



TAEP Producer Diversification Program

Honey Bee Criteria

For Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012

Program Criteria:

- This information is current as of **December 14, 2011** and is a supplement to the TAEP 2011 Application and Guidelines.
- Minimum requirements to participate: **(3)** three years beekeeping experience and **(5)** five existing colonies. Applicants must report experience and number of hives in the application proposal to be eligible.
- **Producers** are eligible for the following cost share percentages for qualified expenses:
 - **Standard** - 35% cost share up to a maximum of \$10,000.
 - **Priority** - 50% cost share up to a maximum of \$15,000 for producers meeting special requirements for select items.
- The proposed activity must encompass quality expansion or improvement of pollination or honey production. The eligible categories are:
 - Apiary expansion
 - Honey processing equipment
 - Pollination services

Priority Cost Share – Special Requirements for 50% Cost Share:

Who is eligible?

The requirement for **50%** Cost Share is the completion of the UT Extension Hobbyist Bee Master Level Course. Applicants may apply for 50% if they have completed or plan to attend the course. The course must be completed by the reimbursement deadline. TAEP staff will coordinate with UT Extension to obtain record of your attendance.

Regulatory Requirements:

- Apiaries must be registered with the State of Tennessee. Contact Mike Studer with the TN Department of Agriculture—Regulatory Services at (615) 837-5317 or Mike.Studer@tn.gov
- If you pack or sell more than 150 gallons of honey per year, you must be licensed and inspected by the State of Tennessee as a food manufacturing facility. Contact John Sanford with the TN Dept. Of Ag. – Reg. Services at (615) 837-5193.

Experience Criteria:

- Producers must have a minimum of three years experience to participate. Experience must be hands-on experience working with hives (colonies).
- If the producer has worked with other beekeepers and mentors in working directly with bees, he or she may count this hands-on experience towards the three year requirement. The producer should list the beekeeper worked with, along with their contact information, and time worked to qualify towards experience.
- Producers do not have to have had ownership of hives for at least three years to be eligible. However, producers must have current ownership of at least 5 colonies.

Examples of Eligible Items:

Apiary Expansion:

Beekeeping Supplies

- Queens: (1) Queen per new hive — Requeening of existing hives is not eligible
- Package Bees (Honey Bees Only)
- Nucleus Colonies (Honey Bees & Boxes)

Hive or Super Equipment

- Deep Supers (Hive Bodies) 9 5/8"
- Illinois, Western, Medium Supers 6 5/8"
- Shallow Supers 6 1/4"

Frames (Not for Maintenance of Existing Colonies)

- Deep Supers (Hive Bodies) 9 5/8"
- Illinois, Western, Medium Supers 6 5/8"
- Shallow Supers 6 1/4"

Foundation Wax (Not for Maintenance of Existing Colonies)

- Deep Supers (Hive Bodies) 9 5/8"
- Illinois, Western, Medium Supers 6 5/8"
- Shallow Supers 6 1/4"

Hive Accessories (For Increase, Not Maintenance)

- Telescoping Covers, Western or Flat Cover
- Bottom Boards
- Division Board Feeders
- Entrance Feeder
- Top Feeders
- Queen Excluders
- Entrance Reducers
- Metal Frame Spacers
- Metal Rabbits
- Eyelets
- Frame Wire
- Pollen Traps

Honey Processing Equipment:

- Extractors
- Gates for Honey Storage
- Containers (> 5 Gallon and usually Stainless Steel)
- Uncapping Knives
- Capping Scratchers
- Immersion Heaters
- Band Heaters
- Drum Handling Truck
- Strainers
- Bottling Bucket Kit
- Uncappers
- Wax Melters (mechanical or solar)
- Honey Dispensing Tanks
- Honey Filters
- Honey Pumps
- Honey Bottling Valve
- Honey Refractometer

Pollination Services:

- All items and equipment listed above are eligible under the pollination service.
- Trailers —size cannot be larger than needed for the number of colonies. **Trailers for pollination are only eligible for the 35% reimbursement.**

Examples of Ineligible Items:

- **Used Equipment & Materials**
- Honey Houses
- Materials for Self-Made Construction
- Smokers
- Smoker Bellows
- Smoker Materials
- Hive Tools
- Maxant Hive Tools
- Section Scraping Tools
- Bee Brush
- Frame Grip(s)
- Frame Cleaner
- Labels
- Ross Rounds
- Comb Cutters
- Swarm Traps
- Observation Hives
- Frame Spacing Tool
- Frame Fixers
- Frame Holders
- Electric Embedder
- Frame/Form Board
- Coveralls
- Sweet Bands
- Sting Kill Swabs
- Veils
- Bee Hats
- Beekeeping Gloves
- Brood Builder
- Medications
- Diagnostic Kits
- Small Hive Beetle Traps
- Queen Paint Markers
- Queen Cell Protectors
- Plastic Queen Cell Cups
- Grafting Tools
- Mailing Cages
- Queen Clipping Scissors
- Bee Escapes
- Bee Go (Product for moving bees out of supers)
- Fume Boards
- Honey Jars

- Honey Labels
- Jar Caps
- Honey Containers (buckets)
- Corn Syrup
- Sugar

Bee Master Course:

University of Tennessee Extension (Instructor: John Skinner) provides the Hobbyist Bee Master Level Course in regional locations across the state. The course is a 3 day course offered in the afternoons, with over 20 hours worth of training. Visit <http://bees.tennessee.edu> or call (865) 974-0209 for information on how to register for the course.

Contact:

- For more information regarding the TAEP Producer Diversification Program – contact **Jon Frady** at 615-837-5344 or Producer.Diversification@TN.gov
- For information regarding TDA Market Development & Tennessee Honey – contact **Linda Shelton** at 615-837-5345 or Linda.Shelton@TN.gov
- Check for updates at <http://www.TN.gov/agriculture/enhancement> or 1-800-342-8206