



## ST. JOHN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*...Working for you to help sustain Maine's abundant natural resources since 1942*

# SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

## HONEY BEE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Apiary (Honey Bee) program is to prevent the introduction and/or spread of regulated honey bee diseases, parasites, and undesirable genetic material in resident and migratory honey bee colonies, as well as encourage and maintain interstate movement of honey bees for crop pollination and honey production.

Although Colony Collapse Disorder has attracted a great deal of interest in the press, cases meeting the definition of CCD are a far lower proportion of colony deaths than are those due to mites and disease. The situation is further complicated by the insect neurological viruses that the varroa mites transmit as they feed on the fat bodies and hemolymph of bees. Recent research has identified over a dozen of these viruses. At high rates of infection these viruses can be lethal.

Maine's pollinators appear to be in better health than those in other states. Even with a healthy prognosis, Maine honey bee health is being impacted.

## Maine's Pollinator Protection Plan

### Beekeeper Best Management Practices

Work with landowners to choose hive locations. Ideal hive locations will have minimal impact on agricultural activities but will still have adequate access to forage and water. Avoid placing hives in low spots to minimize pesticide drift or temperature inversions (when cold air traps warm air below). Beekeepers should consider road conditions after rainfall events to minimize their impact on farm roads, and discuss with landowners which roads or trails should be used. Beekeepers should also request contact information for other nearby applicators, renters, and neighbors.

Be aware of neighboring landowners when placing and moving hives. Neighboring landowners often use the same roads, trails, and section lines. Do not block these rights-of-way or place hives so close they may cause problems for other land-users. Take appropriate steps to ensure that bees do not negatively affect operations of neighboring landowners, such as considering the proximity of hives to neighboring yards, homes, swimming pools, equipment, or storage sites.

Work constructively with applicators when notified of upcoming pesticide applications. When informed of a planned application, beekeepers should find strategies to allow for pesticide applicators to manage pests while minimizing pesticide exposure to their bees.

Notify landowners and applicators when arriving and when moving hives. If possible, notify nearby pesticide applicators and landowners when you place or move beehives. This will ensure they are aware of current hive locations and can notify you before making pesticide applications.

Obtain landowner permission for hive placement every year and maintain positive contact. Land ownership changes, and what may be acceptable to one owner may be a nuisance to another. Beekeepers should maintain up to date contact with the property owner or manager to make sure that bees are placed on land with the permission of all parties concerned.

### Inspect the condition of your apiary regularly

Use registered pesticides according to label directions. When pesticide use is necessary to manage pests within hives, use registered pesticides and comply with all restrictions, precautions and directions found on the pesticide label. Failure to comply with label directions may decrease the effectiveness of pesticides, increase the risk of adverse effects to bees, cause unsafe pesticide residues in honey and other products, and potentially lead to pesticide resistance. Contact the D.A.C.F. pesticide program with any questions on pesticide labeling or to determine whether a pesticide is registered in the state.

### Comply with all requirements of the Maine beekeeping law

For all beekeepers: 1. Maintain hives free of diseases and parasites. 2. Make sure hives have adequate reserves of honey and pollen for the winter. 3. Make sure hives do not go queenless. 4. Provide the D.A.C.F. with all apiary (hive) locations. 5. Report the total number of colonies to the D.A.C.F.

### In state beekeepers only: Pay beekeeper's licensing fee each year

If importing honeybees to Maine: 1. Pay beekeeper's registration fee each year. 2. Obtain an import permit. 3. Provide certificate of hive inspection prior to importing honeybees or used equipment. 4. Continue to provide up to date hive locations throughout the season. This ensures that all locations are accurate when applicators attempt to locate them.

Ensure hives are easily visible to applicators. Hives should be visible and marked with beekeeper contact information so applicators can see the hives and contact beekeepers, if necessary, before spraying.

