

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF BEE HIVES

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and

Vermont Beekeepers Association

With the decline in wild honey bee colonies and continued problems of established beekeepers with parasitic mites, and diseases, it is important that honey bee populations be maintained on a local level to meet pollination needs. It is equally as important for new beekeepers to have mentoring support and knowledge in beekeeping. This grant serves to establish a 50/50 cost share program aimed at assisting new beekeepers to purchase hive equipment and honey bees for one or two colonies each, while requiring education and support in their undertaking.

Eligibility

Requirements to qualify are as follows: In order to be eligible for 50/50 cost-share funding, participants must be Vermont residents and established hives must be in Vermont. Applicants, at the time of application, cannot have established colonies nor can anyone in his/her immediate family (father, mother, sibling, grandparent, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law).

Reimbursement

Participants purchasing hives will be reimbursed for 50 percent of the cost of establishing one or two hives of bees. Reimbursements shall not exceed \$200 per hive, or \$400 for two hives. Participants must provide itemized dated invoices as written proof that they have purchased equipment and bees to establish one or two hives.

Definition of Bee Hive

A bee hive is defined as follows: a package of bees or nucleus colony, bottom board, inner cover and top (outer) cover, two brood chambers and two medium or shallow supers with frames and foundation for each. Related equipment is defined as slatted rack, screened bottom board, queen excluder, varroa monitoring tray, bee suit and/or veil, smoker, hive tool and a beginning beekeeping text.

Participant Responsibilities

Before receiving funds, the applicant must have attended and completed approved beekeeping workshops. The Vermont Beekeepers Association shall provide a list of locations for such workshops. Successful applicants must join the Vermont Beekeepers Association. Applicants must register their colonies with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

A participant will keep a log of his/her activities associated with managing the hive(s) for 12 months after receiving them. At the end of 12 months, participants will send a copy of their log to the VBA c/o Kim Greenwood at 216 Maple Street, Duxbury, VT 05676.

A VBA member/mentor may be available upon request to provide assistance in establishing the hives initially to make sure it is done properly. For two years after establishment, should colonies perish or should an applicant discontinue management of said hives, he/she must agree to notify VBA or Kim Greenwood within 30 days.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS December 1, 2009. Applications will be reviewed and approved on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funds are available to provide assistance. Award letters will be mailed by February 1, 2009 in order to allow time for applicants to order hives and bees for spring establishment.

Please Print or Type all Information

Name: _____ Telephone _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Physical Address: _____

Email: _____

The undersigned hereby agrees to the terms of this application and hereby applies for funds to assist in the establishment of _____ (1 or 2) hives of bees and shall provide proof of purchase prior to being award funds being granted.

_____ Date: _____

(Signature)

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION BY U.S. MAIL TO:

NEW BEEKEEPER GRANT

C/O: STEVE PARISE

VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS

116 STATE STREET

MONTPELIER, VT 05620-2901

For additional information contact Kim Greenwood, kimgreenwood@gmavt.net

VBA Use Only

Application Received: _____ Notification Sent: _____

Awarded: Y / N

Receipts Received: _____ Funds Awarded: _____

Processed By: _____