bee

MASSACHUSETTS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION - the voice of Beekeepers across the Commonwealth

- **Promote education** in matters relating to honeybees and beekeeping
- **Assist its affiliate associations** in promoting successful beekeeping in the state of Massachusetts
- **Foster congeniality** among the state's beekeepers
- **Perform all other acts appropriate** to an organization in serving its members
- **Protect and foster** the honeybee's beneficial use in the state of Massachusetts

To join MassBee please visit our [Membership](#) page.

Members can ask for a new password or renew their dues on the [member's](#) log in page.

MBA 2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD :

President:

Mary Duane

eMail: president@massbee.org

Vice President:

John Cheetham

eMail: vicepresident@massbee.org

Recording Secretary:

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eMail: webmaster@massbee.org



FOLLOW US:

www.massbee.org/



SAVE THE DATE!

August 5-9, 2024

MARYLAND

Think Like a Bee!



Turf Valley Resort

Ellicott City, Maryland

Join us for our exciting event!

EDUCATION FOR ALL BEEKEEPING SKILL LEVELS.

- Nationally recognized speakers including Michelle Flenniken, Jeff Pettis, Sam Droege, and more...
- Short Course and Conference Program offering 5 days of learning opportunities
- Interactive and hands-on workshops
- Master Beekeeper Testing and Certification
- Honey Show

WORKSHOPS:

- Honey Judging
- Bees Under the Microscope
- Lotions and Potions
- Cooking with honey

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Field Trips
- Auctions
- Bee Olympics
- Honey Show

MAJOR BEEKEEPING SUPPLIERS AND ARTISANS



WATCH FOR UPDATES ONLINE:
easternapiculture.org/conference/eas-2024

Think Like a Bee!



Thank you to our Ken Warchol Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

This award was first given to three members in 1960, not only for their years of service, but for the many positions they held within the WCBA during their time as members.

This year's four recipients, presented awards by Ken Warchol at our Spring Conference earlier this month, represent a combined 140 years of service to the club. Since its inception, only 41 people have been given this designation



From left to right: Ken Warchol, Mary Duane (25 years), Barbara MacPhee (43 years), Roland Sevigny (51 years), and Dick Callahan (22 years).

Congratulations to all the recipients, and thank you for your service to the WCBA!

Massachusetts Beekeepers Association Spring 2024 Meeting

HOSTED BY
ECBA



Congratulations to Dick Callahan
2023 Beekeeper of the Year



Caro Munoz Agudelo



Bill Hesbach



Elizabeth Barnes, Ph.D.



Dave M. and Mary Duane
"It's Raffle Time"



Dr. Kim Skyrn



MASS BEE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

taken March 16, 2024 at the MassBee Spring Meeting, 12:45 pm

Secretary Report -

None @ last meeting. Carolyn Holmes is taking minutes for this meeting

Treasurer Report:

Current balance as of 2/29/2024 is **\$31,789.04**
\$3,800 in memberships
 All Fall meeting expenses paid
 Fall Meeting **\$4,648**
 Operating Expenses **\$3,170**
 (Wild Apricot Insurance, Domain reg.,
 Zoom)

Detailed report is available on request

Membership Report:

243 Individual
 2 counties have not paid dues

Old Business

\$500 donation to American Bee Federation
 Pollinator License Plate: AG Commissioner
 working with Mass Bee

New Business:

1. AG Day at the State House April 3, 2024
 Carolyn Holmes is chairing the Mass Bee table; Honey is being collected from various Counties (168 jars as of 3/16/2024)
 Public is invited
 Kathy Gasparro to have students design labels for the honey jars.
2. ABF Motion: Annual Line item \$500 Donation ABF every year (2nd by Roger Hill) **PASS**

Bill Crawford – “ABF is working hard on our behalf and pays for a full time lobbyist. The cost is \$60,000 per year. It would be impossible without donations.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Field Day is back on June 15th at UMASS Amherst @ the Agricultural Learning Center. The event will be hosted by Franklin County and Mass Bee. We need people to present / demonstration, etc.
2. New Hampshire is having their meeting next Saturday (3/23). Zack Llama is the speaker and information available on their website.
3. MASS BEE Fall Meeting is November 2nd this year. Location is to be determined.
4. MASS BEE is currently accepting nominations for President and Treasurer. We need a nomination committee.
 A LOCATION IS NEEDED for this meeting. Contact your club.
5. Franklin County: Saturday May 18th from 9am to 12pm is the Greenfield Bee Festival at the 2nd Congregational Church where Lorenzo Langstroth preached in the 1850's.
6. Bristol County Beekeepers Association: March 26th Tuesday Night from 7pm to 9pm “What a Bee Knows”.
 Open to the public \$10

Information for the good of the order

MASS BEE NEEDS YOU!


