



Grants, Incentives, Loans, and other resources for Beekeepers/Pollinator Habitat Protection

Beekeepers and those establishing/maintaining pollinator habitats are eligible for some types of public and private sector support through grants, loans, loan guarantees, incentive payments, hive distribution programs, and other resources.

Grants

Apiarists are winning value-added producer (VAP) grants from the USDA. You must produce honey (or other bee-related products) and package it for interstate retail sale. The grant pays for marketing costs only and is completed annually. There are planning grants of up to \$75,000 and working capital grants of up to \$250,000. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/value-added-producer-grants>

Grants for beekeeping-related projects have been awarded through specialty Crops grants administered by the VDACS Marketing Office. Information for this program is available at:

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/sales-specialty-crop-competitive-grant-program.shtml>.

Grants are available through the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) program. Both planning and infrastructure grants may be applied for once a year. The submitter must be your local county/unit of government so if you are interested in AFID grants, you need to start an early conversation with the Economic Development official at your local unit of government.

Grants for doing educational beekeeping projects in conjunction with public schools: [The Bee Cause Project – Charleston, SC](#), and also (through Whole Foods) [Bee Grants \(wholekidsfoundation.org\)](#)

Urban Farm Program Initiative (USDA NRCS): <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/other-topics/urban-agriculture>

Insurance, Loans, Loan Guarantees, Disaster Assistance, and Other Resources

A list of all USDA programs that help beekeepers may be found at USDA Programs and Resources to Support Beekeepers: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-programs-resources-support-beekeepers.pdf>

The list includes three insurance options: the Apiculture Pilot Insurance Program (RI-API), the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection Program, and the Micro-Farm Program. USDA offers six loan programs including the Farm Loan Program which can assist in building overwintering colony storage facilities. Farm Storage Facility Loan program, Microloan program, Emergency loan program, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans, and Non-resource marketing assistance loans-honey program (to help with interim financing at harvest time). USDA grants for which beekeepers have applied include the Local Agricultural Market Program (LAMP), the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, and the Sustainable Agriculture, Research, and Education (SARE) program. It should be noted that these three grants are highly competitive and require significant effort to apply.

The USDA-Farm Service Agency has disaster and insurance products that could be beneficial to local beekeepers. Here is a link to that information: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/nap_elap_comparison_fact_sheet.pdf (USDA-NRCS)

USDA offers a freebee disease diagnosis service. [Bee Disease Diagnosis Service](#)

Incentive Programs

Habitat improvement and conservation programs for pollinators and beekeeping are available through the National Resource Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which is part of the USDA and managed through your county's Farm Service Agency.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#search/terry%40cicville.org/KtbxLwHPwZBWQPgBRpJTwwQtqDKjIBTtg?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

Virginia USDA Conservation Reserve (Very active in supporting pollinators, especially bees)

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index>

Virginia USDA (Farm Service Agency) Forest Management Incentive

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/Conservation/PDF/2024/FSA-Forest-Management-Incentive-Factsheet_2024.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Beehive Distribution Program

Virginia VDACS beehive program - Beehive Distribution Program (virginia.gov). The Program provides beehive equipment to individuals. Information is available at: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-beehive-distribution-program.shtml>.

Equity Investment

Dirt Capital [For Farmers — Dirt Capital Partners \(dirtpartners.com\)](#). Dirt Capital invests in agriculture through multiple types of partnerships, joint ventures, and buy/protect/sell to farmer arrangements.

Other Resources

Bee Better Certified, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Food Industry's Only Third-party verified pollinator conservation eco-label: <https://beebettercertified.org/>

An interesting article published recently: [What You Need to Know About Applying For Beekeeping Grants \(beekeeping-101.com\)](#)

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service "How To Get Started with NRCS"

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#search/terry%40cicville.org/KtbxLwHPwZBWQPgBRpJTwwQtqDKjIBTtg?projector=1&messagePartId=0.2>