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# *Sharing SBLA Success Stories*

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## **Langenburg Success Story**

### **Glory Bee Honey – Dennis Glennie and Janine Meyer, Owners**

In 1997, Glory Bee Honey decided to spread its wings and fly. Since then, Glory Bee Honey has found success in the hives, which began with the help of the Small Business Loans Association (SBLA) program. Dennis Glennie and Janine Meyer decided to try the honey business after a positive conversation with some friends who were in the business. They found a building in Marchwell that was equipped with waterworks and enough space to house the bee boxes. Dennis and Janine decided that they would purchase the old Boundary Auto Body building.

Glory Bee's financing came from the SBLA program, overseen by the Yellowhead Regional Economic Development Association. They borrowed the initial amount as a down payment for a larger bank loan and took out a second loan through the SBLA program to buy more boxes and expand last year. Janine commented about the SBLA program, "If they hadn't been willing to lend us the money, we wouldn't have been able to obtain our bank loan to get started with Glory Bee".

After five years, Glory Bee has perfected the honey bee business. In the spring, they go out and feed their bees. They purchase new bees in three pound packages with a queen. They install the new bees into the boxes. Once the canola blooms, the nectar starts to flow and the bees start producing honey from the canola. Glory Bee starts harvesting honey around the third week of July. They extract the honey for approximately six weeks. Before the long weekend in October the bees are fed and wrapped for hibernation.

This past year the price of honey doubled. With all of Glory Bee's success, they decided to buy Hutch's Honey of Esterhazy who had been in operation for 25 years. With their colony numbers increasing, Glory Bee's staff also expanded. They now have approximately 20 employees, many of which are students that work over the summer.

Glory Bee Honey created and maintained its success with hard work and it will 'bee' rewarded for years to come.