



The Florida State Beekeepers Association

Dedicated to keeping Florida apiculture strong
and healthy in the new millennium

<http://floridabeekeepers.org>

Florida has approximately 1,500 small-scale beekeepers, managing five or fewer honeybee colonies, and 500 fulltime sideliners commercial beekeepers.

The value of honey bee pollination to Florida growers is estimated to be \$26.4 million annually. Nationwide this value is thought to exceed \$14 billion.

The Florida State Beekeepers Association was organized at Gainesville on October 6, 1920. A report of the organizational meeting states that a group of 100 enthusiastic beekeepers from all over the state were in attendance. It followed the organization of several strong local associations. The Association has also been responsible for several important activities:

1. An act of the Florida State Legislature, July 1, 1957, which provided to beekeepers compensation for bees and equipment destroyed by the State because of American foulbrood. This has resulted in an extremely low infestation of this important disease.

2. A 1962 program by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to certify the specialty honey varieties tupelo and citrus. This provides the possibility of getting a superior price for Florida beekeepers.

3. Hiring extension professionals in apiculture from the 1940s onward by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). See the most recent publications dedicated to beekeepers at:
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIB_Beekeeping

4. Providing over \$20,000 in direct honey bee research funding for projects at the University of Florida and elsewhere. Responsible for over \$700,000 in honeybee research funding from the Florida Legislature over the last few years.

There has been a recent rapid increase the number of beekeepers in Florida. As a consequence,

Association membership now eclipses 800 active members. Many of these beekeepers are affiliated with over 20 local associations. See a list of these at: <http://floridabeekeepers.org/localassociations.htm>

This robust growth in the beekeeping community has produced a large population of new beekeepers to educate. It has also been a focus of recent Association activities in cooperation with Florida's Master Beekeeper Program <http://ufhoneybee.com> Recently, the Association has been further supporting beekeepers by:

1. Exploring options in terms of making local beekeeping regulations that provide for the public safety, while allowing residents to keep bees responsibly.

2. Exploring options to encourage small-scale honey processing and marketing, while providing a safe food product for the public.

3. Supporting an active honey queen program, geared to marketing honey to the consuming public.

Florida beekeepers also participate in two important committees: 1) Honey Bee Technical Council sponsored by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) advises Florida's Agriculture Commissioner on various honeybee issues. Contact Jerry Hayes: ph 352-372-3505 ext. 128., and 2) Apiculture Advisory Committee sponsored by the Florida Farm Bureau Federation <http://floridafarmbureau.org> Contact Frankie Hall: ph 352- 378-8100.

The contributions of the above committees, in conjunction with the Association cooperating with both the University of Florida's Bee College and Master Beekeeper Program as well as Florida's Apiary Inspection Bureau, provide an environment that supports beekeeping without parallel in the U.S. Join Florida's beekeeping community today!

[DOWNLOAD](#)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<http://floridabeekeepers.org/pdf/FSBAmembershipRENEWjoin.pdf>

Fill out, and send with your payment.