



The Managed Mentoring Program on getting started in beekeeping.

# Managed Mentoring

**The Beekeeper's Corner Program on getting started in beekeeping.**



# Managed Mentoring

Bringing Bees into the Community

Lesson | Being Good Neighbors



# What is Covered in this Lesson

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Placing Bees

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Respecting Setbacks

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Adherence to Regulations

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Avoiding Contentious Situations

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Planning Colony Flight

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Being Neighborly

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Alternative Hosting Options

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# Placing Bees

**Taking a moment to consider the impact of bringing bees into a place where they were not.**



# Placing Bees

Honeybees are everywhere we live

## □ Bringing Bees into a property is a conscious decision

- *When you make the choice, you introduce something into the landscape in a scale that was not there before.*
- *This requires some consideration / evaluation*
  - Bees are not domesticated, and part of their existence is to seek resources, to forage.
    - They will not be constrained to your property
  - As such, it is wise to stop and consider how they will impact the ecosystem around you.



# Proximity and Competition

## Some considerations:

### ■ Proximity

- The truth is some situations are not conducive.
  - *Proximity: Too small, wrong placement (incorrect environment)*
  - *Not Suitable: Risk of pesticides, or other challenges.*
- Do not let your eagerness overrule what is evident to be a forced situation.
  - *Purposefully evaluate and choose a suitable situation.*

### ■ Competition

- Consider the proximity of other beekeepers
- Consider the impact to native pollinators; other insects



# Respecting Boundaries

- **Ensure a safe space**
  - Common sense dictates that you keep your bees at a distance from others
    - *You are choosing some risk when keeping insects that sting; neighbors and bystanders are not.*
  - Follow setbacks or simply institute buffers
    - *It is highly likely that there are regulations that dictate a minimum boundary or setback.*
      - Research what they are and ensure adherence to the minimums.
    - *Do consider locating the apiary (bee yard) in the middle of the space and exceed the recommended barriers*



# Adherence to Applicable Laws and Regulations

- **Learn the laws and regulations**
  - In the U.S. there are federal, state, and local regulations for livestock and keeping bees.
    - *Every State has a website that outlines the regulations as they apply to beekeeping.*
    - *In NJ, the regulations are governed and enforced by the NJ Department of Agriculture.*
      - Incidentally, they are not governed by local municipalities
      - As such, it is not recommended that you seek guidance in NJ at the local level.
      - It is recommended that you follow the Guidelines for keeping bees and the regulations as set out by the NJDOA.





# Adherence to Applicable Laws and Regulations

- **Take the time to learn at the start**
  - Difficulties with hosting bees are often complicated.
    - *It can be complicated dealing with situations as bees are usually acclimated to their location.*
    - *Learning or adjusting after they have been established is sometimes a complicated proposition*
  - Protect Yourself
    - *Some laws are in place to aid in commerce.*
      - They address the sale of honeybees, and inspection for disease. Know them so when you purchase you can be an informed consumer.
    - *Consider going to your state association first.*
      - They are well versed in the landscape of regulatory issues



# Plan for Flight Paths

- **Route your bees in the best way**
  - Part of being neighborly is understanding where your bees will fly
  - Bees often fly toward the sun or open sky
    - *Think of where they will fly...*
      - Will they fly over your neighbor's pool or patio?
      - Will they be flying over a nearby sidewalk?
      - Will they be flying over, and pooping on automobiles
      - Employ barriers (Flyway fences) to direct bees up and over, if applicable.
  - Be neighborly and do not force a situation.
  - Consider the adage: Out of sight, out of mind.



# Considering your neighbor relationships

- **Relationships vary**
  - The first thing to consider is that people have different notions about bees; and that they are stinging insects
    - *Some who may be the most rational individuals you interact with react negatively when it comes to phobias about bees.*
  - Make a disclosure decision: open, moderate, or closed
    - *You can decide if it is right to openly share your plan to keep bees on the property*
    - *No matter what your plan is however; safety comes first and if there is a risk to family or neighbors, the right thing to do is to take the high road.*



# Considering your neighbor relationships

- **Discretion**
  - Reactions to news of a neighbor deciding to keep bees runs the gamut.
    - *Some are thrilled and welcome the prospect.*
    - *And some truly feel threatened and disdain the presence.*
    - *You should weigh the perceptions on a case-by-case basis.*
- **You are within your rights but consider:**
  - A bad neighbor relationship does not get better with added friction.
    - *Bad situations sometimes blow up, causing scrutiny on local/municipal levels for other beekeepers.*



# Alternative Hosting Situations

- **When the situation is not ideal**
  - Some relationships can be tempered with education, and/or time without incident.
    - *Be aware of the risk and that at any time some event could rekindle concerns. Will you have a plan for this?*
  - Consider an out yard, co-op or other arrangement
    - *If your neighbor situation is not a good one, alternatives exist.*
      - Many property owners are willing hosts to hives and word of mouth often yield results with little effort.
    - *Adopt a hive option.*
- **Last word, Strive to be a good neighbor**
  - Often honey and fellowship go a long way.



# Being Neighborly

## ■ Final comments

- Being a good steward of bees, especially as it relates to your neighborhood is about awareness
  - *Consider the impacts and make the right choices.*
  - *Educate yourself on the biology of the livestock in your care and learn the behaviors and patterns of bees in a location*
  - *Follow recommended practices, adhere to guidelines, and take the high road when it comes to your choices.*
- Use the opportunity to promote beekeeping and pollinators
  - *In time it will be likely that you will become known as the resident expert in the neighborhood*



# Closing Comments

- **Customary Close**
  - Where we stand, where we are going...
    - *This lesson closes out some of the consideration for keeping bees in your neighborhood and being a good neighbor.*
    - *Our next topic moves to ensuring you are right with the regulations in your locale.*
      - A primer for **Adherence to Regulations**
      - Recommendations for your **Apiary Design**
      - Specific guidance on **Hive Placement**
      - Installing Bees – **Package Install** & Installing Bees – **Nuc Transfer** Install



## Q&amp;A

- **What Questions did we not anticipate?**
  - If you have feedback, you can leave a constructive comment; but be nice.
  - You could also send an email to [comments@managedmentoring.com](mailto:comments@managedmentoring.com)
    - *Please refer to this video in the subject so we know what the reference is.*





