

Bee Aware!

Attention, everyone! As we welcome the vibrant energy of spring, it's important to be mindful of our buzzing friends, the bees. Did you know that honeybees play a crucial role in our food chain? Without them, we'd lose about a third of the delicious produce in our local grocery stores, like apples, melons, pumpkins, and almonds.

But sometimes, these essential insects find their way into our homes, which might not be what you want. That's why the Panola County AgriLife extension is here to help you "bee-proof" your property.

Here's what you can do to keep bees away from your buildings:

- Check the outside walls and eaves for openings.
- Seal any holes larger than one-eighth of an inch.
- Install screens over vents and other openings.
- Keep an eye out for bee activity around your property from spring to fall.

If you do find bees on your property, remember:

- Don't disturb them.
- Call a professional bee removal service.
- Check with your state beekeepers' association for assistance.

Bees can nest in unexpected places like buckets, old tires, or even under your deck. If you spot potential nesting sites, don't try to remove them yourself. Call the experts!

Keep an eye out for bee activity:

- Listen for buzzing sounds.
- Be cautious when entering sheds or using noisy equipment.
- Always watch out for bees when outdoors.

Remember, if you encounter bees:

- Stay calm.
- Teach children to be cautious and respectful.
- If you're allergic, consult your doctor for a sting kit.

By following these guidelines, you can ensure a safe and enjoyable spring. For more information or assistance, contact your Panola AgriLife Extension team at (903)-693-0380.

Let's all do our part to protect our pollinator pals and keep our communities safe!