

BEE A BEEKEEPER

Carson Mock

Age: 13

5827 W. 11290 N.

Highland, Utah 84003

Bees are to be kept at this location.

(801)-763-1123

jackichan1942@yahoo.com

I live in Highland, Utah where there are lots of beekeepers in my community. My mom was influenced by this, and quite fascinated about beekeeping. Previous to that, my friend had written an essay to become a beekeeper. When his bees arrived I was excited to go to his house to watch him put the bees in the hives. There was a problem. In the past, I was often attacked by wasps and bees. I had decided to rid myself of the fear I had for them. I needed to encounter them. As they put the bees into the hive I was surrounded by the little insects. I thought that for sure I was going to be stung, but I was wrong and quite happy of the outcome. I was no longer afraid of bees.

Afterwards, my mom got some bees. That got me fascinated too, and quite determined to become a beekeeper. As I watched my mom care for her bees she would tell me interesting little facts about them. After a while, I got to know quite a bit about them and would sometimes get to help her with them. I still wanted to know more, I just wouldn't tell anyone. When I get my bees I will be watching for their reaction to certain kinds of weather and temperatures. I would check to see if my queen is doing her job to plant eggs in the cells. I would check them every few days too see what is going on. I will know when they are laying eggs, because I will be able to see the little rice like larvae in the cells. I know that our plants depend on the bees for pollination, but what the problem is, is that they are slowly starting to decline in numbers. I have also noticed that our garden grows more abundantly and thicker with the bees to help us.

I will pay close attention to see if I can find any swarm cells. This meaning that they are possibly planning to swarm with the old queen to find a new place to live. I will also check for supersedure cells or new queen eggs. This meaning that the hive doesn't think that the queen is doing a good enough job. I would like to learn why they choose to forage in certain plants during different days, and about the hormone they set off when they sting.

Another thing that I want to know is how their communication works. I will keep all the information that I gather in a notebook. I will also do some research and find out how to keep them from getting sick. I will try to find out some ways to get sick bees better, and how to keep them safe and warm during the winter.

I enjoy learning about bees and am anxious to observe and study my own beehive.

There is much to learn as bees are fascinating insects. I know I will find great pleasure and satisfaction in raising my own bees.

Program Rules:

Equipment and Maintenance:

1. Bees, equipment and tools provided must be kept and cared for properly.
2. The participant and the Utah County Beekeepers Association will jointly own the bees, equipment, and tools until the conclusion of the program (one calendar year). At that point, they will become the property of the participant.
3. The participant agrees to pay any additional costs associated with the program.
4. If the participant moves from Utah or Salt Lake County or does not follow the provisions of this contract, they will forfeit their ownership to any bees, equipment or tools supplied by the Utah County Beekeepers Association.
5. The participant hereby acknowledges that the Utah County Beekeepers Association assumes no responsibility for any accident that may occur during my participation in the program.

Academic and Community Service

6. Participants will send a "Thank You" note to their sponsors and a copy of this letter will be provided to the Utah County Beekeepers Association.
7. Participants will supply two letters, i.e. June and October, to their sponsors indicating the progress of their hive. Follow the written requirement format.
8. Participants will supply at least two letters of progress, i.e. June and October, for the year to the Utah County Beekeepers Association. Follow the written requirement format.
9. Participants will attend at least three association meetings throughout the year (membership to the association is included for the duration of the program).
10. Two public speaking engagements which may include any of the following venues: association meetings, farm field days, county or state fairs, and/or school classrooms. Report given may follow the outline of the written requirement.

This contract is to be properly signed and returned to the Utah County Beekeepers Association by Friday, February 12th, 2010 along with the written portion.

Required Signatures:

Applicant: Carson Mock 2/08/10

Parent/Guardian: Talky Mock