

Oral History Collection

Rebecca Lance

Interviewer: Willow Lance

Date: April 29, 2024

Place of Interview: Unknown

Willow Lance: Hello, my name is Willow Lance. It's April 29th, 2024, and I'm here interviewing Rebecca Lance about her honeybee farm. So, if you just want to introduce yourself a little bit.

Rebecca Lance: Okay. I'm, of course, Rebecca Lance. I'm 45. I'm a mom of three. I have a 17-year-old, 20-year-old, and 24-year-old. I have my first grandbaby on the way. Oh, I picked out my name as Grandmother, it's going to be Honey.

Willow Lance: Oh okay! [laughs]

Rebecca Lance: So, I'm excited about that. And yeah, I've worked in the automotive industry for about 9 years. So, I've been a finance manager, and I just -- I decided that I wanted a hobby, I guess, for the first time, really.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebecca Lance: So, I wanted to do honeybees because it was something I wanted to do a long time ago when all of my children were really young and little, and I researched it a little bit back then I just didn't have the ability to have the land or the setup that

I wanted to do. So, I've been having it on the back of my mind.

Willow Lance: Right, because I remember our phone -- our phone name was named Rebecca's Honeybees.

Rebbeca Lance: Yes, I actually started to try to get all the business, everything put together back then --

Willow Lance: Right

Rebbeca Lance: -- but I just wasn't able to pull it off, so.

Willow Lance: Yeah, yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: So yeah, so I have them now. And I -- I named my brand this time Dancing Bees Elixir.

Willow Lance: Okay. Is there a reason why?

Rebbeca Lance: Uh yeah, actually. So, when I first started doing a little bit of research, more about them recently and I found out that the bees will fly up to a couple miles away --

Willow Lance: Hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: -- to look for patches of flowers and -- and whatever to gather their -- their pollen and whatnot. And when they fly back to the colony, they actually do a dance to explain to the other bees

where this patch of flowers was that they found.

It's up to two miles away.

Willow Lance: Yeah!

Rebbeca Lance: So, they danced around giving directions.

Willow Lance: [laughs] That's so cool!

Rebbeca Lance: And that's how the other bees know by their
dance actions and movements where to fly around to
find those flowers at.

Willow Lance: Okay!

Rebbeca Lance: So, I thought that was so cool.

Willow Lance: Yeah. Yeah, that's so interesting. So, is there
like a specific reason why you've always wanted to
do bees? And specifically, like honeybees.

Rebbeca Lance: Um well, I just I -- I just for some reason it
just struck me as interesting --

Willow Lance: Yeah, yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: -- and I remember actually watching a -- a
movie actually. I think it was *Fried Green Tomatoes*
--

Willow Lance: Okay

Rebbeca Lance: -- and she goes out and they're at the picnic and she walks out and she finds bees, honeybees, in a tree -- in a hollowed out tree. And she gets the honeycomb out of there and gets the honey and her friend calls her a bee charmer. And I remember being terrified and so intrigued all at the same time that she had bees all over her, she wasn't getting stung, she was getting the honey out, and just the idea, being a bee charmer. And I was just drawn to that. And I was like, I want to see if I can do that.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And I'm not afraid of bees, where people kind of run and get scared of them.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: I've been stung before, but just for some reason they don't bother me.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So the idea of just golden sugar and having something sweet and neat and it just -- I don't know for some reason -- well and also too, you know, I have my flowers and I've always wanted a

garden and the bees are really important to you know, cross pollinate or to do different things to help that grow. And at the time I was also looking at doing pumpkins and pumpkin patch stuff and everything. I was looking at land.

Willow Lance: Ohhh.

Rebbeca Lance: And they're really good to have both your pumpkin patches and your bees together because it helps to pollinate everything to help have a stronger uh harvest, so --

Willow Lance: Okay, I didn't know that.

Rebbeca Lance: It was something that I was kind of looking at just as kind of side, extra income that I thought I might actually be able to accomplish and still enjoy.

Willow Lance: Right. Right. Right. So you mentioned how this was kind of a lifelong dream, but when exactly did you start being able to actually have the honey bees and -- and take care of them and everything?

Rebbeca Lance: Well, last year was my first time.

Willow Lance: Mm-hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: And I've actually been talking about it for a while with, like, my parents.

Willow Lance: Mm-hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: And, um -- but they decided they wanted to do it too, which I thought was really neat, because now it's going to be kind of this family thing --

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- that -- and then my sister got involved and she wanted to do it too. And I work a lot of hours.

Willow Lance: Mm-hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: And so they had classes that you could take, but they were on Saturdays. And I always work Saturdays.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: I can't get out of the auto industry on Saturdays. So they actually took the class and they actually would come back and tell me stuff. And so --

Willow Lance: Okay. So, you didn't go to the class at all.

Rebbeca Lance: I didn't go to the class, but it was really kind of neat that this was something I wanted and

I initiated and then my parents got on board, my sister got on board and then they actually took the extra step to take the class so they could come back and tell me what was what.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: So, it was really a special kind of family involved --

Willow Lance: Yeah, that's nice.

Rebbeca Lance: -- bonding experience that we're all still king of learning as we go together and so I got my first uh hive of honeybees and my box last year. But I had to keep it on his property because we lived in town.

Willow Lance: Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: And um so that was, you know, I didn't get to still be a part of it.

Willow Lance: Mm-hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: And then we finally moved out to the country.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So, it was really exciting but by the time I
did the move and I was able to get my boxes, they
had gotten infested.

Willow Lance: Oh, okay.

