

The Kentucky State University Mobile Autoclave is available to all Kentucky beekeepers to sterilize their used beekeeping equipment. This procedure will kill all diseases, mites, beetles and moths in the equipment. Beeswax will melt and fall to the bottom of the autoclave. In this way, any pesticides in the wax will be also eliminated from the equipment.

A load of equipment is sterilized when the propane burners boil the water inside the unit. After 20 minutes at a temperature of 260 °F and pressure of 30 psi, the unit is allowed to cool.

Five loads of equipment can be sterilized in several hours. Each load (for example 24 deep hive bodies with frames, inner and outer covers, and bottom boards) can have a value of approximately \$2,200. Consequently, this autoclave can save Kentucky beekeepers over \$10,000 in less than a day. This dollar value does not include the time spent purchasing, assembling and painting new equipment.

Diseases, pests and pesticide residues are responsible for increased bee colony losses and lower production across the country. Kentucky is the only state which offers this sterilization service.

This unit was custom made by McGill Air-Clean in Columbus, Ohio. It was purchased with funds awarded to Kentucky State University by the Kentucky Agriculture Development Fund.



CONTACT US!

To learn more or to request service, send us an email.

Jacob Vincent – jacob.vincent@kysu.edu

Joni Nelson – joni.nelson@kysu.edu

Dr. Thomas Webster – thomas.webster@kysu.edu