STORIES FOR YOUR MASS BEE NEWSLETTER

If you have a story to share, would like to see something in your newsletter, or have some suggestions please send it along to newsleter@massbee.org

PLANTING FOR HONEYBEES

Spring is on its way and it's time to think about planting flowers for honeybees and other pollinators. Bees need flowers that offer pollen which is their source of protein and nectar to make honey for energy. Both are stored in their hive to sustain the colony throughout the year especially during months when there are no flowers in bloom.

Honeybees have 5 eyes which is how they detect light and movement and two antennae which gives them their sharp sense of smell. Both lead them to brightly colored flowers with pleasing scents. They can see the color blue, yellow, orange, green and violet but not red.

There is a wide variety of bee friendly flowers that you can plant to feed bees. Here is Marina's list of flowers you can plant by season to attract bees to your garden. 



SURPRISING FACT:

If you are able, leave a small patch of clovers and dandelions in your yard. They are essential sources of pollen and nectar for bees.



Don't wear perfume in the garden... unless you want to be pollinated by bees!

Marina Marchese



SPRING:

pussy willow, witch hazel, black locust, lilac, allium, crocus, maple, hellebore, grape hyacinth, apple, heather, blue bell.

SUMMER:

lavender, linden, mberry and fruit trees
sunflowers, herbs, zinnia. borage, cosmos, salvia, phlox, yarrow, nasturtium, hosta.

AUTUMN:

goldenrod, aster, coneflower, bee balm, milkweed, catmint, sedum, rose of sharon, mints, oregano, lemon balm.

RED  **BEE**

Reflections on the ABF Conference, January 2024 - Bill Crawford



In January, the American Beekeeping Federation held its annual meeting and conference at the Marriott Hotel in downtown New Orleans. The event was well attended with 700+ attendees, and perfectly situated to take in the numerous activities available in NOLA. It was a pleasure to see Massachusetts well represented there, with Peter and Chris Delany, Jim Rawlins, Ang Roelle, Jessica Glover, Scott Herbert in addition to myself, and I'm sure there was at least 1 or two more that I'm missing.

The meeting had several highlights. In terms of speakers, Dr. Frank Rinkevich had an excellent presentation on the amitraz resistance genetics found in *Varroa*, again further highlighting the importance of treatment rotation. And as normal, Dr. Samuel Ramsey knocked it out of the park with his presentation on *Tropilalaps* mites, as well as the other projects he and his students have been working on. One of the biggest takeaways from his presentation was he was all but able to "officially" declare the *Tropilaelaps* mites are now in Ukraine. Why is this significant? Ukraine was the furthest west *Varroa* mites were before they arrived in the United States, AND Canada imports packaged bees from Ukraine. Significant efforts are underway to open up Canada to American bee packages to offset their need to import from Ukraine. Unfortunately it's not an easy cut and dry process and there are people against the initiative.

Scott Herbert and myself, both attended a special training on how to relate to government officials and advocating on behalf of beekeeping with an emphasis on using recent scientific research. The class taught the different capacities of staff members of a legislator's office, and different techniques on how to approach each of them. After the lecture part of the workshop, we then practiced our newly taught skills by role-playing with partners with different, somewhat scripted scenarios so we had the opportunity to put to use, some of the communication skills taught.

There was the annual election and Patty Sundberg, a commercial beekeeper from Montana was elected President, and Debbie Seib, a small-scale/ sideliners beekeeper from Indiana was elected vice president. Both are highly qualified individuals and we can be comfortable knowing they are at the help of our national beekeeping organization.

