

Beekeeping



Internship

The Dyer Family Organic Farm, LLC, is seeking a beekeeping intern for 2017. The farm is a small certified organic farm in Northeast Ann Arbor specializing in garlic production. It includes a 10-hive apiary, a small (30-bine) hop-yard, two fenced family vegetable gardens, approximately 2 acres under tillage and 8-10 acres of open habitat. A recent traffic accident and a scheduled surgery have left both of the farm owners unable to meet the full range of demands for this year's production.

Beekeeping Intern. The ideal candidate will be aware of honey bees and interested in learning practical skills for beekeeping. Learning opportunities will include:

- mandatory attendance at a beginning beekeeping class (with tuition provided by the farm) and
- assisting the senior beekeeper while managing all aspects of an 8- to 10-hive apiary.

This will include construction and painting of hive components, bees-wax management and harvesting, recording field observations of individual hives, bee package installations, supplemental feeding, hive inspections, hive expansion, making splits, re-queening, varroa mite inspections and required management, honey harvest, honey extraction and bottling, lip balm preparation, hive preparation for winter, hive relocation, wildflower and nectar-bearing perennial plantings, and other aspects of successful bee-hive management.

This internship will require on average 16-24 hours per week at the farm with weather-related flexibility in terms of scheduling. The intern will be provided with a personal bee suit, gloves and a hive tool. The intern will build and paint a personal hive to be provided by the farm, stock it with bees provided by the farm, and manage it with guidance while assisting and learning technical skills in the full apiary. The hive and protective equipment will remain the property of the intern and may be moved to a different location after the completion of the internship.

The successful applicant will need to be proficient in all aspects of record keeping, be detail oriented, and have good communication skills, enjoying interpersonal interactions as the farm frequently hosts customers, volunteers, other interns, inspectors and many other friends. She/he must also be able to comfortably lift 50 pounds and work for prolonged periods on warm summer days. As the weather and bee colony activities dictate, there may be days with no work in the apiary, and the intern would be expected to apply time not spent on active hive management to equipment building and maintenance, assisting with our pollinator plantings, trail mowing and maintenance, and engagement with planting and maintenance of nectar bearing cover crops as well as some aspects of family garden work. These activities will provide opportunities for tractor and other farm equipment operation, if desired.

The Internship begins February 26, the first day of the introductory bee class, and will continue into October as the hives are prepared for winter. The last scheduled date for the beekeeping classes is October 1. The successful applicant must live in Southeast Michigan and have suitable transportation, as no housing is provided with the position. Bring your own lunch, but we typically eat lunch together as a group of everyone working at the farm on any given day.

Interested applicants should contact Dick and Diana Dyer by e-mail at prettygoodgarlic@gmail.com. Please let us know why you are interested in this internship, your relevant background and experiences, and your personal goals for the internship.

The Dyer Family Organic Farm uses a broad definition of the word family. Come and join our farm family while you learn the basics of beekeeping.