

# Apprenticeship Project for Growing New Beekeepers in Louisiana – Application Guide

## Eligibility

To be eligible for this opportunity, the agricultural teachers who apply for this opportunity must:

- Submit a complete application by the date required; **be one of the first five who submit a complete application.**
- In the application, applicant must demonstrate that their high school agricultural program has the capacity and resources to support and sustain the established bee yard over two years. Support from the high school principal support is mandatory.
- In the application, applicant must agree to provide instruction, skill-based training, and other school-based activities to create awareness of the industry to young potential farmers and educate and advise students and apprentices on beginning beekeeping farming and how to be successful. Additionally, the instruction and training should cover basic bee biology (life cycle of bees, anatomy, behavior of social insects, etc.) and basic beekeeping skills (how to inspect your hive, proper use of a bee smoker, queen selection, hive splitting, etc.).
- In the application, applicant must agree to select up to eight beekeeping apprentices from the class receiving instruction and who show an interest in beekeeping to receive a supervised (by teacher) agricultural beekeeping experience (SAE) in the school apiary.
- In the application, applicant must agree to submit quarterly reports on the project activities at their school. The reports should include:
  - Summary of beekeeping education, training and activities conducted by the educator during the quarter.
  - Copies of classroom students' pre & post surveys/assessments to show the beekeeping technical knowledge they have gained following the completion of their educational unit on beekeeping will be required to support project's measurable success. Copies of the students' surveys will be submitted to LDAF in the following quarterly report.
  - Apprentice written quarterly reports to indicate their progress and receive advice on problems that may arise. Copies of these apprentice reports will be included in the quarterly report submitted by the educator to LDAF.
  - Require each apprentice share their lessons learned and the knowledge gained during this project to others in a PowerPoint-based presentation or videotaped oral presentation in the spring semester (ideally in March or April). These student presentations will cover general beekeeping and what the trainee

learned and experienced on a day-to-day basis because of participating in Apprenticeship Project for Growing New Beekeepers in Louisiana. The presentation can be made to a class of students, unfamiliar to beekeeping, a club, a civic group, agricultural meetings, or a chapter of local beekeepers. These video-taped or PowerPoint presentations should be submitted with the educators' quarterly reports.

## **Funding & Supplies**

Each educator will receive resources from LDAF of up to \$10,000 to establish, with student involvement, a school bee yard (apiary). LDAF will purchase the supplies for establishing the yards in bulk for the educators to use with students and apprentices educational for the hands-on, skill-based training in beekeeping.

The beekeeping materials LDAF will secure for each of the five agriculture educators establishing a school bee yard will include:

- Up to 8 hives
- Additional brood boxes
- Bees (nucs)
- Cinder blocks for elevating the beehives
- Water sealant and brushes to water seal the hives
- Foundation wax for brood boxes
- Beekeeping suit kits (in Med & Large sizes that includes suit, hood, beekeeping gloves and tools)
- Beekeeping smokers
- Beekeeping basics information book

## **Objectives of Project**

- Five agricultural teachers at five different schools will participate in LDAF's Apprenticeship Project for Growing New Beekeepers in Louisiana.
- 200 high school agriculture students will receive instruction to gain beekeeping technical knowledge and skills about producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing the specialty crops of bees/honey.
- Provide additional supervised instruction, hands-on apiary participation to up to 40 (8 per school) apprentice students that may include summer month care of the working hives. This would be in addition to the classroom instruction and basic hive operations.