

North American Bayer Bee Care Program



Bayer North American Bee Care Center

The Center will bring together significant technological, scientific and academic resources, with the ultimate goal of supporting product stewardship and sustainable agriculture.

The North American Bee Care Center will include:

- Approximately 6,000 square foot building that will be fully staffed, including an office space for graduate students.
- Full laboratory and research apiary, as well as honey extraction and workshop space needed to conduct bee health research.
- Active promotion of bee-responsible use of Bayer products along with communication activities worldwide.
- State-of-the art meeting, training and presentation facilities for beekeepers, farmers and educators to provide resources and an interactive learning center.
- Pollinator-friendly gardens and a LEED Gold certified facility that will produce a surplus of energy.



Bayer Bee Care Support Facility

The facility in Clayton, N.C. strives to create new approaches and solutions to benefit bee health and the global food supply. The Bayer Bee Care Support Facility includes:

- Nearly 1,215 square foot building dedicated to promoting and protecting bee health.
- Office and storage space along with a wintering cold room to support a practical apiculture.
- Comprehensive extraction and bee hive maintenance areas to conduct research so that these hard-working, beneficial insects can continue to provide hive products as well as pollination services for foods we enjoy each day.



Bayer Bee Care Commitment to Research

- As part of Bayer's ongoing commitment to bee health, it is continually looking for ways to solve the many complex issues affecting honey bees. Bayer understands the necessity for healthy bees as pollinators for food production.
- For 25 years, Bayer has been actively involved in finding solutions to improve honey bee health by developing products and services through research conducted at the future Bee Care Center and facility in Clayton, N.C., including:
 - Developing products to control parasitic mites in honey bee hives
 - Developing technology to extract pesticide residues in beeswax
 - Designing tests to assess safety of crop protection products to bees
 - Fostering education and collaboration to foster significant improvement in stewardship measures and best management practices



Varroa destructor

Bayer Bee Care Research Projects and Priorities

- Honey bees are important for modern agricultural production and the demand for pollination has never been greater, which has presented unique challenges for farmers and beekeepers alike. Many factors affect honey bee health, including inadequate nutrition, parasites, diseases, extreme weather events, reductions in forage areas, genetic characteristics and, in some cases, colony management practices.
 - It is widely recognized that the Varroa mite is a key threat to honey bee health as it weakens the bee, proliferates rapidly and transmits pathogenic viruses. Bayer has offered a variety of products to combat this parasitic mite, as well as bee diseases carried by this and other parasites. Bayer's research priorities include:
 - Honey bee Integrated Pest Management (IPM) including monitoring, thresholds, diagnosis and interpretation, tools and strategies
 - Honey bee best management practices
 - Healthy bees program (an integrated program relying on biological/temperature-based triggers for management, breaking life cycle of Varroa, forage and nutrition)
 - Varroa destructor* and Small Hive Beetle monitoring and management
 - Testing and validating the process and benefits of purification of beeswax (pesticide residue removal) for reuse in hives
 - Early warning and prediction systems (e.g. Sentinel hives program, remote monitoring systems, survival prediction analysis model)
 - Honey bee (and pollinator) habitat and nutrition
 - Screening new active ingredients for control of bee pests and pathogens particularly Varroa mite
 - Developing a new lubricant to reduce dust levels during planting so as to mitigate bee's potential exposure to pesticide
 - Developing an effective delivery system and resistance management approach for existing Varroa treatments through global development of "Varroagate" concept
- Bayer will continue to practice sound product development, stewardship and research that recognizes and respects the important role of bees in our backyards, our communities, in our crop fields and on our planet.



bee care



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