Rebbeca Lance: My bees abandoned. They -- first, they
abandoned and flew off.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Sometimes it will happen if they're under
threat or if the queen wants to leave or another
queen comes about and takes over, or if they get
too large for the hive, sometimes they'll go find
something else. And because I didn't live close by
--

Willow Lance: Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: -- and I wasn't there every day checking on
them, or every week or whatever. I think that it
kind of - just didn't happen.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And then my box got overtaken with moths and
mites and different types of bugs.

Willow Lance: Oh, okay. And normally if you catch it in time, you can treat it or you can be preemptive and treat for certain things in certain seasons if you know they're going to happen. I know that now. Yeah.
[laughs]

Rebbeca Lance: [laughs] So, it's definitely been a learning experience. And um, I tried cleaning it because sometimes if you catch it early and if you can clean them and treat them, there's certain ways to treat them. But mine was so overtaken and I cleaned it and cleaned it and cleaned it and I couldn't get it right. I got so frustrated I actually burned it in a bonfire. And I -- I painted that. I spent so many hours. I got a wood burner, and I decorated the whole -- all -- the whole hive with all of the -- this wood burn art design --

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- I was really proud of it. So that was really sickening and disappointing.

Willow Lance: Yeah. [laughs]

Rebbeca Lance: But -- so, I just got all brand new setups and this year I got 2.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Um so, I'm going to try it again.

Willow Lance: Okay, yes.

Rebbeca Lance: Now last year I did get my first harvest
though, so I do actually have honey.

Willow Lance: Okay, okay!

Rebbeca Lance: I do have honey and what's really odd about it
is that my hives were -- were a few feet away from
my father and my -- my parents, and then a few feet
further were my sister's hives. And when we
harvested our honey, mine tasted different than
theirs.

Willow Lance: Okay, interesting!

Rebbeca Lance: Mine had and -- and I didn't even know that
they could do that.

Willow Lance: Yeah, right.

Rebbeca Lance: And my sisters, especially hers, had more of
a citrusy flavor?

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And mine had more of a warm kind of earthy
flavor, like it was sweet, but it was -- I can't
exactly explain the flavor --

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- but it was distinctively different.

Willow Lance: Okay, do you -- do you know like why?

Rebbeca Lance: No, we really can't know why --

Willow Lance: Ahh.

Rebbeca Lance: -- because we're like, obviously we would
assume that they were all probably travelling into
the same area.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: They were in the same market for the same
flowers, so I can't imagine why it would be
different.

Willow Lance: Interesting.

Rebbeca Lance: But it was -- it was really neat.

Willow Lance: Yeah!

Rebbeca Lance: and I'm sure there's a reason why that somebody
that is experienced would be able to answer --

Willow Lance: Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: -- but I didn't know that. But it was really -- it was really interesting. But theirs, their hives produced more honey than mine did, which also kind of caught me off guard, too, is because when you first get your bees, we would take our boxes up there. And they would put the bees in them for a period of time to get them acclimated and they would start to build like their honeycomb and the hive up. And mine was thriving.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Mine was just almost overrun, it was thriving. It just took off. And definitely in comparison to my parents or my sister, so I just knew my honey was just going to be abundant --

Willow Lance: [laughs]

Rebbeca Lance: -- and it was really odd too, that when we did our harvest, I probably had the least amount of honey than they did.

Willow Lance: Interesting.

Rebbeca Lance: So that wasn't something that I can say "Oh, you know, that automatically means you're going to

have more," or maybe they just were like, we're not producing much for this lady because we're fixing to book it out of town anyway.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Oh no.

Rebbeca Lance: [laughs] So I don't really know, but -- Yeah, yeah. So that happened.

Willow Lance: Okay, so the -- what are kind of like the steps to starting the -- the honeybee stuff because you said how it sounds like you get the box first and then you go get the bees or kind of...?

Rebbeca Lance: Yes. So well, the way we did it, you can buy the box separately and then you can buy the bees separately and then put them in your box, right?

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Um, or you can order it to come with the bees inside the box.

Willow Lance: Oh, okay, okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And I ordered mine to come inside.

Willow Lance: Mm.

Rebbeca Lance: So, the first go around, we actually built our own boxes.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So we got the kit and it was uh -- it was
interesting to do.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And of course, at the same time, my aunt and
my cousin also had honeybees and boxes that they
got to do on their property.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So, they came over my sister, myself, my
parents, my aunt, my cousin -- we were all in the
shop just tinkering away building boxes.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Mm-hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: And it was a very tedious and grueling, and I
found out [laughs] after the fact that you could
get them pre-built for you for like 30 bucks.

Willow Lance: Ohh [laughs]

Rebbeca Lance: [laughs] and it took us like a whole day. But
at the first time around, when I did that, we got
our boxes first and I was able to paint them and
decorate them.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: Um, because there's -- there's three layers,
and so the bottom one in the brood box. When we
built it, I was able to paint it first, go turn it
back in, then they put the bees in.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: This time when I got the box, it already had
the bees in it.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So it's a little different, this go around
than it was last go around. I got 'em from the same
place, but they did it differently. But it was
definitely worth the extra 30 bucks --

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- to have them build it.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: I will say that right now, I'll probably never
build another one again.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So you get the first box, the brood box, and
it's the one that will be on the bottom. So if
you're ever driving down the road and you see bee

boxes stacked up, the one on the bottom is where the Queens at.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So you start out with that one first, and that's the one your bees come in, and then you're going to have more boxes you stack on top, I have two more that stack on top, and they come in different sizes. You can get them where they're a little bit shorter --

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: -- or you can get them a little bit taller, more full size. It really just kind of depends, it's a personal choice, I think. Um based on the very little conversation I've had about it.

Willow Lance: Right. [laughs]

Rebbeca Lance: Because I thought I was getting the -- the shorter ones because that's what I got last year. This year they gave me the taller ones --

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: -- and the way it was explained is they'll just um make more, and we'll have more space to

fill. The reason to get the shorter boxes that you stack on top of the brood box, which has all the starter bees and everything in it, is because it gets real heavy with honey.

