

Weston High School Honeybee Presentation

LDAF Honeybee Grant

Apiary Setup

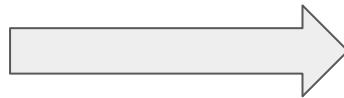
Beekeeping at Weston has been very fun for me, so I want to continue my work as a beekeeper by setting up my own apiary one day. This grant has enabled me to learn exactly how and where the ideal apiary should be set up.

- **The Environment:**
 - I know I need an open field with adequate food sources within a 5 mile radius. The area needs to be easily accessible and in the full sun to help with small hive beetles, and placing an electric fence around the site to ward away potential predators is a good idea.
- **The Equipment:**
 - I know that I will need a lot of tools and equipment, not only for beekeeping and building up my hives and apiary as well as tools and equipment for harvesting of the honey from the beehive.
- **PPE**
 - I will also need to be sure to get my own gloves, suit, jacket, and veil to ensure my safety as I continue to work in the beehives to keep stings at a minimum.

What I've Learned from Beekeeping at Weston

I've learned a lot of things about beekeeping over the past two years that will help me if I were to pursue a career in beekeeping more than as a hobby. Some of the things I've learned about beekeeping are:

- How to maintain a beehive once it's already set up.
- What beeswax is used for and why it's important.
- How to provide food for the bees if they aren't getting enough.
- How to make sure they survive in very hot summer months.
- How to safely work around bees without getting stung often or even at all.
- How to use a smoker to make sure the bees don't attack anyone or take up a defensive formation.



List is continued
on the next slide.

- Why it is important to always wear the beekeeping equipment properly when next to a beehive.
- What to do when bees are agitated, such as moving slower and not making any sudden movements.
- How to locate a queen if I can't find her in the hive.
- How to deal with any severe allergic reactions to bees if anyone allergic gets stung, such as using Epipens or calling an ambulance.



Research Studies

- How do we keep varroa mite infestations down inside the hives?
- How do we keep small hive beetle numbers down?
- What tools are needed for the beehive?
- How do we read the hive to make sure that it is healthy?
- How and when do we collect the honey?
- What equipment is need to collect the honey?



Agriscience Fair



- We plan to use the hives to perform educational experiments that can be used in the State Agriscience Fair in June.
- One of those is the differences in varroa mite treatments, natural vs organic vs chemical vs essential oils.
- Another of those educational experiments is studying how much honey can be stored in a honey super with 10 frames vs 9 frames vs 8 frames in a 10 frame box.
- We also have plans to use the beehives and test different Organic and natural ways to control small hive beetle and varroa mites with honey supers on the hives.



Extractor with frames inside.

Proficiency Awards

Because of this grant and having the availability of these beehives on school campus we will have FFA members who will be able to use these hives for different Proficiency Award Areas.

These Proficiency Award Areas not only earn students valuable information and knowledge of a skill, it also helps students earn money as well as teaching them a future career.

This grant has better served our students in this aspect because it has opened the door for students who may not have had this opportunity to have learned such a skill outside of school.

Opportunities that this grant has given us:

- One of the biggest opportunities that this grant has given us is the fact that it provides us with a very unique fundraiser.
 - The sales of the honey that is harvested in the spring and fall helps us to afford more equipment and tools for the beehives as well as feed to help the beehives thrive even in the toughest of conditions.
- Educational recruitment
 - Because this is such a unique opportunity it can be used to recruit new students that may have never considered taking an Agriculture class or never considered a career in beekeeping until they learned how much they enjoyed it during class because of this grant.
- Community Support
 - Not only has this been a unique experience for these students it has also introduced them to a whole new world of like minded individuals that love bees and love to help new people learn to be better beekeepers and have better bees.