



Project Apis m.

6775 Chardonnay Rd.
Paso Robles, CA 93446
www.projectapism.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT APIS M. ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL HONEY BOARD

SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

Background

U.S. Honey production is decreasing and colony losses are increasing, while many crops dependent on pollination services continue to expand. Honey bee colony losses in the United States were reported at 44% during 2015-2016. Rates of both winter loss and summer loss—and consequently, total annual losses—worsened compared with last year. Colony losses are attributed to pathogens, parasites, pesticides, hive management (queen mating, genetics, maintenance), climate, and available nutrition (beeinformed.org). United States honey production in 2015 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 157 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2014 (www.nass.usda.gov). Sustainable beekeeping is dependent on maximizing outputs (colony health, colony numbers, honey production, profitability) while minimizing the inputs (time, money, personnel). A sustainable beekeeping industry would contribute to a more sustainable agricultural landscape through a stable supply of bees for crop pollination. Therefore, PAm is requesting research proposals that focus on honey bee health, productivity, which provide practical and tangible solutions to the beekeeping industry.

The funding sponsor for these proposals is the National Honey Board (NHB), with Project Apis m. (PAm) administering the proposal, accountability and funding process. Beginning in 2017, this PAm and NHB collaboration will streamline efforts to support the beekeeping industry, by harmonizing the NHB funding opportunity with several other efforts which PAm coordinates. The NHB funds, collected by a federal research and promotion program (\$0.015/lb), for Production Research, were approximately \$416,000 in 2016. PAm administers several other initiatives with funding from many sources, including corporate sponsors, private donations and grants. Past proposals received and funded by PAm and NHB have much in common, reflecting similar interests in supporting the industry.

The National Honey Board is an industry-funded agriculture promotion group that works to educate consumers about the benefits and uses for honey and honey products through research, marketing and promotional programs. Project Apis m. is the largest non-governmental, non-profit honey bee research organization in the USA. Established by beekeepers and almond growers in 2006, PAm has infused over \$6 million into bee research to provide growers with healthier bees resulting in better pollination and increased crop yields.

Priority Areas for Funding

With this call for research proposals, PAm is requesting proposals for research dealing with honey bee health, nutrition and productivity. Priority will be given to proposals which aim to

produce solutions to industry problems, including Varroa mites. Other projects will be considered, and research outside the U.S. is possible (all application materials must be in English). The goal of this research is to help producers maintain colony health and honey production. Most proposals will likely be of one-year duration. If multi-year projects are considered, it is with the understanding that funding for subsequent years would be contingent on performance and also AMS budget availability beyond 2017. The amount of funds available for a particular proposal will depend on the number and merit of successful proposals.

The submission guidelines are based on the format requested by PAm; they can be reasonably short as long as they include the items specified in the submission guidelines below.

Proposals must be received by Project Apis m. at Danielle@projectapism.org and Jean@projectapism.org by midnight (PDT), **October 23, 2016.** Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. Copies of proposals will be distributed to a select Review Committee composed of representatives from Project Apis m. and the National Honey Board.

Since the USDA oversees these projects, a **Research Service Agreement** between the National Honey Board and the university or agency must be signed and returned with any proposal to be considered. Funds are distributed to the researchers, periodically, upon receipt of progress reports and a final report, which will be delineated in an agreement upon funding. Reasonable restrictions exist on dissemination of research information, etc. (see **Research Rights Issue Statement** below).

Submission Guidelines

1. Title and Principal Investigator – Clearly state the title and principal investigator (PI) of your proposal. Provide the PI's title, address, email address and telephone number. List cooperating investigators with their names and email addresses. Cooperating investigators must be aware of this proposal. If cooperating investigators are contacted by PAm and are unaware that their names have been added to the proposal, the proposal will not be considered.
2. Project Timeline (Dates and Duration of Study) – The proposed project timeline should be January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Projects may include proposed phases beyond this year, but funding will be granted one year at a time based on performance and available funds. Proposal details can be included for the anticipated duration of the study.
3. Problem and Significance – To provide a background to the proposed study, state the problem the study addresses and its significance to managed honey bee colonies and/or pollinated crops. If this is a continuation of a previous PAm or NHB project, please state the title and funding provided in the previously funded project, the outcome of the previously funded project and justification for continuing research.
4. Objectives, Materials and Methods – State the project objectives and your experimental design, by objective, if necessary.
5. Intended Outcome – Give a brief statement of the intended outcome of the project. This may be used to better describe your project in a press release or website, it should blend the

objectives into a concise summary of the project while providing the bottom-line justification for its funding.

