

2025 Apiculture Assistant  
USDA AFRI Hurricane Recovery Grant  
Clemson Apiculture and Pollinator Program

General: The Clemson Apiculture and Pollinator Program will be hiring a part time program assistant to meet the objectives of a recently awarded AFRI grant. The apiculture assistant will work with the Clemson Apiculture and Pollinator Program's research and extension activities to support beekeeper recovery from the devastating effects of Hurricane Helene which caused widespread flooding and wind damage across the western Carolinas in the fall of 2024. The Program will conduct a disease survey to determine spacial and temporal prevalence of European Foulbrood, American foulbrood, and Vairimorpha (Nosema) and assess the impact the storm may have had on intensity of these three critical honey bee diseases. The Program also will conduct trainings to improve honey bee health and bee production capacity across the Carolinas to help with recovery of lost colonies.

Position Duration: Jan- Dec 2025

Pay Rate: \$20/hr for up to 29 hrs/week

Location: Flexible, but preference given to Clemson area (Insectary Bee Lab) or Florence area (Pee Dee Research and Education Center)

Disease Assessment: The Program will survey three detrimental honey bee diseases (European foulbrood, American foulbrood, and Vairimorpha [Nosema]) across the Carolinas which will help determine the distribution and severity of these diseases across the region and determine if they are elevated in storm affected areas of the state. The assistant will coordinate sample collection and delivery to the analytical lab for foul brood testing. The assistant will measure Vairimorpha loading in each sample using light microscopy and manage data collection and reporting. The disease survey will include three sampling events (Winter (Feb), Spring (May), and summer (Aug)).

Advanced Beekeeper Trainings: The Program also will offer advanced trainings in honey bee management and queen production to expand capacity for honey bee (especially queen) production in the Carolinas. The assistant will help coordinate trainings and assist with event logistics and field day activities. The assistant also will help tend the Program's research and teaching apiaries. Beekeeping experience is appreciated but not necessary. Training and guidance will be provided.

Queen Breeding Program: The Program initiated a queen breeding program in 2024. The Program assistant will help with queen production tasks including varroa resistance assessment, selecting breeder queens, setting up and working the queen production process (cell starters/builders, incubators, and mating nucs).