



How it all started.

It is always interesting what comes for the conversations of old beekeepers when they just get together for conversation. In April of 2020, during a queen rearing and grafting course taught by Zale Maxwell and Dwight Wells, conversations took place regarding a large number of topics related to beekeeping including, why beginning beekeepers fail and what is going on with the Feral honey bees in Ohio. Dwight has worked with both beginning beekeepers and feral honey bees for many years while Zale has taught many beginning beekeepers over the years who only had limited experience with feral bees. Having worked together for several years, they decided that it was time to do something about the way beginners are being taught how to keep bees and tell the story of the Ohio Queen Bee Locally Adapted Stock unique to Ohio. The next year at their beginning course in April 2021, Dr. Greg Stahl, a retired Harvard University researcher, attended as a student. Following that class discussions continued and in May at their queen rearing course, with Greg as a student, the concept of forming a group whose mission it would be to educate all beekeepers and especially focus on new beekeepers to enable them to be successful. Out of that, in August the Ohio Queen Bees Improvement Project, LLC was formed. The first public event for this project was the OSU Farm & Science Review held in September of 2021. The website and email were launched and the youth program created that fall. The Ohio Queen Bee Improvement Project, LLC is currently looking to help beekeepers get started and improve their success in beekeeping by seeking grants to help fund the classes and sponsor 4H and FFA student projects. If interested in participating in one of our classes or if you are a 4H or FFA member looking to start a beekeeping project, please, contact us at Ohqueenbeeproject@gmail.com