6. References – Provide literature references pertinent to your proposal. Letters of Support can be included but are not required.

7. Budget Request – Include a) salaries and benefits, b) supplies, c) equipment, and d) travel. If applicable, list other entities funding this research and the amount they are contributing. If this proposal is being submitted for consideration by other organizations, please list the organization and the amount requested. PAm and NHB policy is consistent with California commodity groups; we do not pay overhead or indirect costs. (These, typically, are expenses such as rent, utilities, depreciation, insurance, administrative or miscellaneous supplies, legal or accounting services, salaries/wages allocated to the project for persons not working directly on the project.)

8. Economic Feasibility for New Products – If the study involves new product development, please provide economic evaluation of the new product. This would include projected cost of the final product. Justification for the projected cost and cost-effectiveness will be a prime consideration in evaluating the proposal.

9. Publications and Presentations – Indicate the plan to present findings at professional meetings or conferences (which ones) or to publish the results in scientific, trade or other publications (specify).

10. Research Rights Issue Statement – Sign and return this page with your proposal. Except for contracts with USDA's Agricultural Research Service and U.S. universities, all non-proprietary information collected as part of the project will be the property of the NHB. The NHB reserves the right to review in advance publication of research results.

Selection Criteria

A Review Committee comprised of PAm and NHB representatives will review proposals and make decisions based on the following criteria:

1. Compatibility of the research objectives outlined in the project description with priority areas.
2. Potential to provide valuable tangible solutions to industry problems.
3. Overall scientific merit and originality.
4. Proposed dissemination of findings.
5. Total proposal budget.
6. Researchers/institutions relevant experience and industry collaborations if necessary.

Approval and Funding

PAm will notify the PI shortly after approval by the Review Committee. We anticipate approval by November 28, 2016. Unless other terms are stated, half of the requested funding will be provided at the commencement of the study, with the remaining half disbursed upon receipt of the final report.

Expectations

PAm and NHB assume projects will be executed as stated in the proposal, specifically with reference to the defined objectives, timeline, and budget. Successful applicants will sign an agreement with PAm. Interim and annual reports will be provided to PAm, which will then be forwarded to NHB. PAm and NHB reserve the right to review and comment on publications arising from the sponsored project.

Questions

Contact Jean@projectapism.org with brief questions concerning submission of proposals to Project Apis m.

Research Rights Issue Statement

Researchers associated with the U.S. Agricultural Research Service or universities can contact Project Apis m. for further information.

For other institutions or private entities, all non-proprietary information collected as part of the project will be the property of the National Honey Board. The NHB reserves the right to review, in advance, publication of research results.

In accordance with **§ 1212.62 Patents, copyrights, inventions, product formulations, and publications.**

Except for a reasonable royalty paid by the Board to the inventor of a patented invention, any patents, copyrights, inventions, product formulations, or publications developed through the use of funds collected under the provisions of this subpart shall be the property of the U.S. Government, as represented by the Board, and shall along with any rents, royalties, residual payments, or other income from the rental, sales, leasing, franchising, or other uses of such patents, copyrights, trademarks, information, publications, or product formulations, inure to the benefit of the Board; shall be considered income subject to the same fiscal, budget, and audit controls as other funds of the Board; and may be licensed subject to approval by the Department. Upon termination of this Order, § 1212.83 shall apply to determine disposition of all such property.

I have read this statement and confirm that I, the co-investigators, and the institution presenting this proposal can comply with it.

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Institution or company: _____

Sign and return this page, Research Rights Issue Statement, with your proposal by email to:

Project Apis m.

Jean@projectapism.org