

Kalamazoo County 4-H

Beekeeping Project Guidelines

Project Leader/Superintendents: N/A

Project Social Media: N/A

Project Objectives & Life Skills*

- Develop understanding of and appreciation for honey bees
- Learn to set up a hive and care for it throughout the year
- Learn to harvest honey and its health benefits
- Understanding how to support bee health

- Head
 - Keeping Records
 - Planning/Organizing
 - Goal Setting
 - Critical Thinking
- Heart
 - Communication
 - Concern for others
 - Cooperation
 - Sharing
- Hands
 - Leadership
 - Responsible citizenship
 - Marketable skills
 - Self-motivation
- Health
 - Personal safety
 - Stress management
 - Self-discipline
 - Self-responsibility

**note these life skills are just some examples of what 4-H members will learn in this project*

Additional Resources:

[Shop 4-H Entomology and Beekeeping Curriculum](#)
[Michigan State Beekeeping & Entomology](#)
[SW Michigan Bee Watch](#)
[Michigan Pollinator Initiative](#)
[Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones](#) (native plants)
[Bees in Your Backyard](#)
[Pollinator Partnership](#)
[Ohio State Beekeeping](#)
[Purdue Beekeeping](#)

[National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest](#)
[Beeswax Lip Balm Project](#)
[Pollinator Field Guide](#)
[Seed Balls](#)
[Processing Beeswax](#)
[Texas Explore Beekeeping Pdf](#)
[Colorado 4-H'er Owned Beehive Record Keeping](#)
[Purdue Beekeeping Unit 1, Unit 2, & Unit 3](#)
[Welcome to the Apiary! Honey Bee 4-H Project Book](#)

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Beekeeping

Guidelines:

- Members must attend at least 70 percent of hive checks in their area, and fill in hive observation sheets for each visit. Hive observation sheets must be kept and added into the 4-H'ers Beekeeping Educational Notebook.
- Members may only exhibit one item in each class.
- Members must keep honey from one hive separate in order to show in classes 5930-5936.
- Educational notebooks must be submitted on Still Project Day in order to exhibit and show in the other classes in this section.
- **No honey or product will be shown from diseased hives.**

Section ZD–Beekeeping

- Beekeeping Educational Notebook
 - The Beekeeping Educational Notebook is required to be able to exhibit in this section.
 - Notebooks must be cumulative and each year should be tabbed with the current project year in the front of your notebook.
 - This notebook must contain at least 4 hive observation sheets from the current project year, along with your research and study into one of the topics below. Topics must not be repeated.
 - How do you safely work around bees?
 - What kind of equipment is needed for beekeeping
 - How to choose and prepare an apiary location
 - How to keep a colony healthy
 - What effects do different flowers have on the honey
 - Name a disease bees can get, what signs to look for and how do you treat your colony
 - Name a pest that can get introduced into the hive, signs to look for and how to treat the colony for the pests
 - Different species how they are similar and different to each other
 - Why are bees important to humans?
 - What can we do to help bees?
 - Anatomy of a bee, hive, colony, apiary
- Extracted honey (Light/Amber/Dark)
 - Extracted honey must come from a single hive, and be extracted by the youth.
 - The honey should be filled to the base of the neck of the jar, not over or under.
 - Chunk honey should be in a wide mouth jar.
 - If you have chunk honey (comb in a jar) it must be distinguished from cut comb (comb only in a box)
- Honeycomb/spreads section
 - Creamed Honey
 - Chunk Honey
 - Spread Frame of Honey
- Beeswax single block
- Beeswax Jar Candle
 - Beeswax can be extracted by the youth or purchased from a reputable source and then properly made into a candle that is in a glass jar.
 - A single jar candle should be exhibited in this class.
- Beeswax Pair taper candles
 - Beeswax can be extracted by the youth or purchased from a reputable source and then properly made into the correct candle shape.
 - 2 taper candles should be exhibited in this class.

- Beeswax Pair Votive Candles
 - Beeswax can be extracted by the youth or purchased from a reputable source and then properly made into the correct candle shape.
 - 2 votive candles should be exhibited in this class
- Beeswax Novelty Candle (single or pair)
 - Beeswax can be extracted by the youth or purchased from a reputable source and then properly made into a candle.
 - Exhibits should be one or two novelty candles.
- Hand Cream/Lotion
 - Hand cream/lotion must be made from products that were extracted by the youth or purchased from a reputable source and then made into a hand cream/lotion by the youth.
 - Exhibit should be 1 hand cream/lotion in the correct style bottle for the type of product it is and be a minimum of 6 oz.
 - Ingredient list (page 5) must accompany the exhibit. Ingredients should be listed from most to least amount used.
- Soap Bar
 - Soap bars must be made from products that were extracted by the youth or purchased from a reputable source and then made into the soap bar by the youth.
 - Exhibit should be 1 soap bar.
 - Ingredient list (page 5) must accompany the exhibit. Ingredients should be listed from most to least amount used.
 - The project should be displayed in a clear closed container.
- Lip Balm
 - Lip balm must be made from products that were extracted by the youth or purchased from a reputable source and then made into a lip balm by the youth.
 - Exhibit should be 2 lip balms in the correct style of container for the type of product the youth created.
 - Ingredient list (page 5) must accompany the exhibit. Ingredients should be listed from most to least amount used.
- Baked Good (3 tablespoons honey)
 - Exhibit should be a baked good that has a minimum of 3 tablespoons of honey in the product.
 - A recipe card (Page 6) must come with the baked goods and the exhibit should be displayed in a clear container.
 - Judges will try the baked goods and then cut a portion to exhibit sending the rest home with the youth.
- Non-Cooked Food
 - Exhibit should be a non-cooked food that has a minimum of 3 tablespoons of honey in the product.
 - Recipe card (Page 6) must come with the non-cooked food and should be displayed in a clear container.
 - Judges will try the non-cooked food and then cut a portion to exhibit sending the rest home with the youth.

- Beverage (Non-alcoholic, $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon/12 oz)
 - Exhibit should be a non-alcoholic beverage that contains a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon of honey per 12 oz in the product.
 - Recipe card (Page 6) must come with the non-alcoholic beverage and should be displayed in a clear closeable jar.
 - Judges will try the non-alcoholic beverage at the time of judging.
- Display educational photos (minimum of 5)
 - The project should be a display of at least five (5) photographs that are educational to the public.
- Display educational poster or collage (22" x 28" max)
 - The project should be a poster or collage that educates the public on a part or parts of beekeeping.



Ingredient Card

Name _____
Project _____

Club _____

Age by Jan 1 of Current Year _____ Project Year _____

Exhibited Project: _____

Ingredients: _____



Ingredient Card

Name _____
Project _____

Club _____

Age by Jan 1 of Current Year _____ Project Year _____

Exhibited Project: _____

Ingredients: _____



Ingredient Card

Name _____
Project _____

Club _____

Age by Jan 1 of Current Year _____ Project Year _____

Exhibited Project: _____

Ingredients: _____



Recipe Card

Name _____

Project _____

Club _____

Age by Jan 1 of Current Year _____ Project Year _____

Recipe _____

Ingredients: _____

Directions: _____



Recipe Card

Name _____

Project _____

Club _____

Age by Jan 1 of Current Year _____ Project Year _____

Recipe _____

Ingredients: _____

Directions: _____