



New York State Beekeeper Tech Team
2021 Information Sharing Policy

The New York State (NYS) Beekeeper Tech Team collects data for several purposes:

1. We perform colony health inspections and collect samples from colonies, which are later tested for *Varroa* and *Nosema* at the University of Maryland Honey Bee Lab, and tested for pesticides at Cornell University. Test results from each individual operation are shared in a written report with the beekeeper from whose operation the samples were collected. These reports are shared with all members of the Tech Team, including representatives from Cornell University and the NYS Apiculturist. The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) generates these individual colony health reports, and as such BIP also has access to the colony health data.
2. We collect information on individual management practices in an annual Management Survey. Data from the management survey is stored in a database on a password protected server. All of the Tech Team members have access to this database.
3. Both the management data and the colony health data are used to conduct research on management practices and trends in NYS, and to identify possible relationships between management practices and colony health outcomes. The research findings are published in aggregate form in the annual Tech Team Summary Report, which is shared directly with all Tech Team beekeeper participants and made available to the public online. Research findings may also be published in academic journals.
4. De-identified data from colony inspections and from the management survey may be shared with the research community at large to advance science and honey bee health.
5. Data from the Financial Analysis and Business Benchmarking program are stored in a secured, password protected database. Only Tech Team members from Cornell University have access to these data. Financial data are not shared with the NYS Apiculturist.
6. Financial data from the Financial Analysis and Business Benchmarking program are used to develop benchmarks for comparing the performance of individual beekeeping businesses with an industry average. These benchmarks will be shared with individual beekeepers and may be published in a report or academic journal article.