Also held annually in conjunction with the ABF conference is "The American Bee Research Conference. At the ABRC, you will find many bee researchers and their graduate students giving numerous short talks on their research. I was able to get in there a time or two, but it was nearly standing room only with all the scientists and graduate students. If you were to visit, you are generally welcome to attend, and most likely you'll see numerous familiar researchers filling the audience.

If you did not know, the ABF pays for full-time lobbyist in Washington DC to represent the beekeeping industry. One of the important items being advocated for is the HIVE Act, and while it does have sponsoring representatives, it hasn't gained the traction needed to move it forward YET. One of the most significant things facing beekeepers are issues surrounding Honey Authenticity. This bill and other initiatives help define what honey is and help establish a standard definition. Think of Almond Milk and Milk. We don't want to have to share the word HONEY with another product that is certainly not honey. There are also issues with adulterated and masked source honey being imported into the US. These issues, along with collaborating on the next Farm Bill, the Canadian border, EPA issues, additional funding for USDA Bee Research Laboratories, and funding for *Tropilaelaps* research are just a few of the topics being advocated for by the ABF and our lobbyist on behalf of all of us beekeepers.



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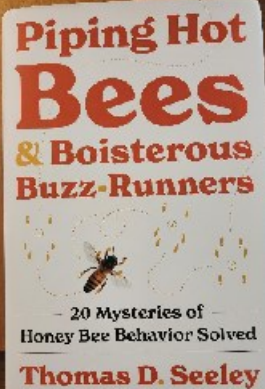
The conference concluded with a tour of the Baton Rouge Honey Bee Research facilities. Here they are researching bee genetics, amitraz resistance, and honey bee physiology. It was interesting to see how they can eliminate viruses from bees in a lab setting by feeding them algae as a mechanism to get the antiviral into the bees. If this continues to be successful, there might be a world in the future where we no longer need to use miticides or other chemicals in our beehives with these new technologies.

In all, it was a very successful event with much fun had and many things learned by all. One of the best things about these national conferences is making new friends, and seeing other friends from all over the country. I encourage everyone to look into attending the January 2025 ABF conference in Reno, NV.

Bee well,

Bill Crawford

New England Apiaries, LLC



NEW BOOK RELEASE by Author and Honeybee Researcher
Dr. Thomas Seeley

Piping Hot Bees & Boisterous Buzz Runners

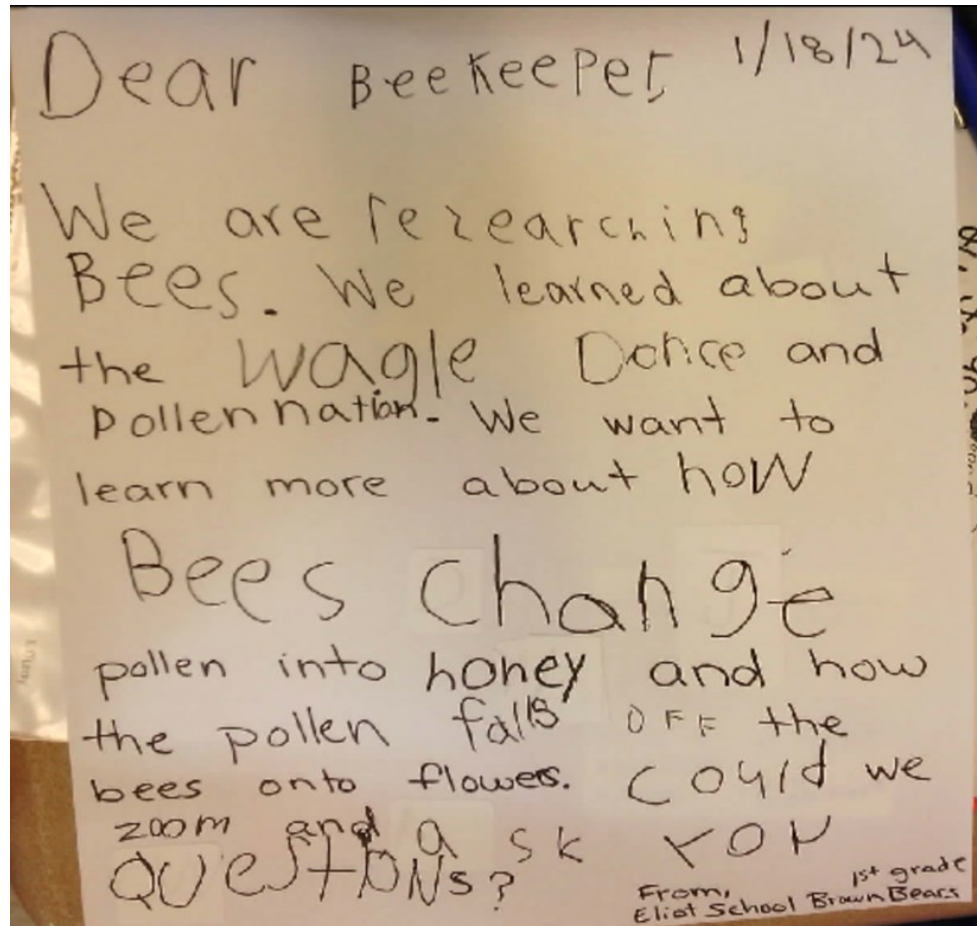
(20 Mysteries of Honey Bee Behavior Solved)