Willow Lance: Ohh.

Rebbeca Lance: And so they're harder to lift.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: But I also -- I guess that would mean there's more space to fill more honey in.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: So, I guess it's just a personal choice. So, um, this year we got them and we set them out. They need to be in full sun because I really had a pretty little spot under the tree with the branches hanging over and the flowers- I wanted to tuck them in this little nook and I was told I couldn't do that. [laughs] So, that -- that definitely took that idea. So, we put them out on the far South Acre -- actually, North Acre of the property and in a completely open area. Nowhere near trees or shade or anything, and really the furthest point from the house.

Willow Lance: Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: So, like for example, yesterday my mom was out. She was just working in her garden, but they have their bee boxes on the other side of their garden and it was early morning and they're not as active in the morning.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So, she thought that was a safe time, but she has allergic reactions to them --

Willow Lance: Ohh.

Rebbeca Lance: -- and one had stung her on her face next to her eye, and the whole right side of her face is swollen and her eyes swollen shut and she's in a lot of pain, so.

Willow Lance: Oh my goodness.

Rebbeca Lance: With the grandbaby coming and all the kids running around out here, we wanted them kind of in the furthest corner that doesn't have any of the greenhouses or chicken coop or garden or pool or anything.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: We don't want anybody really actively messing around out there unless we're intentionally out there for a reason. So. But they need to be in full sun because they need to stay warm. I got two different kinds this year.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: I got one box that has Texas -- they're called Texas 5000.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And the information on those is specifically that they will produce more honey.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: They're hardier.

Willow Lance: That's nice.

Rebbeca Lance: But they tend to be more aggressive.

Willow Lance: Hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: And then I got the other ones which are the Golden Cordova. I think they're Tian Golden Cordova, specifically, and they produce a little bit less honey, they're not as hardy, but they're more docile.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Um, I know, I don't remember if it was my dad
or someone else, who said that he couldn't tell
the difference from one to the other.

Willow Lance: Oh.

Rebbeca Lance: So, I don't really know, but I decided I want
to try one of each. I wanted to see if they did
behave differently, if they withstood the
challenges the same or differently, if they -- the
honey tasted different, I don't know.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: So, I decided to try one of each since I'm new
to see which one direction I might lean towards
moving forward in the future, but eventually what
happens is -- you have a queen that's in that box
and in the beginning, right now, we've attached an
extended little contraption that kind of goes on
the front of it that's got sugar-water in it.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So, it really -- it kind of helps supplement
them in the beginning 'cause they've got to get
acclimated to their new territory, find out where

their flowers that they're going to want to go to,
they need water sources constantly.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Um, and then -- so, you kind of help them boost
because the boxes themselves um -- oh my gosh,
what's it called? There's a term for it, but --
and it's gonna come to me in a second because I
need to say it -- it -- it's slipped my mind, but
think of it like, um, there's -- you got the box,
you got the four walls, and you got the bottom and
the top.

Willow Lance: Mm-hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: Inside of the box, there is about 10 panels,
kind of, um -- oh my goodness it's going to bother
me -- but the top of these wooden bars and you can
slide it -- you can pull them upwards -- out and
inside it'll be this mesh.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Okay, and it's like a screen and it's got the
mesh -- it should -- So it's like a wax.

Willow Lance: Ohh.

Rebbeca Lance: And it's already kind of pre shaped, very lightly -- it's very thin, very light, pre shaped kind of in a honeycomb type shape.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And so, you got ten of these in there. So, when you want to check them, you can lift each one individually out, and you can check the screen to see how much are they really growing on the honeycomb? How much are they adding the honey to it? How productive are they being? So, you can pull them up individually. And I noticed last year when we did that, certain ones of them, maybe towards the center, would be heavier and more fulfilled -- more filled than the ones on the outside, or vice versa. So, um -- so the beginning stages really you want to help give them an extra boost with the -- the sugar water. And it's crazy how much they go through really quick since we brought them home. Basically, you'll do half and half. So like if you have a gallon of water, you're going to get rid of half of that water and then fill it up with um -- the rest of the way with sugar.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And you want to heat the water up a little bit, so it helps dissolve the sugar easier. And we filled out, it's like a mason jar, it's turned upside down, it's got holes punched into it.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So, you put your really thick sugar water in there and they just lick on it and it drips down into the little tray. And so, what they do right now is -- is they take that screen, with all those little wax honeycombs, and they're just building bigger honeycomb.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So right now, they're not collecting honey and they're not creating honey. Right now, they're just -- they're -- they're working hard to build, basically the foundation. And, of course, the queen's in there and they got to take care of the queen. Eventually, the -- once they get that established is when they'll start to -- then start producing and making the honey. And then as it grows, that's where you start adding those -- the second and the third box on top, because now they need to expand.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And they need to grow up into it. And those
top two boxes are where you're going to get your
honey --

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: -- because the queen is going to stay on the
bottom and she's going to lay her eggs. And so you
basically are going to have four different types
of bees. You're going to have -- and predominantly
the bees that run the joint are all female.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So, uh, the queen will lay the eggs -- so you
got your drones, which are male. Their only purpose
in existing is to reproduce. And they even get like
the garbage honey and the garbage feed. They don't
even let them eat the good stuff.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Oh no.

Rebbeca Lance: [laughs] Yeah. Yeah. They don't treat them
very good. And then they die. So that's pretty much
their purpose. That's it. And then you have your
worker bees that basically -- their job is to just
constantly build the honeycomb.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And process the honey and everything. Then you have, um -- you have your other set of bees that their sole purpose is to tend to all of the eggs and the queen.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And then you have your bees that go out in search of the flowers for the pollen and everything with that --

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- and bring it back. Um, so -- um, yeah. So that's basically kind of just the hierarchy of it. Now, it's the worker bees, though, that decide when the queen is no longer in reign.

