

Help support beekeeping with your membership in the New Jersey Beekeepers Association

- *Regular local and state level meetings designed not only to be educational, but fun.*
- *Award winning newsletter, packed with valuable and interesting information.*
- *Great way to stay up to date with the latest developments and advances in apiculture*

Annual Membership rates:

\$15 single / \$20 Family

Contact us at:

WWW.NJBEEKEEPERS.ORG

The New Jersey Beekeepers Association has Eight Branch Locations throughout New Jersey:

**Central
Essex County
Jersey Cape
Morris County
Northeast Jersey
Northwest Jersey
South Jersey
Sussex County**

Central Jersey Contact Information:

<http://www.angelfire.com/nj/cjba/>
Treasurer: C. Crowell
152 Broad St.
Hightstown, NJ 08520-3218



The New Jersey Beekeepers Association would like to thank the Jersey Fresh Program for their continued support.

NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to Beekeeping Education Since 1902

A non profit New Jersey Corporation since 1952



I'm not even a Beekeeper, but I do like honey!

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It wouldn't be the Garden State Without the Honey Bee!

When we think of honey bees, the first thing that comes to mind is their sting! The second thing is honey, the sweetest gift from the honey bee.

Most people never think of how bees pollinate our crops, directly affecting New Jersey agriculture. Unfortunately, we often take for granted that the honey bee plays an invaluable role in our plentiful food supply.



Some important fruit and vegetable crops grown in New Jersey which require honey bee pollination include apples,

blueberries, strawberries, cantaloupes, squash, cranberries and watermelons. The yield on these crops would be severely diminished without the honey bee.

Over 8,000 colonies of honey bees are used to pollinate the New Jersey blueberry crop each year. The market value of honey bee dependent crops in the state exceeds \$141 million annually.

Beekeepers can be found in every county in the state. Although most honey bees are kept in rural settings, beehives are often seen in suburban backyards, rooftops, and even in cities. Many home gardeners keep a few hives to pollinate their fruit trees and vegetable gardens.

Is Beekeeping a Hobby for Me?

From Wall Street to Main Street, thousands of people enjoy this fascinating and rewarding hobby. Some beekeepers seek relief from the pressures of daily life, while others seek a feeling of awe not experienced since childhood. Still more beekeepers enjoy a hobby they can spend a lifetime learning about, and still never fully understand the complexities within a beehive.

Is Beekeeping an Expensive Hobby?

No! A complete hive with the necessary tools and equipment, including bees, will cost about \$250. Compared to the start-up costs of other pastimes, beekeeping is a relatively inexpensive hobby.

How much time is Required?

The amount of time invested in your hobby is largely up to you. While there are certain times of year when a beehive requires attention, you're free to open your colony and enjoy them whenever you like.

What about the Sting of the Honey Bee?

While you may get stung from time to time, many beekeepers work with their bees an entire season and rarely experience a sting. If you feel the need to wear a bee suit (and some beekeepers do not) the chances of getting stung at all are reduced to almost zero.

The Beekeeping Year

During the winter months, a colony of bees will form a tight cluster within the beehive in order to conserve energy and maintain a warm environment. As bees on the outside become cold, they move into the cluster and warm themselves.

Before Spring arrives, the colony will begin to rear brood in preparation for the coming nectar flow. During this time the beekeeper inspects the hive, and helps the bees by cleaning debris from the bottom of the hive, replacing any worn or damaged combs, and ensuring that sufficient food stores exist. The hive may also be treated for parasitic mites or other bee diseases during this time.

During the Spring the hive will be teeming with happy bees as they gather as much nectar as possible. Most beekeepers inspect their hives often during this time, to ensure there is adequate room for honey storage.

As the nectar flow subsides with the start of Summer, the honey harvest begins. Over the course of one season, it is not uncommon for a colony to produce 40 to 60 pounds of surplus honey.

With the end of Summer and beginning of Fall, there is another nectar flow in New Jersey. The beekeeper may harvest honey again, but being careful to leave enough winter stores for the hive. The Hive will also be inspected and treated if necessary. This completes the beekeeping year.

