



RE: Honey Bee Health Research position

Date: January 25, 2022

To: Dean of CAHNRS, Rich Koenig

Dean Rich Koenig ,

This letter is from the Yakima County Farm Bureau (YCFB). YCFB is a grass roots organization with 2700 members consisting of farmers and ranchers with operations both large and small as well as other folks with interest in agriculture affairs in Yakima and Klickitat Counties.

The YCFB has been following the construction of the new Honey Bee Research facility in Othello Washington with great interest and applaud WSU for its creation. The fate of our agriculture hinges greatly on the survival and viability of our Honey Bees. We look forward to great discoveries and advancements to come by way of the new facility.

For a great facility to work it requires great people working in the right setting. However, our Farm Bureau has become aware that a newly hired researcher specializing in Honey Bee Health is currently set to be working at the Prosser Research station instead of the new Othello Bee facility.

The YCFB objects to this and firmly believes that this new hire needs to be stationed at the Othello location with the other bee researchers. To locate this position at Prosser (where there are no other Bee researchers) simply makes no sense.

The YCFB believes that Othello is the correct location so this important person/position can effectively work with the assembled team already there. If that is not possible, then the other alternative would be to work out of WSU proper with the Bee researchers there.

The YCFB urges you to locate this important position at the Othello Bee Facility to maximize the efficiency of finding solutions to the problems facing our Honey Bees.

Thank you,

Mark Herke

President, Yakima County Farm Bureau

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