Willow Lance: Ohh.

Rebbeca Lance: So, if she stops producing or doing her job to their liking, they're going to start tending to one of those eggs, more specifically.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And they're going to pick which egg -- they're going to pick which one is gonna -- gonna become their new queen.

Willow Lance: I did not know that. That's cool.

Rebbeca Lance: Yeah. So, they're going to nurture this and then -- this queen -- and they're going to decide that it's time for the old queen to move on.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And they'll kill her. And then they'll put the new queen into action.

Willow Lance: Interesting.

Rebbeca Lance: And then bees only have about a two-week lifespan.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: And so, the reason is -- is because when they fly around their wings get so tattered from the wind and the rain and the elements that they just eventually their wings start to tatter and tear up -- that they just fall on the ground and lay there till they die.

Willow Lance: Ohh.

Rebbeca Lance: Yeah, it's pretty sad. Or when you have to lift a box up to check on the honey, and they always want to crawl around, and we set a box down, they always get squished.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Ohh no. Does -- does the queen also only have a two-week lifespan? Or is that just the ones that go out?

Rebbeca Lance: No, she'll live longer.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: I don't actually know how long she lives, so that's a good question. I need to figure that out.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: I don't know how long that lasts, but if the queen decides to move on, the colony will follow her.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: So, if the queen gets out and flies away, they will all leave wherever they're at and follow her wherever she goes.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So, there's that.

Willow Lance: Yeah. Is there like -- any, like, specific reasons that she would ever want to leave? Like I know you mentioned earlier how you had an infestation so that's like, obviously, one --

Rebbeca Lance: Well, and sometimes infestation doesn't happen till the box is empty too --

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: -- especially with the moths and things. If you have a strong hive and you then get mites, or something like that, sometimes they can take care of 'em.

Willow Lance: Right, okay that makes sense.

Rebbeca Lance: And take care of themselves. Um so yeah, so that's kind of the basic starting, beginning point.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: So um, what's your next question?

Willow Lance: Um, earlier you mentioned these classes that your sister and your parents would go to. Is that required to get bees like to -- do you have to have, like, a license of some sort or can really like anybody just go and get bees?

Rebbeca Lance: Anybody can go do it.

Willow Lance: Really? So, the class isn't needed. It was just something that you guys decided to do for extra -
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Rebbeca Lance: We decided to do it and then, you know, I'll be really honest -- and it could be very specific to the place that they went.

Willow Lance: Mm-hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: And my dad is very studious. My, my parents, they're very research, you know --

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- people, inventors, creators, they -- they perfect everything that they do all the time is kind of their thing.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: They were actually falling asleep in the class.
[laughs]

Willow Lance: [laughs] Oh no.

Rebbeca Lance: They struggled; they said it was painful.

Willow Lance: Really?

Rebbeca Lance: Because the person I think that was teaching it was very slow and not energetic and I think just kind of droned on a lot about certain things that I think that probably classes somewhere else would have been maybe more beneficial.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: I think it was probably the place that they chose to go.

Willow Lance: Maybe.

Rebbeca Lance: Um, but -- but I think that most of the research we've gotten there or obtained, we got online or from books.

Willow Lance: Okay, okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And watching videos -- and the other thing too that you have to keep in mind is there's a million different opinions on how to do the same thing.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: And it's almost overwhelming because everybody's got opposing opinions on it, but it's working successfully for each of them individually.

Willow Lance: Right!

Rebbeca Lance: So, I don't think there's an exact science to it.

Willow Lance: Right. There's no one way.

Rebbeca Lance: I think it's about finding what works for your bees, what works -- and it's also in your climate, so like, what? Bee -- I'm going to call them bee charmers. What beach charmers would do in Texas are going to be completely different than Michigan.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: Or New Yo[rk] -- it's going to be dependent on the climate when your harvest is going to be different based on the weather and the temperature and the times, you know, everything. All of these things play a factor, so you have to also make sure that when you're doing your research, you're following local people.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: And people that are established in it and reading books that pertain to your location.

Willow Lance: Yes, yes.

Rebbeca Lance: So that's extremely important. And that's something that we kind of discovered over time.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So yeah. But I would advise anybody to get that started because even though they said that, they probably still gathered some necessary information, that really helped kind of jump-start it for them, so.

Willow Lance: Yeah, yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: But I didn't go to the class, so that's the only opinion I can give.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Right.

Rebbeca Lance: Is the one I heard through gossip. [laughs]

Willow Lance: [laughs] Yeah. Um, do you remember the -- the name of the place you got your bees and your -- your setup from?

Rebbeca Lance: Yeah, it's called the Bee Supply.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And what's really amazing about it is there's an actual -- it's, it's located literally right down the road from where I live.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: It's an actual store- so you can order everything online.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And there's a lot of places I'm sure you can order stuff from, but they actually have it and you can go in and they have a little store. You can buy all of the accessories, all of the things you need, you can order your bees. We went and picked up our bees on Friday, actually.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And put them in the back of the truck and drove home with them.

Willow Lance: So -- so these bees that you have now are like really recent?

Rebbeca Lance: They're very recent.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: I've only had him for a few days.

Willow Lance: Okay, okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So yes, the -- the new set that I have is very recent, but it's neat. So, got all of the proper

gear and everything, because when I was going to my dad's I was using his equipment --

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- and now I'm getting my own setup so that's really kind of neat too.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So yeah, but we got ours from the Bee Supply and they're very knowledgeable and they're excited to share their information --

Willow Lance: [laughs] That's good.

