



**Mack, a yellow Labrador retriever, is trained to detect a deadly bee disease that infects hives. He works with the Apiary Inspection Program in Maryland.**

## Dog Helps Detect Deadly Bee Disease

Turns out that man's best friend is also helpful to bees. Mack, a yellow Labrador retriever, works with the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Apiary Inspection Program sniffing bee boxes. If he smells the deadly American Foulbrood bacteria in a hive, he stops and sits.

"If he is between two hives, I ask him to show me, and he puts his mouth on the colony," says Cybil Preston, Mack's handler.

Maryland's chief apiary inspector explains that before bees cross state lines - to go to California in the winter, for example - they must be inspected. American Foulbrood isn't common - there were just 13 cases in 2017 - but it is deadly. Bacteria spores multiply and grow in bee larvae and is highly infectious. Diseased hives must be burned to stop the bacteria, which can live up to 40 years.

Typically people do the inspections, opening hives looking for larvae that is brown instead of white. They can also smell the bacteria.

But dogs can smell it early on and without opening the hives, Preston says, which greatly speeds up the process.

"Mack did an entire load of 1,500 colonies

that went to California in December. He did it in a fraction of the time it would have taken us," Preston says.

The biggest challenge is keeping the dog from getting stung. So Mack can only work when the bees are dormant with temperatures 52F or cooler, which is typically November through early April in Maryland.

Preston took classes with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to learn how to train dogs for scent detection.

Because every dog is different, there isn't a written formula of how to train, she says. She has been contacted by apiary inspectors from Wisconsin and Maine who are interested in training dogs to work with bees.

"It's very rewarding, but it's time consuming work," she says. "I am more than happy to chat with employees of other states' apiary departments."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy., Annapolis, Md. 21401 ([www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov); Twitter: @MdAgDept).

## They Specialize In Fixing Old Car Radios

Quality-built radios on old cars and trucks are worth fixing, says Ken Anderson, who says radios have been coming in from all over the country since he started placing ads in auto magazines. The Alpharetta, Ga., business owner works with a skilled repairman who has 50 years of experience fixing vehicle radios made from the 1930's to 2000.

"He has a big stash of parts, and he knows how to modify things to make them work," Anderson says of his business partner. "His experience is beyond compare. He is a wizard who can resurrect dead radios."

For vintage vehicle owners, it's a nice bonus to have a working radio, whether it's a Packard, Cadillac or old pickup.

Some interesting radios have come through the Georgia shop including one from a 1932 Packard.

"It didn't have knobs, just cables and weighed 50 lbs.," Anderson says.

Fords in the 1950's had radios with a rural setting and city setting to get the best reception. Other vehicles had Wonderbar® radios with buttons to push to seek stations. While newer versions are available with Bluetooth and other fancy features, customers prefer the quality components in the old radios.

Leaky capacitors and bad switches are



**"Fixing radios in old cars and pickups made from the 1930's and on is our specialty," says repairman Ken Anderson.**

common repair problems. The repairman at K&B Special Products takes time to do proper alignment - setting the dial on the exact number of the radio station. And he does cosmetic work, polishing the dial and painting the needle, for example.

"We provide a 2-year warranty, and there is no charge to look at a radio," Anderson says. Most repairs are less than \$250 and are typically finished within 2 or 3 weeks.

While much of the work is on vehicle radios, he adds that repairs can also be made on console radios. Call for more information.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, K&B Special Products, 1015 Nine North Drive, Suite 300, Alpharetta, Ga. 30004 (ph 770 777-1031; [kenwanderson@msn.com](mailto:kenwanderson@msn.com)).

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## Hip-Hop Songs Promote Garden Veggies

With his music, Jackson Pittman wants to spread the message about eating real food to big city folks. He finds inspiration for his "Veggie Hip-Hop" while working for Six Circles Farm, which grows several acres of produce.

"When I was growing up in New York City, I wasn't passionate about vegetables," Pittman admits. "I had no connection with the food I was eating."

After graduating from high school he wanted to do something different, so he got a job at Six Circles Farm in Caywood, N.Y. Soon after, he began to blend his new passion of growing food with his first passion - rap music - and wrote his first song, "All These Vegetables." Since then he has produced two CDs - "July Garlic on August Tomato Sandwiches" and "The Eat Vegetables LP".

"In 2015, I decided I wanted to make my stage persona one with my farming persona," Pittman says. "It's an important message to share with people in the city."

With the help of a couple of close friends from the city, he regularly makes music and educational videos that he shares through Instagram (@eatvegetablesnyc), Facebook and YouTube. His lyrics explain how food is grown in hip-hop rhythm with catchy titles like "Cauliflower Roulette" and "Irrigation Blues."

"My main thing is I want to create educational opportunities and gainful



**Jackson Pittman blends his passion for growing food with another passion - rap music. He has produced 2 CD's and makes music and educational videos that he shares online.**

employment for people in the city," Pittman says.

His CDs can be purchased through his social media sites as well as through the Six Circles Farm website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jackson Pittman (ph 646 319-2515; [www.sixcirclesfarm.com](http://www.sixcirclesfarm.com); [eatvegjackson@gmail.com](mailto:eatvegjackson@gmail.com)).

## Giant Brass Steam Whistles

Over the years Dave Dam of Eau Claire, Wis., has built dozens of steam whistles out of artillery shells (Vol. 34, No. 5). He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of his biggest steam whistles yet - both with a 22-in. high, 10-in. dia., 1/8-in. thick wall brass tube for the bell. They come with an aluminum base which has a 2-in. dia. pipe thread that hooks up to an air supply.

Dam first built his steam (or compressed air) whistles out of copper pipe, brass and aluminum. Then he saw an artillery shell whistle and started using them to build steam whistles. He has more than 100 in his collection now.

Air goes up through the bottom, and a plate forces the air to move up the sides, causing the upper chamber to vibrate. "It's the same principle as blowing over the top of a bottle," says Dam. "The bigger the upper area, the lower the tone."

His new steam whistle has a "crown" with an acorn nut on top. The acorn is attached to a 1-in. threaded rod that hooks up to the base of the whistle. A plate forces the compressed



**Dave Dam put together these giant brass steam whistles that hook up to a compressed air supply.**

air to move up the sides, causing a chamber inside the bell to vibrate.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Dam, 111 N. Buena Vista Rd., Eau Claire, Wis. 54703 (ph 715 450-2943 after 4 p.m.; [ddamwhistler48@gmail.com](mailto:ddamwhistler48@gmail.com)).