

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Stanford

Phone: 601-493-3447

Email: jennifer@labeekeepers.org

20th Annual Field Day at the USDA Honey Bee Lab in Baton Rouge

The USDA Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Laboratory and the Louisiana State Beekeepers Association will hold the 20th Annual Field Day on Saturday, October 8, 2016. The event will be held at the laboratory, located at 1157 Ben Hur Rd. This is near the intersection of Nicholson Drive (Hwy 30) and Brightside Dr., which is about two miles south of the LSU football stadium.

Gates will open at 9:30 a.m.; activities are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A nonrefundable pre-registration fee of \$30.00 is required for attendees 12 years of age and above. Children eleven and under, must stay with their parents at all times. You must pre-register (and submit payment) by September 30, 2016. You may register online at labeekeepers.org and pay through PayPal or credit card or you may mail your registration form that is located on the labeekeepers.org web site and your check payable to the Louisiana Beekeepers Association to: David Ferguson, P.O. Box 716, Brusly, LA 70719. Registration fees increase to \$40.00 per person on October 1, 2016.

The registration fee covers expenses including coffee, pastries and a great catered lunch that includes boneless chicken in gravy, white rice, snap beans and potatoes, a medley of tomatoes, baby lima beans, okra and corn with sausage, and garden salad with choice of 4 dressings, fresh baked honey wheat rolls, banana pudding and coke products.

The Field Day will include courses for beginners and more experienced beekeepers as well as workshops for those interested in a variety of topics. The beginning beekeeper course will begin with how to get started for those who do not yet own bees, then will progress to how to manage a few colonies. Topics will include equipment needs for the beginner, nectar producing plants, maintenance of colonies, pests, safety and etiquette in beekeeping, and hands on training in an active colony. The intermediate beekeeping course was a hit again last year and it will be offered again with a variety of topics focused on the beekeeper with a moderate amount of experience that is now ready to take it to the next level. Topics will include making splits, preparing colonies for winter, bee breeds, followed by a final "field" session examining open colonies. This session will address the major problems in colony health and include discussion and guidance on the primary pests and pathogens affecting honey bee colonies. There will be also be a 2 hour focused workshop on queen rearing for those (typically the more advanced beekeepers) not attending the intermediate courses, followed by a final session on breeding basics. These workshops will represent both the USDA-ARS Bee Lab's research and beekeeper experiences.

For additional information please contact Dr. Lanie Bourgeois (225-767-9299), Sandra Hineman (225-767-9280) or Joe Sanroma (318-346-2805). For questions regarding online registration, please contact David Ferguson (225-726-1664) or Robert Taylor (985-386-4647).