Rebbeca Lance: -- like they're -- it's like when you go to places and people are really into what they do.

Willow Lance: Yeah, that's- that's always a good sign.

Rebbeca Lance: So that -- that's nice because they'll talk to you for hours if you need it.

Willow Lance: Right, right. So, you just mentioned the -- the equipment, so what kind of equipment is needed?

Rebbeca Lance: Um so, right now, to begin with, of course we got the -- the jars for the sugar water, so that was extra things that we got to add on to the box and then we got -- and this is just what I've seen

everybody do, this is what we did is, you know, obviously went to Home Depot, got cinder blocks to raise them off the ground.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Make them higher. And then there was like a tool because everything starts to get real sticky in there.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So, when you want to pull out your sleeves, and I'm going to call them sleeves because for whatever reason the correct term is left in my brain --

Willow Lance: [laughs] That's all right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- but there's this metal tool that's got a hook on one end -- there's two -- there's two hooks, so one of them's kind of flat and chiseled a little bit, it's metal, and then the other end hooks, and it's probably 10 inches long, I want to say. And so, you use the flat end to separate your tray sleeve things that they do the honeycomb and the honey in. And then you turn around and flip it

and you put your hook under the bottom of the top bar, which is wood, to kind of pop it up.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So that you can then grab it and pull it out and you can inspect what they accomplished. If they're ready to harvest it, they need to have more time. If you need to inspect for mites, or if you need to inspect for certain things.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And so, got one of those. They have a brush that they'll give you to like, brush off your bees. Like what I was talking about, you set your boxes down, it squashes them the second you dust them off, there's more crawl out and you just it's inevitable. So that ended up being a little useless.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: In our opinion anyways, and then we have a smoker. We have a smoker that we put like shavings in uh, sometimes like hay shavings or you can get like little cedar wood chips or whatever. So you can go to the feed store or the tractor supply and

get a bag real cheap. And it's -- it kind of looks like a tin can kind of like an oiling can kind of thing.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: It's cylinder and it kind of comes out to this point a little bit at the top. And you can pump it -- so you set everything on fire, but you just get it smoldering and then you go out there and when you want to mess with your bees, you're going to pump it and it's going to shoot smoke out of the top of the cylinder and you're going to smoke your bees and it calms them down.

Willow Lance: Okay, so it doesn't -- it doesn't hurt them at all? None of them have like died from it?

Rebbeca Lance: No, no, no, no, no, it's not harmful to them on any level at all. But it's calming to them or shoos them away.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: They kind of will keep their distance, but they don't get really aggressive. So one of the things that's really good that we would do is we would team up so to the one person -- because if

one person's handling moving the boxes and lifting the lids and pulling out the different trays. They can get aggressive, so it's good to have somebody standing next to you that's constantly pumping the smoke out --

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- and you just kind of -- like I would notice if Dad was doing it, they would start kind of swarming around him, I could start pumping it on his legs or his arms, and then it would clear them out from his body.

Willow Lance: Okay!

Rebbeca Lance: Or if they were sworn around the top of the box, when you lift the lid off to start messing with the inside -- inner workings of it, you could pump it across the top and it would calm them down and kind of clear them out from the top so you could work without them being in the way. So, and of course, they never just leave. There's constantly still be swarming around you.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: Constantly, but they tend to not be as aggressive and it's not always going to calm the situation. Sometimes you get them on the wrong day or the wrong attitude, or I don't know, there's an inner civil war and you decide to show up in there or something. [laughs] They're going to, they're going to sting you and attack.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And you'll hear different people that talk about it. They're like, "Oh, I go out all the time. I don't even put on any of my protective gear. My bees don't have problems." And then they're like, "I don't know what happened today. We didn't do anything different. Everything was normal and they just attacked me." So, you have to be really careful -- is that even the most experienced people --

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- can go out to their bees. that they mess with on a regular basis, that they act pretty calm around them and then all of a sudden they're agitated and they're going to start to attack.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: So, we tend to, it's better to wear clothes
like jeans like overall something that's not tight
on your skin.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Because they can still puncture through your
clothes and get you.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Especially if they start attacking you a lot
and then even if you're not allergic to them, too
many stings can become harmful.

Willow Lance: Well, yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: If you know it goes really, really South really
quick. So you, you know, we wear mud boots and we
wear loose clothings. I always had my overalls or
something like that. And then we have these gloves.
Um, that go up like you pull them up and they go
past your elbows and they got elastic, so they're
tight. And then we were like bee hats.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: With the screen kind of mesh that comes around
down to the shoulders. Some people like to wear
the full suits.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And the full suits are really good, like if
it's cold outside.

Willow Lance: Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: But here, in Texas, you walk out with one of
those suits and you're gonna be laying out on the
ground next -- because it's hot.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Yeah, yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: Yeah, it overheats you in a heartbeat.

Willow Lance: Okay. Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: So we don't wear the suits. Uh, just because
we found it to be extremely uncomfortable. And kind
of more difficult to do what you need to do just
because you're just dripping sweat and dying and
everything in there, so kind of distracts you from
what you need to get done and get it in to get out.
But that's kind of what we do with that. Then
there's other things like when you want to get the

honey. So when we harvested last year, it's this big barrel, what we got, and I'm sure that they have different contraptions that you can use. We have this one particular one. And it's got -- it's hollow on the inside to a sense and uh think of it like a big metal cylinder that's on a stand and it probably comes up, so I'm 6 foot tall, so it probably comes up maybe to my belly button a little bit higher at the top of it. And it's probably, I want to say maybe a foot and a half to two feet across. Okay, so it's circular, so there's these hooks on the inner wall that when you take your sleeve -- your trays out that have the honeycomb, we first would put it over like a 5-gallon bucket and you put a strainer, and you want to have a strainer, but you'll -- you get it -- there's a certain knife that's so that you get, it's one of the tools, I'm sure different people use different things, very sharp and very flat and you're going to cut down both sides of the screen where they build the honeycomb and you're going to cut off that top layer. Because it's kind of sealed the honey in and when you do, you'll just start seeing that honey pour out.

