

Central England Co-operative



Introducing the world of the Honey Bee

The bee is a magic insect that produces 'gold' honey. Honey is sweet, nutritious, natural and fat free!

There are over 250 species of bee in Great Britain, 24 bumblebees, the honeybee and numerous types of solitary bee. Bees are a key species for pollinating flowers and plants, it is estimated that the honey bee alone is worth in excess of £200 million to UK agriculture.

Beekeeping, compared to other types of animal farming, has several advantages. Here are a few:



Bees do not need feeding like other animals, as they are able to find food by themselves almost all year round



Bees produce honey even in dry and semi-dry areas unsuitable for ploughing, sowing and raising crops. (i.e. Africa)



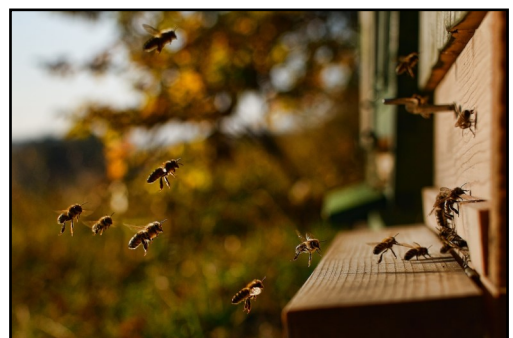
When using traditional hives, all materials needed to build them can be found on site (i.e. bee skeps)



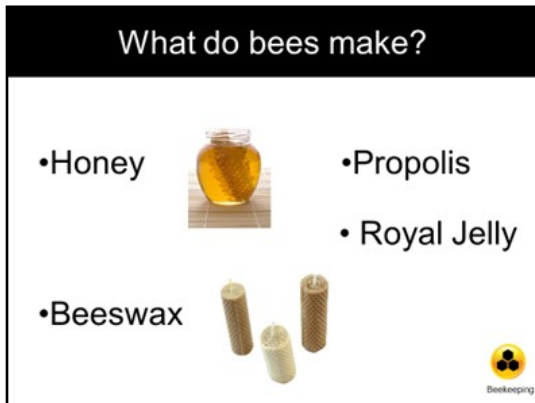
Beekeepers do not need to own their own land



Once started, beekeeping can be a self-financing business



Six different products can be obtained from beekeeping: honey, beeswax, bee pollen, propolis, and royal jelly. Of all these products, the ones that can be most easily preserved and sold, both locally and abroad, are honey and beeswax.



Honey is sweet and viscous fluid that bees keep in their hive, inside the comb cells.

Beeswax is produced by bodies of bees and is used to build combs, which will contain honey and the brood. Bees make wax using glands on the sides of their bodies. It is used to build the honeycomb, and to seal off cells of the comb once filled with honey.

Propolis is a resinous substance that bees produce from materials collect from tree buds

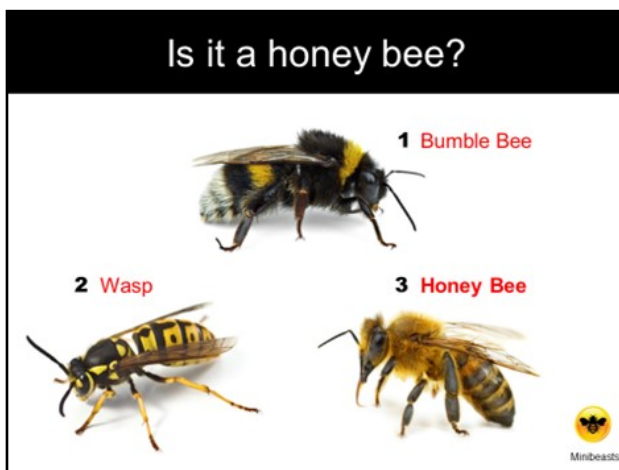
Royal Jelly is a honeybee secretion that is used in the nutrition of larvae, as well as adult queens.

Honeybees can be found all around the world.

Inside the hive.



Nigeria



The bees drink nectar using their long proboscis' (tongue), and store pollen in so called 'pollen baskets' behind their legs