Dr. Seeley's latest book concerning honey bees' behavior is now on sale. For all of us honey bee enthusiasts, it makes for a remarkably interesting read. The book explains twenty intriguing questions about honey bee behavior that you have always been curious about. "Explaining such mysteries as how worker bees function as scouts to choose a home site for their colony, furnish their home with beeswax comb and stock it with brood and food while keeping tens of thousands of colony inhabitants warm and defended from intruders." It is certain to keep beekeepers engaged and even encourage non-beekeeper readers to marvel at this amazing creature- the honey bee. Dr. Seeley is a gifted writer, and this book takes you along in his career exploring honey bee behavior.

Grade 1 Bee Research Zoom Request

Hello,

I am a first grade teacher in Boston and after reading a book about bees, my students have gotten really excited about the topic and want to research it more! We've been watching videos and reading other books, and one child had the idea to talk to an expert. I was wondering, would you or anyone at your organization be willing to talk to us, maybe over zoom?



Ms. Katie O'Leary (she/her)
 ESL/Resource Room Teacher, K2-1st
 ELIOT INNOVATION LOWER SCHOOL
 16 Charter Street, Boston, MA 02113
 P (617) 635-8545 | F (617) 635-8550





My Journey in Beekeeping by Dick Callahan.

When I was four or five my mother would send me outside to play knowing I would go no further than the ant nests next to our sidewalk. I

have always been interested in insects. Their structure, behaviors and ease of manipulation always fascinated me. How could they be alive? What is life? At four I would set Red Ants and Black Ants against each other. Ant wars fascinated my four-year-old mind. Fast forward twenty years and I was pursuing my PhD in Entomology at UMass Amherst under the direction of Dr. Frank Shaw. Dr. Shaw pursued; two avenues of research; Apiculture and screening new pesticide candidates for large chemical compa-

nies. I chose to do research into the effects of these new chemicals, especially their break down products on non-target species, specifically birds. I never had time to take Dr. Shaw's Apiculture course or read his then recently published book, "Beekeeping" by Eckert and Shaw. My exposure to beekeeping was very limited to maintenance activities at the Apiary. Subsequently studying the toxic effects of synthetic chemicals and developing new methods to measure these effects defined my professional career in various technologies including developing the incineration method used by the USAF to destroy its stores of Agent Orange, cofounding a pharmaceutical company and an electronics company.

