



New York State Beekeeper Tech Team *2021 Overview of Services & Expectations*

The NYS Beekeeper Tech Team is an engaging program where you and the team work together to better understand your operation. The Tech Team collects data from your colonies and surveys and provides an overview of your colony health as well as recommendations to help you work toward your goals. The ability of the Tech Team to provide meaningful feedback and informed guidance relies on a collaborative relationship. Here is an overview of the services the Tech Team provides and your responsibilities as a participant:

Services provided by the Tech Team:

- **Conduct colony inspections twice a year.** Technicians visit your operation each June and September for up to three years. Technicians inspect up to 4 colonies from a single apiary for hobbyists and sideliners (managing <300 colonies) and up to 10 colonies from two apiaries (20 total) for commercial beekeepers (300+ colonies). Technicians collect and record a variety of data:
 - They assess queen status, brood pattern score, and colony population
 - They take samples for *Varroa* and *Nosema* loads and identify pests and diseases
 - They take samples of wax in September to identify pesticide loads
- **Provide timely reports on your colony health.** You will receive a full report of the inspection results shortly after the technicians' visit. You are alerted to any issues that require immediate management, and you can see how your operation compares to other beekeepers'.
- **Meet for an annual consultations.** In late winter, The Tech Team meets with you to discuss your previous and upcoming beekeeping season, report your progress over time, and provide evidence-based recommendations appropriate for your goals. Meetings take place either in-person or over Zoom.
- **Provide an overview of industry trends.** The *Spring Colony Health Report* and *Annual Tech Team Report* summarize our findings from all inspections and assess trends between colony health and management practices. All previous reports are available for download from our website: <https://pollinator.cals.cornell.edu/nys-beekeeper-tech-team/>

Beekeeper Expectations & Responsibilities:

- **Provide contact information** (phone number, email address, and mailing address) so that the Tech Team can schedule your colony inspections, annual consultations, and can share results with you in a timely manner.
- **Provide an address, GPS coordinates, and/or clear directions** so that technicians find the apiary or apiaries to be inspected.
- **Fill out a thorough management survey** each fall to report colony counts throughout the year, product production & sales, pest & disease management, pollination services, and other operation demographics. To see what questions are included, request last year's by emailing Connor Hinsley (cah354@cornell.edu).
- **Attend the annual consultation** in late winter to discuss the data collected the previous year and to generate a plan for managing colony health the upcoming year.