

Calling All Beekeepers and Beekeeping Organizations!

You may have heard that the **Read ME Agriculture** 2023 Program is coming March 20th for Pre-K to 4th grade students across the state. We are in the process of registering classes now, with 455 individual classes already registered and 52 schools still working on their lists. We anticipate 1,000 classrooms in all! This volunteer reading program started 15 years ago, and (excluding COVID years) has grown each year! Classroom teachers LOVE the opportunity for students to learn about targeted topics in Agriculture AND add an accurate book to their classroom library for students to use for many years into the future!

This year's book is ***Honeybee, The Busy Life of Aphis Mellifera*** by Candice Fleming and illustrated by Eric Rohmann. Every participating classroom will receive the hardcover book and accompanying Educator's Guide with eight aligned classroom activities. The 2023 the program will be a hybrid model where classrooms can decide from in-person and virtual reader options. Classrooms may choose their own readers or ask MAITC for help. Check the MAITC website for more information.

This year we are reaching out to Maine beekeepers and pollinator enthusiasts to participate as readers and/or classroom sponsors. **You can sponsor classes for \$15 per class.** That covers the cost of the book and educator's guide (\$22 retail with a discount from the publishers). You can contact us at maitc@maine.gov to volunteer as a reader and we will try to match you up with registered classes in your area.

If you are interested in sponsoring you can use the attached QR code or this PayPal link: <https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1301772>

After the March program is completed we will recognize all classroom sponsors in our newsletter that is distributed to over 5,000 educators each month!

Many thanks in advance for your support of this Ag-mazing educational program!