

HIDDEN VALLEY HONEY

Vendor: Karen, Chris, Ethan and Alyssa Foster

Location: Reno, NV

Vendor Since: 2002



For the Foster Family, beekeeping is a huge part of their family life. They are busy bees year-round with all the work that goes into the honey-making and beekeeping process. March through October are the busiest months while winter gives them time to catch up, but Karen Foster says that keeping the bees happy means they always have something to do.

In addition to the Sparks Farmer's Market, Hidden Valley Honey is also a vendor at the Saturday morning market in Carson City during the summer months. Foster says she enjoys the Sparks Farmer's Market because it draws in a lot of people which gives her homeschooled kids, Ethan and Alyssa, a good chance to interact with people and improve their communication skills. The entire family is involved in the market, and they love coming out to meet with the community.

"We want people to come and meet the whole family," Foster says. "It's a good time."

One of the best attractions that keeps people coming back to the Hidden Valley Honey stand year after year is the observation hive they bring to the market. Foster says the kids love to stop and look at the bees, and it gives the Foster's a chance to educate people on the life of bees and process of beekeeping.

"We get a lot of people who stop and ask questions," Foster says. "We get to educate people on a variety of things like Colony Collapse Disorder which has really had an impact in recent years."

Karen and Chris Foster have been raising bees since 1997 and, along with their children, are constantly working on growing their business along with their kids who learn the ropes of the business at the Sparks Farmer's Market. Foster says it has been fun to watch her kids grow up in the market.

Hidden Valley Honey Market Items: honey, honeycomb, honeystix, candles, soap, lotion, lip balm, and aromatherapy items