



United States Department of Agriculture
Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research service

Bee Research Laboratory Open House

Friday, June 27, 2008

The Bee Research Laboratory will host an open house for the public to highlight honey bee research activities conducted at the nation's capital by the USDA Agriculture Research Service.

Schedule of Events:

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Each 30 minute activity will be repeated 4 times during the morning.

Station 1. Inspecting healthy and sick honey bee colonies – Bart Smith

Observe healthy colonies with good brood patterns, and colonies with chalkbrood, deformed wing virus, high varroa mite populations, etc.

Station 2. Queen rearing in the bee yard – Jeff Pettis

See techniques used in the apiary to rear queens on a small and large scale.

Station 3. Instrumental insemination of queens – Andy Ulsamer

See a demonstration of instrumentally inseminated queens.

Station 4. Bee equipment/facility open house – Nathan Rice

Visit the shop, storage facility, and see methods used for feeding colonies and many of the tools and equipment used in beekeeping.

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own at local area restaurants, or bring your own food.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Each 30 minute activity will be repeated 4 times during the afternoon.

Station 5. Overview of BRL activities and CCD update – Jeff Pettis

Research leader Jeff Pettis will present an overview of current research projects. An update on colony collapse disorder (CCD) will be included.

Station 6. Virus analysis – Judy Chen

Visit the virology lab and observe molecular techniques used to detect viruses in honey bees.

Station 7. Molecular studies on natural resistance of AFB – Jay Evans

Learn about work being conducted regarding the natural resistance of honey bees to American foulbrood.

Station 8. Bee disease diagnostic lab – Bart Smith

See an exhibit of common honey bee diseases and observe techniques used for field and laboratory identifications.

Please bring and use protective equipment when visiting and observing activities in the bee yard.

The open house will take place rain or shine. In the event of rain, outdoor work will be replaced with inside activities.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/News.htm?modecode=12-75-05-00> or by contacting Bart.Smith@ars.usda.gov .



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