**Deer Creek Apiaries CSA Member Agreement**

# Member Agreement for 2018

Beekeepers Contact Information:

**Deer Creek Apiaries**

**56 Boxthorn Rd**

**Abingdon, MD 21009**

**443-643-6678**

**deercreekapiaries@gmail.com**

Member Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We wish to provide you with the opportunity to help save honeybees by partnering up with us in the ownership of a beehive and bees. Honeybees are the only insects in the world that make an excessive amount of food for their colony. Humans have been harvesting the honeybees’ excessive stores for well over 4,000 years.

In the last thirty years, wild and colonized honeybees have struggled to maintain their populations due to a massive loss of natural habits, overuse of pesticides, extreme weather changes due in part to global warming, and invasive diseases and the infestation of parasites that honeybees don’t have the natural defenses for.

This agreement outlines our shared commitments to the relationship between beekeeper and customer.

# Section 1. Introducing Our CSA Apiary.

## A. Becoming a Part of Our Apiary.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship between our apiary and you, our customer. Rather than simply purchasing our honey, our customers become yearly “members” of this CSA apiary and are part owners of a honeybee colony, thus enjoying a portion of the apiary’s honey crop and bee’s wax.

Our CSA runs for 24 weeks, from April to September. Members will be provided a hive box and are encouraged to decorate them with paint and their family name. Honeybees are highly intelligent and have an incredible memory. They are able to travel up to five miles away to search for nectar and pollen and they can remember how to return to their apiary. However, if there are multiple hives located in the apiary, we can help them find their hive effectively by alternating the color schemes of each hive. Once we receive back your painted/decorated hive box, we’ll place a colony of honeybees inside. We will make periodic (bi-monthly) inspections of the hives and will post photos and observations of the condition of the colony living in your hive box on a monthly basis via our Facebook page and website. We offer you an opportunity to suit up and in one of our bee suits and visit your hive in person, once per season.

Our Black Locust spring honey is usually ready to harvest in August, and you can expect to receive four (1) pound jars. However, if the nectar flow is strong during the season, you may receive up to six jars. Additional jars can be purchased for $9.00 each. In addition, we’ll include one 4 oz beeswax candle made from the wax capping from the frames we extract the honey from.

## B. Our Beekeeping Practices

The nectar of our honey comes from the Black Locust tree, wildflowers, and blackberry bushes. Parasitic insects are a huge issue and are one of the main reasons for the decline in the honeybee population in North America. To combat the high Varroa Mite infestation, which can decimate honeybee colonies, we inspect our hives and only treat with approved FDA treatments when necessary.

## C. The Products We Expect for 2018

The chart below outlines what you get with your CSA.

|  |
| --- |
| **Expected products**  |
| (4) One pound jars of honey  |
| (1) Four ounce beeswax candle (1) Hive box to paint/decorate |

# Section 2. Our Shared Commitments

## A. Sharing in the Risk of Crop Failure

We promise to do our best to provide you with a bountiful share of our season’s honey crop. Seasonal nectar flows and honey crops are largely out of our control. The length of a seasons, climate temperatures, rainfalls, damage due to parasitic insects, and how often local farmers use pesticides, all can help hinder a colony’s honey crop. In joining our CSA, you are agreeing to share the risk of crop failure with us and other members. In the unlikely event that your honeybee colony dies or fails to produce honey, our procedure is as follows:

We will re-populate your hive with another colony of bees and nurse them to a size that they can survive the following winter. Additionally, we’ll provide you honey from another hive from that same apiary that did provide a substantial honey crop.

## B. Sharing in the Reward of Honey Crop Surplus

In addition to our CSA, we also get revenues by selling honey to businesses and individuals. Additionally, we also offer paid pollination services to local farmers. When we have met our minimum honey requirements to you, we sell our surplus to buyers to meet our revenue requirements. If you would like to buy additional honey beyond the four bottles that come with your CSA, they may be purchased in person at the wholesale rate of $9.00 per one pound bottle. If during a given season, we have an exceptionally abundant honey crop, we’ll pass on some of that surplus honey to our CSA customers by giving you several additional bottles of honey.

## C. Sharing our time

We offer a rare opportunity for you to spend up to one hour visiting and observing your hive with us at our bee yard. We’ll give you one of our bee suits and you can watch and even assist us as we conduct a bi-monthly inspection of the colony’s health. Bring a camera to document the event and sample the honey the bees are curing! We observe bees hatching, watch them bring in pollen, and locate the queen and observe her in action. We encourage you to get curious and ask us all the questions you can think of. We are passionate about beekeeping and enjoy talking about it.

# Section 3. Picking Up your hive box and Shares

You are responsible for picking up your shares at our base of operation, unless other arrangements are made in advance. Once we have bottled our honey and made the wax candles, we’ll contact you to provide you with dates when you can come and pick up your shares.

# Section 4. Member Fees

By selling membership in advance of the growing season, our CSA reduces the burden of up-front costs for the apiaries. Your membership fees provide us with money to purchase replacement equipment, perform costly parasite treatments, and most importantly, the fuel to visit and inspect the five apiaries we operate and inspect bi-monthly, all over Harford County. We appreciate your commitment to our CSA and our bees.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YOUR FULL NAME** | **Number of hives to sponsor** | **Cost per hive** | **Total cost** |
|  |  | $120 |  |

Please enclose a check for your total amount due, made payable to Todd Cichonowicz with this signed agreement form. By submitting an agreement form, you are agreeing to pay the membership fee for the share(s) you indicated above.

# Section 5. Communicating with Us

The best way to communicate with us is through our email address deercreekapiaries@gmail.com. Our phone number is 443-643-6678 and the best times to reach us are after 6 pm. We will do our best to respond as soon as possible, but please understand that we have full-time jobs and spend our early evenings inspecting any one of our colonies in our five remote bee yards.

Please contact us with any news of the following: changes to your contact information, comments or questions, or dissatisfaction with our products.

All official communication with you will be by email. When you sign up, you will be added to our distribution list and we encourage you to follow us and the progress of your hive via our website, www.deercreekapiaries.com and on our Facebook page Deer Creek Apiaries.

By signing below, I agree to purchase the membership share indicated in Section 4.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_