The Hopkins (https://labs.wsu.edu/hopkinslab/) and Kulhanek (https://labs.wsu.edu/kulhaneklab/) labs at Washington State University seek a postdoctoral research associate to work on various projects related to commercial beekeeping management practices. The primary project is a sponsored research project testing a novel nutritional supplement for honey bees. Typical protein supplements, sometimes referred to as “pollen substitutes,” typically lack essential amino acids and micronutrients present in real pollen that bees need to thrive. This new supplement is designed to fill nutritional gaps and more closely mimic real pollen, better supporting colony health and survival. We are investigating how this novel supplement affects several aspects of honey bee health including colony size, strength, and survival, pest and pathogen loads, and the gut microbiome. The creation of such a large longitudinal dataset will offer many opportunities for publications, and the successful candidate is encouraged to pursue publications meeting their interests.

This project involves close collaboration with several commercial beekeeping operations located in Washington, Idaho, and California. Travel to visit these operations and to almond pollination to collect data is required. The successful applicant will work along beekeepers, industry members, and multidisciplinary researchers to gather data on honey bee health over space and time. The candidate will be responsible for project coordination, data management and analysis, and communicating with sponsoring agencies. In addition to the nutritional supplement project, the candidate will also assist with data analysis and preparation of publications relating to other projects involving commercial beekeeping practices (Varroa management, indoor storage of honey bee colonies, etc.)

Required Qualifications: Applicants must hold a Ph.D. degree in a field of ecology, entomology, biology, or related. The applicant must both be willing to work with bees (beekeeping experience preferred) and have strong data management and analytical abilities. The ability to lift 50 lbs and obtain a valid driver’s license are required. The successful applicant will be expected to travel to perform field work and collect data. Strong organizational and communication skills are essential, as the position requires coordination between sponsors, researchers, and beekeepers. This position is open to anyone with the legal ability to begin working in the US.

Annual salary: $55,000
Tenure Track: No
Location: Pullman, WA, USA
Position Term in Months: 12-36 (renewals every year pending satisfactory performance)

Application Details: Apply online via WSU Jobs at https://wsu.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/WSU_Jobs/details/Postdoctoral-Research-Associate_R-6981