

Robert L. Henderson

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Bee Breeder with over 10 years of experience in commercial queen production and apiary management. Proven track record in developing VSH (Varroa Sensitive Hygiene) genetic lines and maintaining a 95 per cent overwintering success rate across 2,000 colonies. Expert in grafting, instrumental insemination, and large-scale pollination logistics.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Lead Queen Breeder | East Anglian Honey Co. | Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Mar 2018 - Present

- Managed the grafting and production of over 15,000 high-quality queen bees per season.
- Pioneered a breeding program focusing on Varroa Sensitive Hygiene (VSH) traits, reducing chemical treatment costs by 22%.
- Supervised a team of 6 technicians in the daily maintenance of 3,500 nucleus colonies.
- Coordinated the logistics for shipping queens to over 200 commercial clients across the UK and Europe.
- Maintained a 98% customer satisfaction rate based on queen acceptance and performance feedback.

Senior Apiary Manager | Fenland Pollination Services | Cambridge, UK

May 2013 - Feb 2018

- Directed migratory operations for 5,000 colonies for top fruit, oilseed rape, and borage pollination contracts.
- Improved winter survival rates from 72% to 91% through the implementation of a proprietary supplemental feeding protocol.
- Oversaw the diagnostic testing for AFB and EFB, successfully keeping the entire operation disease-free for five consecutive years.
- Negotiated pollination contracts worth over £700,000 annually with local fruit growers.
- Reduced fuel and transport costs by 15% through optimised route planning and load balancing.

Bee Breeding Technician | Heather & Hill Apiaries | Inverness, Scotland

Jun 2010 - Apr 2013

- Performed daily hive inspections and documented queen performance for 800 colonies.
- Assisted in the production of 5,000 lbs of varietal heather honey per season.
- Executed mechanical mite treatments and tracked efficacy through alcohol wash sampling.
- Facilitated the setup of breeding yards to ensure proper isolation for purebred mating lines.
- Trained 4 seasonal interns on basic colony management and identification of queen cells.

EDUCATION

University of Reading | Master of Science | Agricultural Sciences (Apiculture Focus)

Sept 2008 - May 2010

Harper Adams University | Bachelor of Science | Agriculture

Sept 2004 - Jun 2008

SKILLS

Larvae Grafting, Instrumental Insemination, Queen Cell Incubation, Swarm Management, Nucleus Colony Creation, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Disease Diagnosis, Genetic Selection, Microscopic Nosema Analysis, Mite Population Monitoring, Forklift Operation, Migratory Beekeeping, Honey Processing Equipment, Regulatory Compliance, Inventory Management

CERTIFICATIONS

General Certificate in Beekeeping | British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) (2015)
Telehandler Operator Licence | CPCS (2019)

LANGUAGES

English (Native)
French (Fluent (C1))

ACTIVITIES

Bee Farmers' Association

Regular guest speaker on sustainable queen rearing techniques and genetic diversity.

National Bee Unit Volunteer

Contribute annual colony loss and management data to help nationwide research efforts.