

## **SCDC Partners with the Feed-a-Bee Program**

The South Carolina Department of Corrections is one of the latest to join a growing number of organizations across the country in helping to increase forage for honey bees and other pollinators. It's part of an effort launched by Bayer CropScience last year that sought to plant and grow 50 million flowers and to provide additional forage acreage to help increase a bee population whose numbers have been decreasing the last several years due to some pesticides and other factors. By collaborating with organizations and individuals throughout the United States, Feed-a-Bee will help provide pollinators with the food they must have to not only survive, but thrive.

SCDC received 5,000 packets of seeds from Bayer last fall which were planted at several of its institutions just after the first frost. This is a part of a fairly new beekeeping program for the Department of Corrections. Inmates are trained in the art of beekeeping and are eligible to earn the status of certified beekeepers through the S.C. Beekeepers Association. Bees are raised at Allendale CI, Broad River CI, Lee CI, Perry CI and Walden CI Farm.



**Feed-a-Bee program flowers now blooming at Lee CI**

Each institution received about 1,000 packets of seeds that will produce Shasta Daisy, Lance-leaf Coreopsis, Plains Coreopsis, Wild Cosmos, Sulphur Cosmos, Purple Coneflower, Dwarf Sunflower Sunspot, Bee Balm and African Marigold, just to name a few of the varieties of flowers planted. This natural food, in addition to what is found in the wild, should help the diminishing bee population and produce more honey. Bees eat honey, and so do we. This Feed-a-Bee partnership with Bayer is certainly a win for bees, for SCDC and all of us!



**Samples of honey produced by bees at Lee CI and harvested by inmates in the Beekeeper Program**

