Beekeeping

Beekeepers are stewards of an essential resource; the plants that bees pollinate constitute more than 30 percent of the food we eat and the beverages we drink. While the role of alternative pollinators is vital, bees continue to provide an important service to agriculture in our region. From research projects about Colony Collapse Disorder, to educational programs around beekeeping, to innovative hive designs, NCR-SARE has funded a wide variety of grants to help beekeepers.

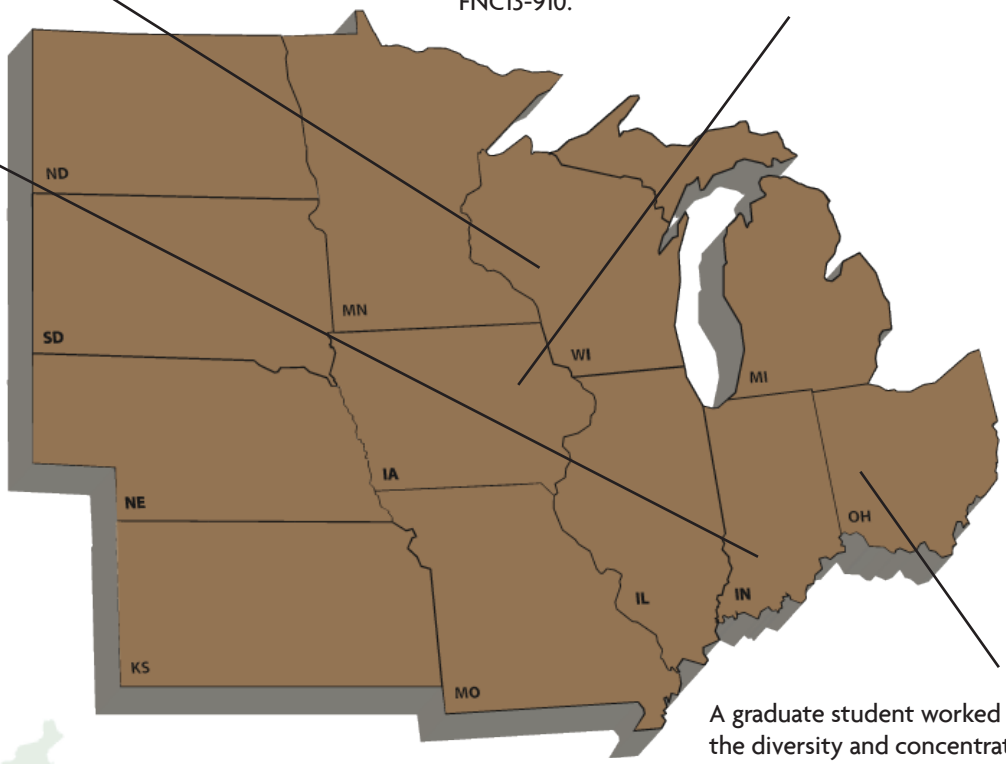
NCR-SARE Project Sampler

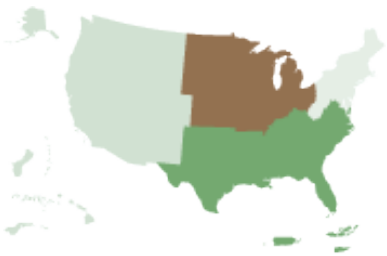
To view SARE's entire beekeeping portfolio, or just the North Central region's, visit https://projects.sare.org and search using the term "beekeeping." For selected North Central region beekeeping grants, see the reverse side.

Students became entrepreneurial beekeepers through a hands-on experience with a farm's two sustainably managed hives. Young beekeepers designed and marketed bee products for sale at local outlets and shared their knowledge with various groups. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number YENC14-079.

Instrumental insemination is a technique that has proven to increase the production and availability of queen bees. A beekeeper researched the ability of genetic stock to naturally fight mites and curb death losses, and used the technique to increase the rate at which beekeepers could acquire Midwestern-reared resistant queens. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number FNC13-910.

