Summary of Services

Clemson University Public Service and Agriculture and Its Associated Responsibilities to the South Carolina Beekeeping Industry

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this summary is to outline Clemson University’s Public Service and Agriculture (PSA) role in educating and enhancing the South Carolina beekeeping industry. In addition, this letter defines the role of the state apiculture specialist (funded through Extension and the Experiment Station) and other Clemson personnel regarding regulatory, educational and related activities.

I. Clemson University State Apiculture Specialist:

A. Develops and implements a statewide apiculture Extension and Research program for Clemson Public Service and Agriculture.

B. Disseminates information to all clientele through direct contact and mass media outlets such as email, newsletter, webpage, webinar, etc.

C. Develops and implements subject matter trainings, workshops, and field days for homeowners, producers, inspectors, agents & professionals, and youth.
   a. The Master Beekeeper Program is currently coordinated and delivered by the South Carolina Beekeepers Association. The role of the State Apiculture Specialist is to provide feedback and guidance on project proposals by participants of the Master Beekeeper Craftsman level.

D. Provides subject matter expertise and trainings to the SCBA, local chapters, and individual members. The State Apiculture Specialist may serve as the Clemson University Expert Advisor to the SCBA Executive Committee, but will retain a non-voting status.

E. Participates in state, regional, and national collaborative university research to ensure efficient use of resources and widespread rapid adoption of new technology, and provides research findings through publications and invited presentations to SC bee industry and other appropriate audiences.

F. Manages the Clemson University apiaries and facilities for research and Extension purposes.

G. Serves as a supporting member of DPI inspection program regarding monitoring and preventing Africanized bees, compiling and reporting findings from the National Bee Survey, participating in hive inspections, and providing assistance with other regulatory functions.
H. Attends and participates in regional and national honey bee Extension, Research, and Regulatory meetings as needed, and serves on various committees (state, region, national) related to apiculture and agriculture as determined by the State Apiculture Specialist.

II. Clemson Department of Plant Industry:

A. Inspects honey bees and fixtures to be moved from South Carolina into other states and countries, and issues certificates of inspection verifying apparent freedom from contagious and infectious diseases.

B. Monitors honey bees and fixtures shipped or moved into South Carolina from other states and countries to assure that they have been inspected and are accompanied by a certificate of inspection issued by a plant or apiary official from the state, county or country from which the bees originated.

C. Investigates incidences of suspected pests of regulatory concern affecting honey bees, and initiate regulatory action if indicated.

D. Participates in USDA honey bee surveys on a regular basis.

E. Provides regulatory expertise and support to the SCBA, local chapters, and individual members.

Clemson PSA is fully committed to research, extension, and regulation of South Carolina’s beekeeping industry.

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