



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE • BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
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MDAC Announces 2011 Beekeeping Workshops

When:	Where:
April 7	Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum, Jackson
May 13-14	Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum, Jackson
June 3-4	Mississippi Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station, Verona
June 16-17	Marion County Activities Center, Columbia

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) has announced the dates of upcoming workshops that will recruit, educate, and increase participation for new beekeepers in Mississippi.

Honey bees in the wild and in commercial hives make an important contribution to Mississippi agriculture through the pollination of various crops and plants valued at over \$300 million annually. Populations of wild honey bees in the state have been declining in recent years due to parasitic mites, other insect pests, and diseases. Growing participation in beekeeping has the potential to increase the number of bees available to pollinate plants and crops.

Workshops will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions beginning with lectures and concluding with field exercises. Lectures will cover topics such as how to begin beekeeping, bee biology, queen management, disease and parasite control, quality honey production, and colony management. Field exercises will allow for hands-on work in hives. Registration fees do apply and pre-registration is recommended.

Interested beginning beekeepers may be eligible to receive assistance under a block grant program provided by MDAC. Approved beekeepers must purchase and establish honey bees in two hives and agree to attend a workshop to be eligible for a \$180 reimbursement. Funding will be available to 100 approved applicants.

For more information and to obtain a workshop registration form or application for assistance, contact Harry Fulton at the Bureau of Plant Industry at (662) 325-3390 or Harry@mdac.state.ms.us.

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