

## Invitation to SK Queen Producers to Participate in this Project

### Project Title: Optimization of Local Honey Bee Queen Production Practices for Greater Productivity, Performance and Profitability.

Saskatchewan has a new initiative Saskatchewan (SK) HOneyBee Health Plan “SK One B-Health Plan”. SK One B-Health Plan has 4 pillars that are addressed namely; bees health, management practices, environmental factors and economic trends.

One of the first projects under this initiative is “**Optimization of Local Honey Bee Queen Production Practices for Greater Productivity, Performance and Profitability**”. This project is conducted by the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission (SBDC)-Technology Adaptation Program (TAP).

The honey bee queen plays the central role within bee colonies. She is responsible for building the bee population for a productive bee colony. Beekeepers must use quality queens to ensure keeping healthy colony. In spite of recognizing the importance of quality queens, commercial and hobbyist beekeepers alike have been reporting serious issues with queen quality and survivorship. To address this gap, SBDC-TAP program is conducting this project that is partially funded by CAP- Strategic Field program-SK Agriculture.



#### Project objectives and plans are the following:

1. Conduct a survey to identify management practices used for queen production across Saskatchewan to identify gaps and develop recommendations
2. Assess the quality of queens submitted by participants (5-10 queens newly emerged and 5-10 queen mated of the same batch 3-4 times per production season per participant). Queens will be subject to several tests including (queen weight, queen size <head width, head height, thoracic width and height>, number of sperms, nosema infection, etc.) to find the inter-relationship between production conditions and quality of queens. Results will be communicated with specific recommendations to each participant. (More details will be provided to the participants).
3. develop a manual “Best Management Practices for production of Quality Queens” based on the survey and evaluated queen quality measures.



This program will lead to developing Saskatchewan Bee Selection and Breeding program to produce queens suitable to our environment and management practices. To participate in this program, please register your name with Linda Haggerty; [info@saskbeekeepers.com](mailto:info@saskbeekeepers.com), or call Cell: (306) 715-4281 and Each

participant is asked to pay \$250 per year fees for participation in this project to “SBDC-Queen Project” by June 15, 2021.

If you have a question, please contact: [medhat@saskbeekeepers.com](mailto:medhat@saskbeekeepers.com)

Project is funded by Saskatchewan Agriculture -ADF- Strategic Field Program

**There is a limited number for participants, please sign up today!!!!!!**