We returned to Worcester in 1992. I took my mother to the Worcester flower show in 1996-97 and was reintroduced to bees through the Worcester County Beekeepers observation hive. I setup two hives in 2000 and have kept bees since. I was initially mentored by Ray Quirk. I still remember shaking my first package of bees following the step-by-step instructions in "Beekeeping for Dummies" the book sitting on the ground next to the hives. In 2008 Ken Warchol asked me to collaborate with him and Dr. Chensheng (Alex) Lu of Harvard in looking into a possible linkage between Neonicotinoid pesticides and a newly defined "disease" called "Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)". This invitation initiated a productive ten-year association between three people with complementary skills. Dr. Lu an epidemiologist perceived the possible association between neonics and CCD, Ken Warchol's preeminence in the art and practice of beekeeping and my bioassay experience. Following FDA rather than USDA, EPA-Industrial protocols, our studies used a series of exposures starting much higher than the expected environmental exposure and proceeding down to the environmental level. This is how the FDA requires human drugs to be tested. In contrast the USDA-EPA-Industrial protocols barely exceed exposures predicted at the environmental level and test for periods as short as six weeks. The FDA model provides information of the toxic symptoms one would expect to see with long term low level chemical exposure (reproductive effects, behavioral effects, energetic effects etc.) and the exposure time to their onset. We also ran the bioassay for a full year rather than the much shorter USDA - EPA protocol. Initially we saw no effects even at the very highest doses; however, dose related effects occurred when the bees overwintered. Treated hives were empty in the spring, no bees present. We published these results in

2012 and a follow-up study in 2014 The reaction of the industry and their allies was immediate, negative, personal, and vitriolic. The results and design of our study illustrated the deficiencies in the methods used by USDA - EPA- Industry protocols. Fifteen years later the results of our very small studies have stood up well. The USDA-EPA protocols continue to be used in testing pesticides; guaranteeing negative environmental effects will be found only years after rather extensive use and environmental degradation rather than before regulatory approval.

Ken and I continued experimenting with Neonics until 2020. A great benefit of that collaboration was the formation of a close personal friendship and for me and a 10-year mentorship into beekeeping very few receive. Friendships also were formed with many people who aided our studies including Dave Leucon who allowed us to use his family property as our operational base for over decade.

About 2011 MDAR seriously considered eliminating the Bee Inspection program. Under the leadership of Mary Duane then WCBA President we organized a "Text your Representative, Senator campaign" with extensive member cooperation. The results were immediate and positive. The program was not only saved but expanded from 1.5 summer inspectors (Ken and Al Karl) to its present level of a full-time position (Kim Skyrn) and 3 full time inspectors. This experience refreshed my memory of the power of lobbying. Armed with our experience testing neonics I joined Rep Carolyn Dykema in campaigning for Neonic regulation. After ten years of lobbying, we finally forced MADAR to eliminate the use of Neonics by unlicensed people. As a result of these restrictions Neonics are no longer available in local box, garden hardware stores. A small but meaningful step in a largely urban state.

I currently run three hives, down from a high of 26 when working with Ken on the Neonic work.

I advise new beekeepers to use your beekeeping experience as a window into the complexity of the living world. It turns out life is complicated and fascinating.

I like all honey, but my usual harvest is a mix of local spring and fall honey. I have no regular access to honeys resulting from pure stands of flowers.

When your having trouble finding a queen inspect frame by frame carefully and removing the frames from the hive (good weather only). Don't forget to look on the walls of the box. Queens, especially drone layers will wander off the comb. Practical experience has taught me to mark queens. Saves a lot of frustration; beekeeping should be relaxing.

I once collected a swarm that was on the outside wall of old City hospital about 5 stories up. I attempted collecting them while hanging out of a window. Very awkward position. Never got the queen but did get stung well.

Agriculture Day at the Statehouse, April 3, 2024

“Ag Day On the Hill” is an event that is sponsored by the Farm Bureau and is held at the Massachusetts State House in Boston. This year, the MassBee and Norfolk County Beekeepers Association table promoted “Protect All Pollinators” Bill S-445 and H-845. Honey was donated by beekeepers from Berkshire, Essex, Franklin, Norfolk and Worcester Counties

Thank you 2024 Volunteers! Susan Lenault, Anne Lenault, Julie Doran, Bob Hickey, Kathy Gasbarro, Carolyn Holmes, Barbara Stone, Sean Hickey, Roger Hill, the students of Woodside Academy (below), Mike Passmore (right)





THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY



PennState Extension

At Home Beekeeping Webinar

Distance Learning for Beekeepers



We're offering beekeepers the chance to attend virtual meetings from the comfort of one's own home using a computer or mobile device. Speakers include university researchers and extension specialists from across the SE US as well as USDA ARS researchers. Each event will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics with time for Q & A included.

