

Student Worker Job Listing

Job Title: Student Research Technician

Category: Field Research Technician/beekeeping

Job Location: Less than 15 miles from Ames

Job Pay: \$16 dollars/ hour, 30-40 hours per week

Job Start/End: The job will begin on May 12th, and ends November 24th 2024

Job Description: If you've ever been interested in learning how to become a beekeeper, or increase your beekeeping skills by working with over 100 different colonies, this student beekeeping assistant position will be a great fit for you! During your time with our team, you will learn how to find and mark queens in both large and small colonies, how to arrange frames to keep colonies growing and strong, and how to provide treatments against colony pests to keep our honeybees healthy! The work period will cover the entire beekeeping process, from installing new colonies from packages, to setting up our colonies at their field sites, and finally harvesting the honey at the end of the season!

You will also learn how to extract the honey that is harvested from the field sites, and will have potential opportunities to learn how to bottle the extracted honey as well. Additionally, there will be opportunities for other kinds of research work, including performing floral counts and surveys of flowers native to Iowa inside of prairie strips!

The project that you will be working on alongside the rest of the bee team is a study observing how honey bee colonies grow on sites that beekeepers use compared to colonies kept on strips of

native prairie, and if there is a difference in the amount of honey created. To answer these questions, we will be weighing each colony twice a month, and performing inspections on a subset of colonies at each site. Most of the work required for this position will be from these site visits. Additionally, between weeks where colonies will be weighed, the field sites will be evaluated to see how many flowers are available near the colonies, as well as what kinds are at the field site.

Most of the work associated with this position will be performed outside, and many of the fields the work will be done at are outside of Ames. However, all workers will meet at the Horticulture Research Station in Ames before we head to our field sites in order to utilize trucks provided by the university which will be more suited to our fieldwork. Finally, as we are working with live honey bees, all workers are at risk of being stung, and personal protective equipment and sting training will be both required and provided.

**Job Skills /
Requirements:**

Undergrad students currently enrolled at ISU with an interest in working with live honeybee colonies. Additionally, must be willing and able to lift and carry at least 50 pounds. Must be willing and able to be stung by honeybees.

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