USDA and Bee Lab Updates

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Food, Conservation, and Energy Act

- 2008 Farm Bill
- Passed June 22, 2008
- Enacted Oct. 1, 2008
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

- Headed by a Presidential appointee
- Replaces Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES)
- Funding will be driven more by competitive grants
Research, Education and Extension Office (REEO)

- Headed by a Chief Scientist, under the Secretary of Agriculture
- Agricultural Research Service (ARS) now falls under REEO
- Direct both NIFA and ARS priorities (?)
- 6 Divisions (similar to our Program Offices)
REEO Divisions:

- Renewable Energy, Natural Resources and Environment
- Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health
- Plant Health, Production, and Products
- Animal Health, Production, and Products
- Agricultural Systems and Technology
- Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities
Division Chiefs’ Mission

- Identify and prioritize USDA Agricultural research, education, and extension needs
- Recommends funding levels – one line item for REE, competitive programs will receive priority
- Capacity and infrastructure programs
- Assess strategic workforce needs
Bee Lab 5-Year Research Plan

- Alkali Bee Research
  - Understand densities needed
  - Improve bee survival

- Alfalfa Leafcutting Bee Research
  - Understand number of bees needed
  - Improve retention of bees after release

- Disease Control
Other Research Areas

- Blue orchard bees
- Bumble bees
- Conservation of wild bees