Willow Lance: Okay, okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So then after you kind of open that up -- and
then they have this other tool that's kind of like
a comb, it's prickly, it's pronged and you kind of
scrape down as well to kind of break it up.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And then we're going to slide it inside the
cylinder that's got the hooks on the inner wall.
And you're going to place all your sleeves in
there. I think you can fit 4 to 5.

Willow Lance: Mm-hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: And then you close the lid on the top. And
it's got a handle that spins in a big circle around
the top.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Of the lid that you close and what it does is
it starts to catch momentum and the cylinder starts
to spin really fast.

Willow Lance: Oh.

Rebbeca Lance: And it starts to sling the honey out inside
the cylinder. And so honey is just flying all

inside. And it's kind of just the force of the spin. It's sucking it out to the walls.

Willow Lance: Right. Okay, okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And then it runs all the way down to like a point in the center underneath the bottom of the cylinder.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And then there's a spout. So it kind of goes flat, I guess, the spouts at the bottom and then you're also going to open your spout up and you're going to do it over a strainer into a bucket, or your containers you wanna use. And then there goes your honey.

Willow Lance: Wow!

Rebbeca Lance: And that's how you get your honey out.

Willow Lance: Okay, I never knew that. I never knew there was like another contraption that you used. I don't know. I -- I don't know what I assumed people got the -- how they got the honey out.

Rebbeca Lance: Yeah. Yeah, I don't guess you don't think about it cause you just see people that are like

honeycomb and jars and then like -- then the honey will fall out of the honeycomb.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And you can. So, we were trying it so we'd eat some of the honeycomb.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And it's like eating wax. You don't really chew it and swallow it. I mean, I'm sure some people do. Because you sell honeycomb, people eat.

Willow Lance: Yeah. Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: And I think they get it a lot of times for medicinal purposes?

Willow Lance: Hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: I've heard of people that get that will order honeycomb and, like, rub it on their scalp to help their hair grow. You know, they can make, obviously, people make candles, lotions, different types of things. So, all the properties are really beneficial. We don't like to tear our honeycomb out, because that means the bees have to start all over.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: Not even just reproducing more honey to harvest, but to rebuild the honeycomb.

Willow Lance: Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: So you back track your bees a little bit if you take out the honeycomb. So we don't want to do that. We just want to break it open and sling that honey out and then put them back inside the boxes and let them continue working on what's kind of remaining leftover.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: Of course, and then you just jar it. You know ours is raw. We don't treat it. We don't put anything in it. And you have to be really careful, there's a lot of different places that treat it or mix it with water or do stuff to it and that's not pure honey.

Willow Lance: Oh okay, but the raw honey is safe to consume. Like, there's no need to put any?

Rebbeca Lance: No.

Willow Lance: Oh okay.

Rebbeca Lance: There's no expiration date on honey.

Willow Lance: Right. Okay. Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: It never expires. So like when people get their honey and they see that it crystallizes, it gets kind of crunchy and gross looking in the bottom of the bottle. There's nothing wrong with that honey, if you go boil water on your stove or do a double boiler and you just set your little bottle of honey in the water and it'll heat up and melt the honey and it turns right back into your golden clear honey.

Willow Lance: Oh, wow. Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: Yeah. So it never goes bad.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So you can do that and then of course, I haven't done this yet, but people will get the pollen and they actually will use the pollen in like teas or warm water or whatever. Um, for two reasons, because it helps well, it helps with allergies.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: People that have allergies, it helps them if they want a more holistic path to allergy medicine, basically, instead of taking actual chemicals or things over the counter. And that was the other thing is that we've all been trying to, you know raise cattle and eggs and the garden, and we're trying to go into more --

Willow Lance: Self-sufficient.

Rebbeca Lance: Yeah. We want to have a more holistic, natural -- we don't, we don't give anything to the animals that's not natural or antibiotics or preservatives or anything. We don't put anything in their food or give them the extra unnecessary antibiotics or anything like that. So, we're trying to go that route. So that was the other thing with the honey for natural sweetener and for allergies and stuff like that. So, the honey is really good to buy local honey. Because if you have allergies that are local to the plant life that you're around, if you consume the honey from that area, eventually you can help fight that off.

Willow Lance: Okay, that's interesting. So like when we get imported honey from other states or something, it's not gonna to work for you as well.

Rebbeca Lance: It won't have the same effect for you. It will still taste good, it's still good for you. There's nothing wrong with it, but it's not going to have any type of medicinal benefit to it.

Willow Lance: Okay. See, I never knew how you could have a medicinal benefit.

Rebbeca Lance: Mhm. So it's really good. So if you have allergies, which I have allergies, you know, we have different family members here that sneeze and have allergies all the time. So when they start eating the honey that we get off of our own farm.

Willow Lance: Mm-hmm.

Rebbeca Lance: With our own surroundings then we're really interested to see --

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- how accurate and true this really is.

Willow Lance: Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: Because we read about it, but experiencing it firsthand and being able to stand by it is something completely different, so I'm excited to see how well that works out.

Willow Lance: Yeah, yeah, that's so cool. Um, I guess another question I have is just kind of like how much time and money does it take to start this up and to keep it up and to do this type of thing.

