

Global Teen Challenge

Micro-Enterprise Project Overview

Project:

Honey Bees

Center Country and City/Town:

Seraphimovka, Kyrgyzstan

Briefly describe your fundraising project:

Honey Bees: we have 60 families of bees (Bee Hives) that when mature, will produce about 80 pounds of honey each year.

When did this project start at this site:

April 2009

Overview:

Honey is a natural sweetener that is high demand here in Kyrgyzstan. Also many honey producers will dilute their honey with sugar so quality is also a huge issue. Our goal is to produce natural, pure honey and sell it at a median price to gain market share and then increase production as we are able to increase sales. The profits from honey sales go to the operations budget of the program.

What is the role of staff:

Our Staff member who oversees work time and facilities assigns workers as need. When honey is taken from the hives, it is a labor intensive task that takes about six full work days.

What is the role of students:

It requires one skilled worker (student) and two semi skilled workers (students) and one unskilled worker(student).

How many hours of work per week are required in production/labor?

An average of 40 man hours per week. From late April through early September it requires one half time skilled worker and one helper. The work can be done in half day blocks except when harvesting honey from the hives.

How many hours of work per week are required in sales/distribution?

10 hours per week

Description:

How long it took to set up the project:

Two months

How long it took to produce a net profit: has not yielded a net profit in the first 7 months.

What is the estimated set-up or start-up cost?

\$13,000

What basic equipment and supplies are needed?

Bees, bee hives, trailer, frames, basic wood working equipment to service and maintain hives, pasteurizer, honey harvesting tools

What are the ongoing maintenance requirements?

During the summer, there is work to be done weekly. During the winter the hives need to be opened and checked every two weeks and syrup to feed the bees.

Income: \$4,000 in 2009 (year)

20% of overall budget earned from this project

Testimony:

Throughout the start up and first summer of this project God has strategically placed people to help us begin well. Having new hives constructed, purchasing used hives to be able to expand next year, having a student who has worked with bees previously, purchasing the original 53 families of bees... all of this has been an experience that has increased our faith as we have seen God move and work. In particular it was so encouraging to see our students embrace the project as they realized that they could learn new skills that would make them employable.

Why do you believe in this project?

This project provides real vocational training for students who want to learn the trade of bee keeping while yielding real profit that will help the operations budget to be met.

What things should other Teen Challenge Directors consider before deciding to do this project?

Location, breed of bees available, availability of other skilled bee keepers who are willing to help get the project started by providing instruction in one or two day blocks at appropriate phases of honey production, local market issues.

What are the biggest problems connected to this project?

The educational ramp up. It is imperative that the project director be able to put there hands to the work. There are decisions that are made through the season that must be made by the director and not students or junior staff. If you really don't understand or aren't willing to learn about bees, then you should not attempt this project. The project director must be able to do each phase of the work, and if needed be an active participant in the work.

If you were starting this project again what would you do differently?

I would gather all the necessary accessories two months prior to purchasing new families of bees—which happens at the end of April, first of May.

What is the Marketing Strategy for your ministry?

Sell quality honey at a median price in a package that is a little bit nicer than others are using. Also we are working to develop a reputation for honest measure and pure, undiluted honey.

Please provide Contact Information for the person at your center who knows most about this project:

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Global Teen Challenge

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A PowerPoint is available which goes along with this document. You can locate it at the website: **www.iTeenChallenge.org**

Go to the “**Resources**” section and select **R07: Sustainable Funding Solutions** and then select this project for additional information and free downloads available.