All are welcome!! Join us for this free event!!

- March 26: Oxalic Acid research updates, with C. Jack (UFL)
- April 30: Swarming biology and management, with J. Zawislak (UAR)
- May 28: TBD, with D. Tarpay (NCSU)
- Hangry Bees 2023: Pollen deprivation impacts temperament and disease status, with E. Walsh (USDA-ARS)

Last Tuesday of
the month

6:30 – 7:30 pm
Central Time

Watch via Zoom Webinar

<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>

or Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

Questions? Email Allyson Shabel ams0137@aces.edu

Our institutions are equal opportunity educators and employers. Everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you have accessibility needs.



An Act providing for the public health by establishing an ecologically based mosquito management program in the Commonwealth

S.556/H.937 in the 2021-22 session, updated for 2023-24



MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

This legislation builds on the recommendations of the Mosquito Control for the 21st Century Task Force. It is a modernization of mosquito control under a new framework to protect human health, the environment, and enhance climate resilience.

The current system is greatly outdated and reform is urgently needed.



Policy Structure

- ❖ Repeal/Replace antiquated MGL Ch. 252.
- ❖ Revise structure and funding.
- ❖ MassDEP replaces DAR as supervising agency.
- ❖ Apply Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- ❖ Establish science-based statewide Mosquito Management Plan.
- ❖ Provide low cost basic services to all municipalities, with additional services by local choice.
- ❖ Improve transparency and accountability.

Best Practices

- ❖ Provides for monitoring impacts and effectiveness of mosquito management measures.
- ❖ Requires menu of services available to municipalities not part of mosquito control districts.
- ❖ Strengthens Task Force Best Management Practice recommendations.
- ❖ Requires creation of an emergency arbovirus response plan for a public health emergency.
- ❖ Prohibits aerial spraying of pesticides (*minority Task Force recommendation, supported by independent health experts*).

Pesticide Selection

- ❖ Strengthens Task Force pesticide recommendations.
- ❖ Requires Board to work with scientists on effectiveness of mosquito program.
- ❖ Requires an annual, publicly available report.
- ❖ Prohibits use of any pesticide containing PFAS.

Local Engagement

- ❖ Strengthens Task Force Local Engagement recommendations.
- ❖ Focus on private property education; allow land owners to determine mosquito management / opt-out.
- ❖ Provides flexibility for any two municipalities to work together as a mosquito management district.
- ❖ Allows current Mosquito Control Districts to continue work through transition to newly formed mosquito management councils.

For additional information contact us at <https://www.nofamass.org/mosquito/>



Greetings Beekeepers and Suppliers,

Please consult the letter and FAQ on the following pages related to 2024 live honey bee and used equipment shipments into the Commonwealth.

We would like to remind you that pursuant to [M.G.L. Chapter 128, Sections 32-36B, 38](#) and [330 CMR 8.00](#), all imported honey bee packages, nucleus colonies (nucs), colonies, and used equipment brought into the state of Massachusetts must have a proper state-issued Health Certificate including at least one health inspection dated within sixty days prior to transport. The following is also required to be in regulatory compliance:

- Notify the Department no less than two business days prior to each Shipment import,
- Provide destination information (within Massachusetts) for each Shipment,
- Submit a copy of the Shipment Health Certificate to the Department;
- Keep records regarding the sale of the Shipment items; and
- Pursuant to [M.G.L. Chapter 132B](#), provide the pesticide product label to customers who are purchasing colonies and nucs which contain visible miticides so they are aware of proper treatment, handling and disposal.

Notification and Health Certificates can be submitted either electronically using the online form:

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/shipment-notification-of-honey-bees-and-beekeeping-equipment>

or hardcopy by mail to:

*MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
ATTN: Apiary Inspection Program
138 Memorial Ave, Suite 42
West Springfield, MA 01089*

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Apiary Program Team at bees@mass.gov.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

138 Memorial Ave, Suite 42, West Springfield, MA 01089

Apiary Program Message Line: (508) 281-6784 Email: bees@mass.gov

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-agricultural-resources>



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Transporting and Selling Honey Bees and Related Products

Q. Does the Commonwealth have laws or regulations pertaining to the transport and sale of honey bees and related products?