Rebbeca Lance: So it -- investment in anything is always investment. So, I can say that I didn't spend that much time last year on mine, but I wasn't there, so this year you know, some people go check on their hives weekly, some daily, some check on them once a month.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: You know, so it's really going to be dependent again on the person. Everybody has different opinions on what works best.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So it's just about finding, you know, maybe you just want to go look at them, you want to go see their progress.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: Maybe you want to check more regularly for mites and things. I know that this is the hard part for me is people that are really experienced, they can find the queen. They know what the queen looks like. They know how to find it. They can tell if there's another up-and-coming Queen. If they want to pick and choose they can pinch one off. They're like Okay, because sometimes it'll divide a -- because sometimes it will divide -- Uh -- a colony also.

Willow Lance: Ohh.

Rebbeca Lance: And so if they don't want to run the risk of their colony flying away, they have to make a judgment call. And I was talking to a lady at the bees supply store that she did that and I was like, I wouldn't even begin to know which one is the queen.

Willow Lance: So, haven't seen your --

Rebbeca Lance: I mean, there's thousands of them in there. I don't know which ones which.

Willow Lance: Right. Because I always thought that the queen bee always had, like, a distinctive, like she was bigger or something. Is that like a?

Rebbeca Lance: Well, yes, but when they're all buzzing around in there and I'm still kind of getting used to just how the functionality and the inner workings of it, I'm not, I'm not able to just look in there be like, oh, boom, there she is or oh, look, there's a baby queen coming up that looks like she's fixing to cause mutiny. I don't know how to tell --

Willow Lance: [laughs] Yeah

Rebbeca Lance: So, uh, but I want to say the two setups -- That I got 2 brand new setups, 2 brand new colonies of bees, I got the smoker, I got the two hats with the nets, the two sets of the gloves, I got the tool to separate everything and lift out, and I got -- what else did I get?

Willow Lance: Do you have your own like honey separators thing?

Rebbeca Lance: I don't have the honey separator, so that will be something I'll buy when it's time to harvest or I'll just use, you know, Grampy's. But I want to

say that this probably cost me, in all, probably about \$1400.

Willow Lance: Really?

Rebbeca Lance: Yeah.

Willow Lance: Wow.

Rebbeca Lance: And last year I bought a bunch of bottles with lids.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So that was another. You know, I mean, I bought a bunch, but probably about 300 bucks.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So, it's an initial investment. Now if they stick around and they last they -- now I have everything.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So the idea is, is that I won't have to reinvest in any of this stuff again. Now the honey we- we harvested, I hoarded mine. I gave some away to like friends and family because I didn't know when I was going to have another harvest and I

didn't. I wasn't quite ready to like deplete my supply. But my sister, she sold her honey.

Willow Lance: Okay,

Rebbeca Lance: And I want to say, I think the 8 oz she did for like 8 bucks, 16 ounces, 16 bucks,

Willow Lance: Okay

Rebbeca Lance: And she put all of hers out on her neighborhood Facebook page there was just literally the -- the few blocks in her neighborhood. She sold out of her honey within a few hours.

Willow Lance: Wow!

Rebbeca Lance: And she had people like reaching out wanting honey that she'd had to turn away.

Willow Lance: Oh my goodness.

Rebbeca Lance: So, it's something that if you start growing and you get more hives because the goal is, is that we eventually want to, you know, get more hives, larger quantities of honey, expand that -- expand the garden, and expand the other things we're doing and start going to farmers markets on the weekends and selling it and having fun with it and just

having it more of a family -- because right now, you know, Maddie, your sister, she's working on the farm with me. So she's helping me get -- have all this come to fruition while I work full time.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So that's the goal. The other thing that a lot of bee farmers do is they rent their bees out to place -- so you'll have big plantations, like in California, or big huge farms and other states that they will rent bees. And so you ship them to them and they put them on their farms and the bees will fly around and pollinate and cross pollinate all of their fruits and vegetables.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: And then you pack up your bees and you ship them back home. And now you get them back with honey.

Willow Lance: Oh, that's cool.

Rebbeca Lance: And then you can harvest the honey and talking to the Bee Supply people, they said that they probably made just as much, if not more, money

renting out their bees to farmers than they do making off the honey. So you can do both.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: So now you can rent your bees out, get them back, and then you can harvest the honey and sell the honey.

Willow Lance: Right. Well, then renting the bees. I feel like is kind of like -- I bet it makes you feel good because like, you know that you're helping somebody like make their farm strong and- and like helping you know the environment and food production and everything like that. So you're playing a part in that by renting your bees out.

Rebbeca Lance: Well, what it shows you is -- is how of a prominent fixture of the importance of having bees are to the farm industry, to the food industry, to the production for -- to keep supply going for the populations and there was a really scary time where they were continuing to talk about the decline in the bee population and how that would actually affect everybody in a very negative way.

Willow Lance: Yeah, yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: And so for everybody, whether your heart -- a hobby, a person like myself, or you decide to grow into a company that's larger than life, you know it's all extremely essential to continuing the processing and ability to have food made available to people.

Willow Lance: Yeah, yeah, for sure. These have always, like, I mean, growing up, you're always taught how important bees are and everything. So it's just, it's like interesting that even as just a hobby, just so you can get some honey like, you know that like your bees are going to go out and pollinate flowers and plants and trees, and all of that, just to come back home and produce you some, some honey. I mean, that's super interesting.

Rebbeca Lance: Uh-huh. Well, what it is they when they fly back and they have the pollen, they get it on their back legs. And if you look at them, sometimes it's yellow, sometimes it's pink, sometimes it's red or orange. It depends on what flowers they go to.

Willow Lance: Oh okay.

Rebbeca Lance: So it's not always the same colors and then they have the bees inside that will process it and

then they basically, I don't know, like they eat it and regurgitate it. I don't know what it is, but it's an enzyme inside their body that actually turns it into honey.

