

## Beekeeper

### Description

An apiary worker, often called a beekeeper, maintains and manages colonies of honeybees for the production of honey as well as to provide pollination services. Beekeepers will also construct hives, replace combs and collect and package any hive products including honey, beeswax and pollen. Additionally, they must maintain strict control over diseases and pests and identify and report hive health concerns.

### Education/Training Requirements

- High School Diploma
- Associate's or Bachelor's degree in entomology or biology (helpful for promotional roles)

### Recommended High School Coursework

- Agriculture Education
- Biology
- Horticulture
- Mathematics
- Natural Resources
- Spanish

### Common Responsibilities

- Maintain colonies of healthy bees for pollination and production of honey
- Collect and package any hive products including honey, beeswax and pollen
- Make decisions on yards, treatment, splits, honey harvesting and all other beekeeping activities
- Build and manage queen-rearing operations
- Ensure breeding yards are kept at an optimal level of production
- Maintain strict control over diseases and pests
- Identify and report hive health concerns
- Market honey products to consumers or distributors (in smaller work settings)
- Prepare colonies for both production and wintering during season changes
- Participate in ongoing research and development trials

### Typical Employers

Apiary workers or beekeepers work for large companies that produce honey products, but many are also self-employed or work for smaller privately owned apiaries.

### Additional Resources

[American Beekeeping Federation](#)  
[American Honey Producers Association](#)  
[Entomological Society of America](#)  
[Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association](#)