

# *Prince Edward County*

## *Prince Edward county's Effort to Save the Honey Bees*

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### **Opportunity for tax break this year announced**

Prince Edward county, Virginia-The county had its final vote on its tax break opportunity that will be coming into effect this next tax season. Prince Edward county is offering \$700 off from residents property tax if there is proof of honey bee activity from a well taken care of hive.

Prince Edward county officials have paired up with Virginia's Wildlife and rescue as they make this major effort to help save the honey bee population. The idea is to help populate Virginia's Farm land with honey bees to help with the pollination of crops in the harvest season.

The honey bee population has been steadily decreasing over the last decade which has been a concern for many virginia farmers in the local area. Honey bees are a major part of the pollination process which affect farmers financially from lack of crops.

The hope is that the tax break will encourage farmers and other residents to help populate the area by raising their own hive of bees. County official Jim Jones says "This is a great opportunity for farmers and it is a great way to help increase the population of this important insect."

Residents are able to have a county official come out to the property to show proof to the hives before the tax break can be granted to the resident. As long as there is activity of the bees living in the hive the money will be granted to the resident.

County officials are not the only ones that are excited about the property tax break; residents in the area are also looking forward to the opportunity and adventure of raising a hive of bees.

"It's never a hobby I thought I would pick up but I am excited to save some money this next tax season" Molly Season

"I am excited about raising a hive of bees next year I have researched many crafts I hope to do with the bee wax such as candles and chapsticks" Martha Mills

"I am excited to see how much better my crops do on the farm with the bees' help. I plan to get a hive for my farm but I think with the number of them in the area harvest season looks plentiful."  
Chris Jones

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