

Bee Tech Teams

EMPOWERING BEEKEEPERS TO MAKE
DATA DRIVEN MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

WANT TO HELP HONEY BEES?

*Help Beekeepers by
Supporting Bee Tech Teams.*

The best beekeepers keep the best bees. Declining honey bee health does not have a single cause, so it won't have a single solution, but putting the best tools, techniques, and technologies in the hands of the people on the front lines – *the beekeepers* – will, and has made a huge impact.

Bee Tech Teams are made up of trained experts who work directly with

commercial beekeepers to provide them with these **tools, techniques, and technologies**. Commercial beekeepers participating in Tech Teams lose significantly fewer colonies than those who do not. **Participation in Tech Teams can reduce losses by as much as 14 percentage points, or 45%.**

The Bee Tech Teams sample and provide the colony health data back to the participants within 2 weeks so that they can choose the best management strategies for their operation.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DO NOTHING?

Beekeepers across the country experience consistently high and economically unsustainable losses. If something isn't done and done soon, *many beekeepers will go out of business*, negatively impacting the ability of the American farmer to produce high-value crops such as apples, almonds and a whole range of other vegetable, fruit, and nut crops.

*We can act now and have immediate proven impact: **\$1 spent on Bee Tech teams saves \$2.5 in beekeeper profit.***

This program is unique to the U.S. and has proven results. We have already fielded multiple pilot Bee Tech Teams across the country and have the data to demonstrate that they work. Based on our results to date, **every \$80 invested in Tech Teams**

saves 1 colony of bees, conservatively valued at \$200. Our Bee Tech Teams have, for the first time ever, brought the beekeeping and research communities together. They give near real-time disease and parasite load data to beekeepers and provide real actionable solutions to beekeepers.

The success of the program has created demands beyond the scope of our existing funds and while we struggle to keep pace, we need additional funding and resources to fill the gap.

WE NEED BEES!

Honey bees help pollinate one-third of global food production¹ and directly impacts \$18 billion in American agriculture². An average winter loss rate of 30% over the last 8 winters threatens food production in the US.

¹ Source: Klein, 2007. ² Source: USDA.



**Be Included. Be Involved.
Bee Informed.**

HOW WILL BEE TECH TEAMS HELP?

Our Bee Tech Teams will aid commercial queen breeders and migratory beekeepers - *i.e., those most involved with agriculture* - by taking regular samples from colonies **to determine the level of disease in the hives**. This information will help beekeepers decide if they need to treat for diseases or not, and **Tech Teams will help beekeepers understand the best tools and technologies to control hive pests, improve nutrition, and support bee health.**

Furthermore, management practices used by beekeepers are recorded and evaluated by unbiased researchers in order to determine the effects of these practices and give feedback to participating beekeepers. In short, **Tech Teams provide near real-time data on colony health so that beekeepers can make data-driven management decisions.** Queen breeders currently involved in Tech Teams produce greater than 75% of all queen bees in the U.S. *Making an impact on these groups will also trickle down and improve the stock of all U.S. beekeepers.*

HOW TO PAY FOR ALL THIS & ENSURE IT WILL SUSTAIN AND SCALE?

To succeed we need to raise \$6 million to continue our work over the next 5 years. Of that money, **50% will come from grants or donations.** The remaining 50% will come from the beekeepers themselves. Over time, we will reduce the amount required from donations and grants and steadily increase the commercial value of the program to beekeepers ensuring it has longevity and can scale to meet future needs.

See figure below for additional details.

To donate money or other resources please contact:

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Funding Request Breakdown

(2015 - 2019)

\$3,076,250

Beekeeper Contribution

\$473,000

Government Grants Secured

\$2,966,750

Needed Funding

THE PEOPLE & ORGANIZATIONS BEHIND BEE TECH TEAMS

The Honey Bee Tech Teams are a joint effort of:

- Bee Informed Partnership
- Project Apis m.
- Honey Bee Health Coalition.

We currently have tech teams in many commercial beekeeping hotspots in the country, including *northern California, the Pacific Northwest, the Midwest, the Southeast, as well as a small team in Hawaii.* We would like to expand further to Texas and to develop a remote team that will work with large, but isolated commercial beekeepers. *Our recruitment for funding support should include people committed to help keep this program affordable – pollinator groups, corporations involved in food security and the agricultural industry.*