### Legal Notice – Registration of Bees

In compliance with the Maine Apiary Law (Specifically Title 7 MRSA Section 2701), notice is hereby given that all owners of bees must notify the undersigned of the number and location of colonies owned by them, and pay a license fee for the same. The license fee is due in accordance with the fee schedule for all beehives in one's possession (minimum fee \$2.00). Failure to register bees as prescribed herein is a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$1 nor more than \$50 shall be adjudged for each colony in violation. (Source: Maine Department of A.C.F.)

### CROSS LAKE WATERSHED SURVEY



NRCS and District staff with interns performing a drone survey of agriculture land in the Cross Lake Watershed.

## UPCOMING 2019 EVENTS

### **GRAVEL ROAD WORKSHOP – FRIDAY AUGUST 2ND @ CROSS LAKE RSVP @ 834-3311 X-3**



### **SOIL MICROBE EXPERIMENT – COTTON FABRIC IS BURIED IN THE SOIL AT MULTIPLE LOCATIONS IN THE VALLEY TO IDENTIFY THE MICROBE ACTIVITY IN THE SOIL**



**RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENT WILL BE DISPLAYED IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER**

#### **CONTACT THE DISTRICT**

Phone: 207-834-3311 x-3    Email: [SJVSWCD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SJVSWCD@GMAIL.COM)    Website: [www.sjv.me.nacdn.net](http://www.sjv.me.nacdn.net)

139 Market Street, Suite 106, Fort Kent, Maine 04743

### **2018 DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT**

#### **INCOME**

Accumulated Interest  
Cooperator Dues  
Grass Seed Sales  
Marking Flag Sales  
State Support  
Town Support  
County Support  
USDA Agreements

**Total 2018 Income: \$50,613.68**

#### **EXPENSE**

Advertising  
Accounting Services  
Staff Mileage  
Dues  
Field & Office Supplies  
Newsletter Mailing  
Other Postage  
Taxes: Payroll  
Workers Comp.  
Staff Wages  
State Sales Tax  
Grass Seed  
Marking Flags

**Total 2018 Expenses: \$52,229.41**

# Soil Your Undies!



## St John Valley

Thank you, farmers, for participating in our soil health activity. We appreciate your help, and your sense of humor! Since the undies are cotton fiber, they are an accurate and comical measure of the activity levels of your soil microbes throughout the growing season. They are “planted” in the spring (don’t forget to flag them), and should be taken out when the field is harvested or prepped for the next crop. Please call the office for us to retrieve the undies. We will use these to make a display for outreach activities and booths, to garner interest in soil health activities.

Thank you, Fort Kent NRCS / District Staff



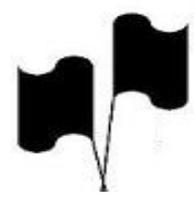
## SJVSWCD MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019

NAME: _____	PLEDGE AMOUNT:
ADDRESS: _____	Valley Friend.....\$25.00
TOWN: _____ ZIP: _____	Valley Steward.....\$50.00
EMAIL: _____	Valley Patron.....\$100.00
	Valley Visionary.....\$250.00+
	Other .....

Please return this form with your check payable to St. John Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, 139 Market Street, Suite 106, Fort Kent, ME 04743

## Marking Flags

**\$12.00/Bundle of 100  
plus 66 cents tax**



## WHAT IS THE ST. JOHN VALLEY SWCD?

The St. John Valley SWCD is one of thousands of SWCD’s around the country, each governed by a volunteer Board of Supervisors. Our purpose is to use and coordinate all available technical, financial, and educational resources to address the needs of local land owners and users for the conservation of soil, water and other natural resources. In addition, we work with and assist governmental agencies and non-profit organizations.

**Our Mission:** *“To provide local landowners, land users, and other individuals and organizations with the information, education, and technical assistance they need to help protect and enhance Maine’s natural resources and to use them wisely. The St. John Valley Soil and Water Conservation District seeks to foster and encourage the development of an enduring land stewardship ethic among residents of the St. John River Valley.”*

**The St. John Valley SWCD is working for you and your community! Let us know how we can better serve you.**

**All programs and services of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the USDA are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political belief, gender identity, sexual orientation, or marital and familial status.**