

Agriculture Adventure for Families

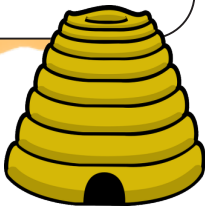


This month we introduce some basic facts about honey bees known for producing delicious honey and beeswax. Beekeeping has become a very popular hobby and business opportunity right here in our county. We even have a beekeeping class for beginners that runs April 6th and 7th. Enjoy buzzing through the month of April.

The Three Honey Bees

Three different kinds of honeybees live inside all beehives. There is one **queen**, a few hundred male **drones**, and thousands of female **worker bees**. The queen is the largest of the honeybees, and she can live the longest - from three to five years. All the other bees in the colony live for about 2 months, except over winter, when they live a few months longer.

Source: "The Honey Markers" By: Gail Gibbons



Honey bees are social creatures. They form highly structured groups called colonies. In a colony, as many as 50,000 or more bees live together and work at their own special jobs. Many honeybees like to make their homes in dark, enclosed places. Often a colony of wild honeybees builds its hive in a hollow tree. Honeybees cared for by today's beekeepers live in box-shaped wooden hives.

Source: "The Honey Markers" By: Gail Gibbons



In the hive, each bee has a responsibility. Most of the adult honey bees in any colony are female worker bees that tend the young, gather and store nectar and pollen, make honey, royal jelly and beebread, produce wax, and care for the queen and drones. The male members of the colony, the drones, make up only a small percentage of the hive population and exist only to mate with the queen. The queen's primary duty is to lay eggs...up to 3,000 a day! The queen also produces pheromones that tell the bees that she is on the job. Her pheromone inhibits the development of other queens - hence, only one queen. She is fed and cared for by worker bees and only leaves the hive to mate. She maintains the sperm she collected during mating in a special pouch in her body, and can continue laying eggs for up to 2 years.

Source: "The Honey Files: A Bee's Life" National Honey Board



Honey's Journey

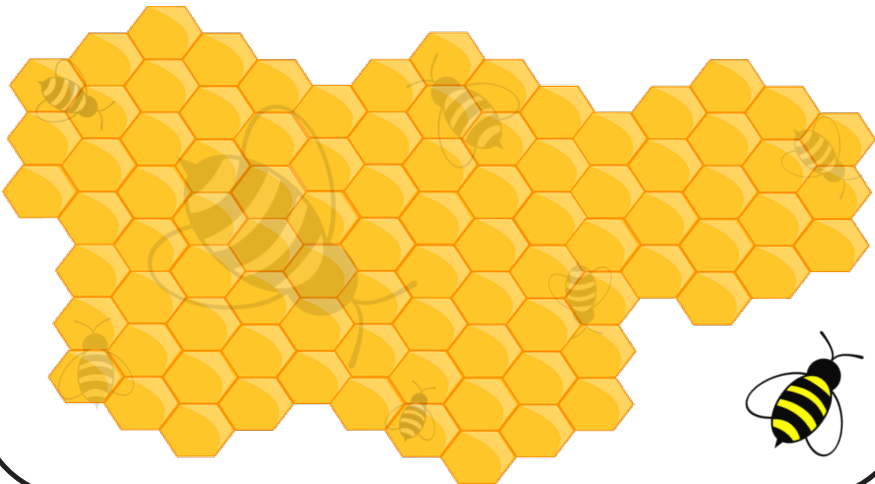
Take the journey from flower to table

- Flowers produce nectar
- Honey bees collect pollen and nectar from blooming flowers and plants and store it in honeycombs inside their hives. These honey bees are called worker bees, and are exclusively female.
- Bees fan the nectar by beating their wings to evaporate, the sugars thicken into sweet honey.
- Beekeepers pull frames out of beehives. They take off the wax that covers the cells.
 - Beekeepers put frames in a machine called an extractor. It spins the frame very quickly, and the honey comes out.
 - Honey is sealed in jars and bottles.



Source: IL Ag Mag Pollinator

Try to find all 7 bees hidden in the honeycomb



Choose your prize:

Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets *AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey.

Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau
Ag Adventures Word Search
6438 Joliet Rd

Countryside, IL 60525

Fax to: 708-579-6056

Email to: FBcooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2019 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies. Good luck!

April Word Search

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

Beekeeper

Bees

Buzz

Colony

Drones

Hive

Honeycomb

Insect

Mate

Nectar

Pheromones

Pollen

Queen

Sweet

Wax

Workers

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Membership #: _____

(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:

___Beggar's Pizza GC ___HRI GC ___3 Movie Tix

(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.



Last Month's Word
Search Winner Is...

Maureen Keller