



Beekeeping

Beekeeping dates back thousands years. There are historic depictions of men harvesting honey from hives in ancient China, Egypt, Israel, Greece and the Mayan Empire. They would blow smoke into the hives to harvest the honey and beeswax. These ancient cultures had only a basic understanding of the bees, their hives and the honey production; it was not until the 18th century that European philosophers undertook the scientific study of bee colonies and biology.

Early forms of honey collection led to the destruction of the entire colony when the honey was harvested, even harvesting from wild hives led to much devastation to the bees. However, the 19th century saw a revolution in beekeeping with the perfection of the movable comb hive by the American Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth. He was the first person to make practical use of an earlier discovery that there was a specific measurement between the wax combs, later called the bee space. Langstroth determined this bee space (between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ inch) and designed a series of wooden frames within a rectangular hive box. This enables the beekeeper to slide any frame out of the hive for inspection without harming the bees or the honeycomb, and it protects the eggs, larvae and pupae contained within the cells. This new hive style meant that combs containing honey could be gently removed and the honey harvested without destroying the comb. The emptied honey combs are then returned to the bees intact for refilling.

Beekeeping (or apiculture) is the maintenance of bee colonies usually in man-made hives. A beekeeper (or apiarist) keeps bees in order to collect their honey and other products that the hive produces, such as beeswax, flower pollen, bee pollen and royal jelly. The location where bees are kept is called an apiary or bee yard. Beekeepers wear special clothing to harvest the honey, including full protective suits, long gloves and a mesh veil. Smoke is still used to calm the bees during the harvest – this protects the beekeeper, and does not injure the bees.





Beekeeping Items from the Collection

These beekeeping items are part of the Carroll County Farm Museum's collection. They have been donated throughout the years from members of the community. These items are on display in our Gardening Exhibit of the Living History Center.





Beekeeping Word Find Puzzle

Find these words in the puzzle below.

Beekeeping

Honey

Beeswax

Colony

Hive

Langstroth

Comb

Apiary

Bees

Pollen

Smoke

Harvest

N A W Z H C G U A G D A J A H
P P S M O K E Q N N L E M E A
L I H U D T Z I N U B K N L R
I A S O Y V P H E V S E E B V
U R N C N E U J L H A R B P E
R Y H G E E L N L D I F F L S
E V Q K S F Y B O F T L K K T
R Y E Z T T E L P E G Q X D B
K E N T M E R V N C T E V L J
B Y J B S Y K O E N V Q B U F
Z Q N W G V U X T I G F A Y O
W E A O C W H U H H K D N V A
Q X H I L N L R V A C O M B R
B Y K M J O F D E W J T R M L
K P J U N X C G Q T A Q E W R