Members of B.I.G. (Bee Inspection Group) worked on a project to help sustain beekeeping in Indiana. They built one hundred nucs that were stocked with strong Indiana-bred queens, and were distributed individually throughout the state. See https://projects.sare.org and search for project number FNC12-856.





A graduate student worked to measure the diversity and concentration of pesticides found on two species of managed pollinators: the European honey bee *(Apis mellifera)* and the common eastern bumble bee *(Bombus impatiens)* foraging in Ohio landscapes. See https://projects.sare.org and search project number GNC13-180.

SARE's four regional programs and outreach office work to advance – to the whole of American agriculture – innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in ground-breaking research and education.

NCR-SARE's Beekeeping Portfolio

Selected Grants

Farmer and Rancher Grants

St. Louis Beekeeping Sustainable Stock Apiary: Local Survivor Honey Bee Queen Rearing Project
Jane Sueme, Saint Louis Beekeeping, Missouri, FNC18-1145, $20,106

Economic Modification of Langstroth to AZ-Style Beehives to Enable Aging or Physically Limited Beekeepers to Begin/Continue Beekeeping and Improve Hive Care, Colony Health, and Production
Jeannie Saum, Saum's Mini-Farm and Apiary, Ohio, FNC18-1142, $14,986

Benefiting the Symbiotic Relationship Between Farmers, Ranchers, and Honey Bees through Consumer Education with an Emphasis on Beekeeping and Pollinators
Megan Ryan, Southwest Honey Co., Indiana, FNC16-1054, $7,500

Improving Apiary Sustainability by Using an Overwintered Nuc System for Colony Replacement and Expansion Instead of Purchased Package Bees
Meghan Milbrath, Bending Sickle Community Farm, Michigan, FNC15-1005, $7,492

Developing a Method to Capture and Authenticate Single Varietal Honey on Diverse Landscapes
Maggie Wachter, Second Nature Honey, Illinois, FNC15-1019, $11,734

Improving Honey Bee Survival and Long-Term Sustainability in Indiana by Using Three Deep Brood Boxes vs. Traditional Two Deep Boxes
Steve Lesniak, Peace Bees, Indiana, FNC14-957, $14,777

Demonstrating Russian Queen Bees Resistance to Mites to Benefit Midwest Beekeepers
Jason Foley, Foley's Russian Bees, Iowa, FNC13-910, $22,491

Promoting Sustainable Beekeeping and Genetic Diversity Through Drone Comb Trapping
Ginger Davidson, Geez Beez, Indiana, FNC13-904, $7,480

Remote Monitoring of Beehives to Improve Management and Reduce Travel Costs
Matthew La Forge, Golden Hills, Wisconsin, FNC12-872, $6,400

Youth Educator Grants

Bees 101
Britt Hopper, Kansas, YENC18-124, $2,000

Expanding Career Success and Environmental Stewardship Through Beekeeping Education
James Hansen, Lyle Public School, Minnesota, ENC18-123, $2,000

Farmers Leading Youth (FLY) Beekeeping
Jessica Patton, Neighborhood Building Urban Gardens, Michigan, YENC16-104, $2,000

Partnership Grants

Causes of Honey Bee Queen Failure in Commercial Beekeeping Operations
Marla Spivak, University of Minnesota, Minnesota, ONC16-019, $30,000

Graduate Student Grants

Pesticide Contamination of Bees: Determining the Diversity and Concentration of Compounds Found in Hives Located across Ohio Agricultural Landscapes
Scott Prajzner, The Ohio State University, Ohio, GNC13-180, $9,980

Benefits of Propolis to Honey Bee Health and Immunity
Renata Borba, University of Minnesota, Minnesota, GNC12-153, $9,900

Research and Education Grants

Honey Bees on the Farm: Connecting Women Beekeepers and Women Farmers for Environmental and Economic Benefit
Kathie Starkweather, Center of Rural Affairs, Nebraska, LNC17-396, $200,000

Updated 2018

For information on many more SARE-funded beekeeping projects, search the SARE project database: https://projects.sare.org.

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