

A Letter to Beekeepers from George Hansen

Dear Friends and Fellow Beekeepers,

The colony loss survey for the last year showed a disastrous level of honey bee colony failure in the US. One has to wonder what went wrong and further, what can be done about it? As beekeepers, there are some things we all can do with our own hives, but the problems impacting our bees are bigger than any of us individually can control- just like bees, together we can have more impact.

This letter is to encourage you and especially your organization to participate in an effort to collectively pool our resources to make a difference; **let's move the needle in the right direction for honey bees.** Project *Apis m.* (PAm) is a nonprofit organization founded by beekeepers, for beekeepers, which provides funds for honey bee research, graduate student scholarships and forage projects like the [Seeds for Bees®](#) program [and The Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund](#).

Right now, PAm is funding research projects that will likely interest and benefit you as a beekeeper. Because of PAm's ability to fund research without the "red tape," and through our relationships with beekeepers and scientists, we are poised to initiate inquiry into pressing honey bee health concerns quickly and effectively. To learn more about the projects PAm is funding and investing in, read our Beekeepers impact Report and visit: ProjectApism.org/honey-bee-research

Project *Apis m.*'s funding comes from a variety of sources. Commodity and industry groups, and other major donors like Costco, trust PAm to help bees. The National Honey Board also directs their research funds through PAm. Often the question is asked by potential donors: "What are the beekeepers contributing to help themselves?" Individuals and some beekeeping organizations have contributed to PAm, but we, as beekeepers could do much more to put our money where our mouth is.

I am writing this letter to ask you and/or your club to go on record supporting efforts to help solve bee health problems. Add your name to the list of committed individuals and organizations that make regular contributions to Project *Apis m.* Please do not think that your contribution is too small to matter. A modest annual contribution means a lot, and collectively will enable relevant and important work that none of us could fund alone. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

George Hansen,
Foothills Honey Company, LLC, Project *Apis m.* Board of Directors