



My bee block demonstration at the Delaware State Fair

**References:**

“Farm Management for Native Bees: A Guide for Delaware.” Delaware Department of Agriculture.

“Conserving Native Pollinators: Building Better Habitats, a Guide to Building Native Bee Nesting Habitats.” Delaware Department of Agriculture.



# Bee Blocks



Manmade homes for bees

# Native bees and their habitat



## Bees 101:

Bees are a valuable part of our ecosystem. They pollinate a variety of common crops including apple, blackberry, blueberry, strawberry, raspberry, pumpkin, watermelon and sunflower. North America is home to more than 4,000 species of native bees including bumble bees, sweat bees, mining bees, and leaf-cutter bees.

Native bees are generally solitary, nesting individually. They live in woodlots, hedgerows, wetlands, and field borders. They nest using leaves, soil, stems and wood holes.



## Conserving Native Bees:

**The native bee population has been declining in recent years due to mites and diseases. The lack of appropriate nesting sites is also a key limiting factor for these solitary bees.**

**How can you help to protect native bees?**

***You can build a bee block!***



## How to Build a Bee Block:

1. Find a block of wood. It must be preservative-free and non-pressure treated. A good size is 4" x 6."
2. Drill holes in one side of the wood between 3/32" and 3/8" in diameter, at approximately 3/4" centers. The holes should be smooth inside and closed at one end.
3. Set up your bee blocks 2 to 6 feet off the ground in an area with morning sun and protection from rain, extreme sun and heat.
4. Be sure to maintain your bee blocks. Clean them annually and ensure that a diversity of plants grows nearby to attract native bees.

