

## Floyd County Purdue Extension Column

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Gina Anderson

ANR/CD Educator

### Bee Excited

Spring is mere weeks away. It is hard to think of spring without thinking of beautiful flowers, sunny skies, and buzzing bees. With the count down on to warmer weather, now is the time to share some exciting news about a buzzing new program starting at the Purdue Extension Floyd County Office.

In a cooperative effort with the Spring Valley Beekeepers, Purdue Extension Floyd County will install two beehives on the lawn at the Purdue Research Park in New Albany. This is an exciting project because honey bees are fascinating insects, and their numbers are in decline. Honey bees are vitally important to our ecosystem. Did you know that honey bees are the only insects that produce food for humans? A single strong hive can contain approximately 75,000 bees during the summer, which is almost the entire population of Floyd County!

Once the bee hives are installed, a two year long class (Beekeeping from A-Z) will start where 20 people will learn how to maintain a beehive starting from the basics on up to advanced care. Some of the tasks include getting the honey bees established in the hive, checking for pests, and extracting honey.

Not only will there be hives installed, but a community wide pollinator event is scheduled on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Purdue Research Park, 3000 Technology Avenue, New Albany. This event is free to the public. Activities will include classes for adults that want to learn more about helping honey bees and other pollinators, classes for seasoned individuals who are already maintaining beehives, educational hands-on activities for youth, and lots of fun for the whole family. Mark your calendars now for April 30<sup>th</sup>! More information will be made available closer to the event.

Your involvement is vital to this program. If you are interested in participating in the upcoming Beekeeping from A-Z Class, contact me at the email address below. In addition, monetary support will be necessary to maintain the hives. Several levels of sponsorship have been created coinciding with the different bees that it takes to run a hive. Bees can be sponsored at a cost of \$100 for a Queen Bee, \$50 for a Drone Bee, and \$20 for a Worker Bee. All sponsorship money helps tremendously in purchasing the equipment for operating the hives throughout the year. Support of this project is also tax deductible. Any level of support is very much appreciated!

For more information about honey bees, please contact Gina Anderson ANR/CD Extension Educator at the Purdue Extension Floyd County Office, 3000 Technology Avenue, New Albany, IN, 47150, 812-948-5470, or email Gina at [gmanders@purdue.edu](mailto:gmanders@purdue.edu)

Sources used:

University of Missouri Extension: Beekeeping Tips for Beginners by Raymond A. Nabors

<http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G7600>

Utah county Beekeepers Association: Honey Bee Fun Facts

[http://utahcountybeekeepers.org/fun\\_facts.html](http://utahcountybeekeepers.org/fun_facts.html)