

**Community Grants Program
Grant Report**



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Agency Name: UNR Extension – Douglas County

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Project Name: In the Valley Hive

Grant Funding Amount: \$2,200

Project Completion Date: September 31, 2022

Describe how the funds were used to serve Douglas County residents.

Douglas County community grant funding was used to support the outreach and education of the Douglas County Beekeeping Program by the Extension Office.

Specifically, the funds were used to purchase supplies to make puppets, make puppets (in-progress), build a puppet stage, and purchase some educational and outreach materials to supplement the puppet show.

Describe how the organization measured the success of the program/project. Provide qualitative and quantitative measures.

We do not yet have any measurable data to report yet. However, we anticipate by this fall we will have all the pieces in place to begin using the puppet show. Our anticipated audiences are school/youth groups and civic groups. Additionally, we have been sharing *In the Valley Hive* with other beekeeping groups to utilize and present our puppet show at upcoming winter meetings and trainings.

Puppet making is a much more complicated task than originally anticipated and is taking longer than we expected to complete. However, most of the puppets have been completed and the final four are all in progress. Nearly every puppet has required some form of modification to meet our unique needs. For example, the puppet pattern was a human. I created several modifications for the queen bee, the worker bees, the drone, the ant, and the mite. Additionally, for the bear we had to make ears, and for the skunk add a stripe of white down the back. They will be very special and customized puppets.

The progress on the puppets is as follows:

- Farmer/gardener: repurposing an existing puppet from another puppet show
- Queen bee: complete
- Drone bee: complete
- Worker bees (4): complete
- Pollinator flowers (2): complete
- Yellow jacket: complete



- Bear: complete
- Varroa mite destructor: in progress. All pieces have been cut and sewn, needs to be put together.
- Ant: in progress. All pieces have been cut and sewn, needs to be put together.
- Skunk: in progress. All pieces have been cut and sewn, needs to be put together.
- Beekeeper: Body is assembled, determining how to attach his bee veil.

Additionally, a rough outline of the script for the puppet show has been developed. We are excited about the humorous spin that will accompany the educational aspect. For example, there are two brothers, one is a farmer, and the other is a beekeeper. Their names are Paul and Nate Err (pollinator). Paul and Nate are the lead characters and will help guide the stories.

Provide any changes or challenges to the original project plan and how it affected the project.

As was mentioned previously, the process of making puppets is more tedious than anticipated. There are multiple steps of cutting, gluing, sewing, reinforcing seams (more sewing), and then adding the various modifications. The puppet maker is double stitching seams and zig-zagging them to ensure the puppets will last for many years.

I have been assisting the puppet maker as my schedule allows so we can move forward on the process more quickly. We only have more work session until we are done!



Queenie has a longer abdomen than the other bees. Additionally, her crown and sparkly necklace let us know that she is hive royalty.



Flora, as a forager, is responsible for collecting the nectar and pollen. As a result, she loads up her pollen pants (attached yellow on her side) and carries it back to the hive.



Greta, as a guard bee, protects the hive from intruders. She places herself at the entrance of the hive and will let unwanted guests know they are not welcome inside her hive.



Natalie, the nurse bee, is responsible for caring for the brood, or the baby bees. She helps to feed the brood, clean out cells, and make sure that future generations thrive.



Tish, the mortician, is responsible for cleanliness in the hive. She carries out dead, sick, and/or diseased bees. By keeping the hive clean, she helps ensure that the rest of the hive stays healthy and strong.



Jeffery, the drone, is the only male inside of the hive. His bigger body size and eyes set him apart from the workers (other female bees). His only job duty is to mate with virgin queen bees, ultimately resulting in death. Until then, he enjoys being fed by the worker bees, and being able to move from hive to hive.



Grizz Beary is considered a predator for beehives. Bears go after the brood (baby bees), looking for protein. Unlike Winnie the Pooh, honey is not their main goal. However, Grizz can be kept at bay with good fencing and guard dogs.



“YJ” may look cute, but she can decapitate honey bees in search of food. She can rob a colony of their honey stores and kill the bees in the process. Many beekeepers put out traps to catch YJ to keep their presence low.



Violet is a flower who loves her honey bees. She provides nectar and pollen to the bees, which are needed carbohydrates and protein that the bees take back to the hive to make food, like bee bread.



Starla also loves her honey bees and wants to remind everyone to plant a variety of flowers, shrubs, and trees. It is important that the flowering plants bloom from early spring through late fall, offering honey bees a food source for many months.