Willow Lance: Okay, yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: And the prime honey, the super prime stuff and the super prime, the best of everything gets taken on the set aside for the queen and the eggs.

Willow Lance: Okay.

Rebbeca Lance: The worker bees, the drones, everybody, there's different tiers and levels of what they get to be allowed to have, but apparently they can tell the difference between or they have special bees that regurgitate better honey.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Ohh, okay.

Rebbeca Lance: I'm still learning about all that, but yeah. So it's really interesting. So for now it's a hobby. I'd like to eventually turn it into something that we get to sell at farmers markets. If it's something we really enjoy and we find that we can grow it, then we'll grow it. And turn it into something more if there's a higher demand for

the honey, the one issue that I've heard people saying they don't like sending to other farms in other states is because you do run the risk of losing your bees, they either leave the hive or they get infested with something and you're not there to monitor it.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebecca Lance: So there is a risk involved with sending your bees in someone else's care.

Willow Lance: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Rebecca Lance: So that's the thing. But apparently, it's very lucrative to those that are used to it in the sense of whatever this makes money doing. The other thing is, is that you get to use it as a farm exemption or tax write-off on your property.

Willow Lance: Ohh, okay!

Rebecca Lance: So when people will have cattle or farm animals, farm -- livestock.

Willow Lance: Mhmm.

Rebecca Lance: Which you may essentially need 20 acres, or 30 acres or more acreage because you only allowed so

many animals per so many acres or whatever, where you could put honeybees on your property, and now you're done.

Willow Lance: Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: And now you get the same -- you get the tax exemptions.

Willow Lance: Ohh.

Rebbeca Lance: So for people that own land, it's beneficial for that reason alone to have honeybees on their property.

Willow Lance: Right, Okay. I did not know that. That's cool. Yeah, that's so interesting.

Rebbeca Lance: Yeah.

Willow Lance: So to kind of finish out our interview here, I'm just going to ask you kind of some just basic general questions about how do you imagine or see the future availability of food, specifically honey in Texas. Do you have any concerns about it? Any opinions? Anything at all like kind of the future of food production or you can talk specifically about honey?

Rebbeca Lance: Well. I mean. Try to be diplomatic here. I mean, I'm a conspiracy foil hat-wearing, you know person. So I really think that we need to be very careful and tread lightly with how we're producing our food.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: What we put in our food, what chemicals we're using to preserve our food, And that's one of the things I really like about the bees is it's just pure.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: It's very simple. It's very natural. It's very pure. It's good for you. Now one of the risk you run -- it doesn't matter how healthy you choose to produce your food or your livestock or anything, you run the risk of chemicals that are- that people use to keep bugs away --

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- to keep things from losing their crops. And it gets into the system. It gets into the water systems, it soaks into the ground, it soaks into

our food. It goes -- cycles through the air with
the rain. So, at some point --

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: -- I think that we're going to get beyond a
point of repair with that because it's going to be
in everything, everywhere. It's going to be seeped
into everything and the time that it would take to
make everything pure again. Now the hard part is,
on the flip side is if they don't use that, they
can't mass produce.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: Because they run the risk of losing crops and
they run the risk of not being able to provide
enough food to the population. And -- or, have it
last long enough, cause most food you know doesn't
last as long as it is when it goes to the grocery
store, right? They've added stuff to it to make it
last longer. So -- but we don't all have local
farmers that we can trade with or go to or have
accessibility to these things. I think if more
people in the community were choosing to try
different things like let's say you live next door
and you did eggs, and then the neighbor on the

other side of you did tomatoes, and the neighbor
on the -- I mean, if everybody had something that
we could all kind of interchange maybe.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: If the community or more individuals maybe
came together, I think that that would be very
interesting.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: I love that idea of communities coming together
and exchanging goods.

Willow Lance: Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: Or -- or even selling it to each other, but
having something that's, you know, fresh and
immediate -- It tastes different.

Willow Lance: Right, yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: It just it -- it's something that's naturally
grown in your garden, a tomato will taste
completely different than a tomato from the grocery
store.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And you'd be shocked at how different it is.

Willow Lance: Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: So I really like that idea. I really hope that
enough people can come together and make that
happen. That's my hope for the future.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: But the food industry is a beast --

Willow Lance: Yeah, for sure.

Rebbeca Lance: -- and it's going -- it's a freight train, and
the rest of us are still kind of doing the horse
and wagon kind of right style, you know, so it's
definitely hard to compete with. So I'm just going
to do my little part and, you know I -- this --
these bees may abandon me too.

Willow Lance: [laughs] Yeah.

Rebbeca Lance: [laughs] And I might get infested with moths
again, and I may lose it all again, and I may be
completely unsuccessful.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: But I'm not going to stop trying until I've
just exhausted every opportunity that I can to see

if I can make it happen because it's something that I want.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And I want to see how far I can take it, and it may just be something that I give to friends and family and just enjoy with my neighbors, or maybe something I grow into a business.

Willow Lance: Right.

Rebbeca Lance: And we're just, I used to try to make everything into "How can I turn this into a business?" and this is the first time I said I'm going to do this purely because I just want to.

Willow Lance: Right, right.

Rebbeca Lance: So each step I take in the growth of that is going to be a personal choice for me. If it's something I want to do and if I don't I won't. But I think that it's important for people in the Community to take these steps.

Willow Lance: Right, yeah, yeah. Well, thank you so much for doing this interview with me today and for talking about your bees. I had a lot of fun and I learned a lot of things. So, thank you very much.

Rebbeca Lance: Yeah, this was fun!

Willow Lance: Yeah!

Rebbeca Lance: I didn't realize I had to have so much to talk
about. Well. [laughs]

Willow Lance: [laughs] All right. Well then I guess that is
the interview. Okay. Well, thank you. Yeah. Course.

[End of Interview]