

# **BPSTIL Bee Report**

**Bossier City, Louisiana**

# Report from July 2023

We have 8 flow hives. We have been working with, utilizing knowledge of, local beekeeping association (Ark-LA-Tex Beekeeping club). They helped us obtain 8 additional deep hive boxes to add to top of original deep. We currently have 6 hives with the flow hive on top, and have 2 hives that have struggled with their colony and are not ready for the flow hive. Students have been involved through checking hives for readiness of a 2nd deep box and readiness of flow hive. We have at least one hive ready to have some honey extracted, but are waiting for our experts from local club to assist in the first honey gathering. We should be able to try honey extraction in the coming weeks.

# Report from October 2023

We have still been working with and utilizing knowledge of the local beekeeping association (Ark-LA-Tex Beekeeping club). A club member donated a two-frame extractor and a bottling bucket. Our first extraction of honey measured at 19.8%. Our second honey extraction measured at 16.5%. We got 5-8 ounce bottles, 19-12 ounce bottles, and 16-16 ounce bottles out of our harvest. Our program was able to raise \$524.00 to put back into our program from the honey collection. We have had someone donate a classroom set of "First Lessons in Beekeeping". Our students are excited to continue to dive deeper into the world of beekeeping. We are down to 5 hives total. We currently have 3 hives with the flow hive on top and two hives that are set up traditionally. The two hives that have been struggling have died out/left. We lost one hive due to wax moths. We are planning on replacing the bees and beehives once we get the hives properly cleaned out. We are also trying to decide what we will use the beeswax for. We did have to start putting a water source near the bee hives, as the heat and dryness has been brutal in Bossier. Students really enjoyed extracting, tasting, and bottling honey. Please check out our facebook page for pictures of the students extracting honey. "BPSTIL Ag and FFA". The honey tastes so good!!

# Report from January 2024

We are still down to 5 hives total. We have removed all of the flow hives for the winter. We collected two gallons of honey while winterizing the hives. We bottled this into 2 oz bear bottles and sold them as stocking stuffers. We are still planning on replacing the bees and beehives once we get the hives properly cleaned out and set up for spring. We are also still trying to decide what we will use the beeswax for. We were thankful to make it through the ice storm without any real issues. We are waiting for it to become a little warmer to do a hive check.

# Report from May 2024

We received 3 new nucs on 4/16/24 to replace the 3 hives lost over the winter. Three of the original hives currently have 1 deep box, with another possibly added soon. We are functioning at full capacity with 8 total hives. All hives are currently set up as traditional hives. A sheet of tin was added under our beehives to help with grass overgrowth and hive beetles. Some hive beetles were observed in the hives when we added the tin. Students have enjoyed working with, harvesting from, and generally checking in on them. Summer school students are eager to help work bees and harvest honey.

# Report for July 2024

We currently have 7 beehives up and operating. We lost one bee hive to wax moths this summer. All hives are still set up as traditional hives. Summer school students enjoyed checking in on the beehives and working the beehives (well besides the heat). We are planning on harvesting honey the week of July 22. We are excited to see how much honey we will harvest. We plan on having our summer school students help us. We have already had a pre-order for 30+ bottles of honey. We are hoping to find a sponsor for a class set of bee suits. We have been reading over the book “First Lessons in Beekeeping”, and creating worksheets for our students to complete during the school year. Check out our facebook page for more updates: <https://www.facebook.com/bpstilagffa>

# Honey Label Collaboration

The BPSTIL Ag Department partnered with the BPSTIL Graphic Arts Department in creating our own honey label. This was a fun collaboration. Here are some of the designs that the Graphics Art class came up with.



# Honey Sales/Tasting

Our honey sales were crazy. We sold out so quickly!! We have been selling the honey for approximately \$1 per ounce. The honey has been a great fundraiser opportunity for our program. The money from the honey sales have helped us purchase more honey bottles and classroom materials.

Our students enjoyed tasting the honey over graham crackers in class. Most of the students liked the honey, however we had a few that were not fans. It was many of the students first time tasting honey.



# Future Plans

We plan on getting another nuc to rebuild the hive we lost this summer. We would love to get a class set of bee suits, so we are able to take the entire class out to the bee hives. We hope to get the hives healthy and the bee yard growing. We are wanting to look into making products with the honey and wax. The bees have been a wonderful addition to our program and we are thankful for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry for this amazing opportunity and for their continued support.

# **Student Reports**

**Bossier City, Louisiana**

# Student Report #1

“I enjoyed doing the bees when we did them for the agriscience program at BPSTIL. It was an amazing learning experience, from learning how to put the suits on, being hands on with the bees, to seeing how important it is to keep a happy hive. Overall it was something that I think more people should get to experience and be involved in to show how bees are helpful, and not as scary as they may seem.” -BPSTIL Student, Abigail C.

## Student Report #2

“My experience during the bee apprenticeship was informational and fun. Being able to learn about the bees and learn how the hive works was one of the best things I could learn.” - BPSTIL Student, Trinity M.

## Student Report #3

"I very much enjoyed the Beehive Experience. Sure it was hot, but that's how it is down here. I think the teacher did a great job at telling us what to do and what not to do. They keep those hives in good shape and the bees happy. More suits would be great so the rest of our class can be able to go out and learn about the bees and their hives visually. Mrs Breaux, and Mrs Malone, are probably out there everyday making sure those bees are in tip top shape, so they very much deserve it." - BPSTIL Student, Cole B.

## Student Report #4

“If you were to ask me how I felt about our bees and my experience with our bees I would probably say it was a very fun and cool experience but if you were to ask me on a deeper level I would probably say that it was such an amazing experience learning about bees near us and bees that we've grown and how they work its also a really cool experience thinking about how if it weren't for bpstil we probably wouldn't know all that we do and we wouldn't have the chance to be that close up to bees that we were.” - BPSTIL Student, Hailey R.

## Student Report #5

“Going out to the beehive was an interesting experience. Yes, I may be terrified of bees, but they are quite fascinating creatures. The interconnected societies they develop around the queen are very meticulous and impressive, and how they interact with each other and their environment is interesting. Thankfully, Mrs Malone knows how to handle the bees because if they were not smoked, they would have probably swarmed (there were a lot of bees). Collecting the honeycomb and honey was really cool. I may still be afraid of bees, but I have a newfound respect for their complex communities.” - BPSTIL student, Tristan J.

## **Student Report #6**

“Getting to work with the bees this summer was one of the best opportunities of my life. I can't think of anywhere else where I can learn about bees, and the honey making process. I used to hate bees and BEE scared of them, but now i have gained a ton of respect for them.” - BPSTIL student, Jack C.



## Student Report #7

“My experience during the bee apprenticeship was scary at first. I wasn’t sure how the bees would react and how well I would do. This program has been informational and fun, and I am no longer scared of bees. I cannot wait to continue learning about bees and how they make the world go round.” - BPSTIL Student, Bryson P.

## Student Report #8

“My favorite part about the bee apprenticeship was wearing the bee suits and harvesting honey. I thought the bee suits looked really cool. The bee suits were not cooling at all, so I much preferred to go out to the bee hives when the weather was cooler. It was interesting to see the bees working and the hives running. It was like its own little city. I loved collecting and harvesting the honey. The honey tasted so sweet.” - BPSTIL Student, Brilee D.

# **BPSTIL Bee Pictures**

**Bossier City, Louisiana**



80 F 30 inHg

BEAR DEN 2

04/18/2023 11:08AM





06/09/2023 08:37AM

06/09/2023 09:49AM

06/09/2023 09:49AM







