A. Yes. The MDAR Apiary Program is responsible for enforcing the provisions outlined in the statutes in [M.G.L. Chapter 128, Sections 32-36B, 38](#) and the regulations promulgated thereunder in [CMR 330 8.00](#) (newly amended).

Q. Under what circumstances do I need to notify the Apiary Program?

A. Any time a colony, package, nucleus colony (nuc), or used beekeeping equipment is brought into Massachusetts from any other US state or territory, you are required to notify the Apiary Program no less than two business days prior to importation. A health certificate must accompany the shipment and be issued from the US state or territory of origin.

Q. What is a health certificate?

A. A health certificate indicates that an inspection was performed by the originating state apiary program within sixty days prior to transport. Honey bees must be free from infectious or contagious disease to be imported into Massachusetts.

Q. Do I need to notify the Apiary Program when importing live queen honey bees to sell or keep?

A. No. The Apiary Program does not currently regulate the importation or sale of queen honey bees.

Q. Do I need to notify the Apiary Program if I am moving my personal honey bees to another US state or territory from Massachusetts?

A. Yes. Most US states and territories require a health inspection and accompanying health certificate for imported honey bees. Please check with the US state or territory Apiary Program that you will be moving into to find out what the requirements are for that area. To issue the necessary paperwork, the Massachusetts Apiary Program must perform an inspection of your honey bees. Inspection Requests can be made online using the link on the Apiary Program website: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/mdar-apiary-inspection-request-form>.

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Website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-agricultural-resources>



Q. Do I need to notify the Apiary Program if I want to sell my own honey bees within Massachusetts?

A. No. If the colony, package, nuc or used beekeeping equipment originated within Massachusetts, it is not required that the Apiary Program be notified. However, we encourage you to get an inspection prior to sale to eliminate the occurrence and spread of infectious or contagious disease. Inspection Requests can be made online using the form on the Apiary Program website: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/mdar-apiary-inspection-request-form>.

Q. Do I need to keep records of the sale of imported honey bees?

A. Yes. Any individual selling any colony, package, nuc or used beekeeping equipment originating outside Massachusetts must keep records regarding the sale of such items for at least three years. Records must include date of sale, items sold, quantity, along with names and addresses of both the seller and buyer.

Q. How do I notify the Apiary Program prior to importing, exporting, or additional questions?

A. You can notify the program in any of the following ways:

Electronically on the Apiary Program website using the link or QR:

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/shipment-notification-of-honey-bees-and-beekeeping-equipment>

Email: bees@mass.gov

Phone: (508) 281-6784



moving honey bees or for

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MASS BEE MEMBERSHIP?

Membership in Mass Bee is based on calendar year so if you have not renewed for 2023, please do so now – you don't want to miss out on all the information and events!

We are now accepting on-line applications. This makes it easy to join and keep dues and information up to date using a credit card. You can also mail in your check .

Please see the [Mass Bee website](#) for information.



Join Us - Become a Member of Mass Bee!

Benefits of Mass Bee membership:

✓ Three Membership Meetings a Year

- ◇ The Field Day at UMass in June. The Field Day is a tremendous event allowing interactive, hands-on bee demonstrations that give great confidence to attending beekeepers of all skill levels.
- ◇ The Spring and Fall meetings. The location of these meetings moves from County to County allowing all areas of the State to participate. At these meetings we strive to bring you 2 keynote speakers on relevant beekeeping topics. While hosted by a County, Mass Bee covers the costs of the event (venue, speakers fees and travel, food, etc.).

✓ Legislative Support

Monitoring and responding to issues arising both locally and Statewide. This Committee is politically active meeting face to face with law makers and regulators to rally for and protect Honeybees and pollinators. Updates on issues are presented in each Mass Bee Newsletter.

✓ State Representation

We speak for all beekeepers in Massachusetts and make our point of view to all the states in New England. We are paid memberships to all surrounding states, allowing us to keep members aware of surrounding States activities.

Our hope is that you continue to support Mass Bee with your membership and also become active members helping to guide and implement Mass Bee activities. **Please join or renew your membership today.** <https://www.massbee.org/membership/>