

APIARY WORKER / BEEKEEPER

An apiary worker, often called a beekeeper, manages colonies of honeybees for the production of honey as well as pollination services.

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Maintain colonies of healthy bees for pollination and production of honey
- Ensure sufficient food reserves
- Construct hives and replace combs
- Collect and package any hive products including honey, beeswax and pollen
- Make decisions on yards, treatment, splits, honey harvesting and all other beekeeping decisions
- Build and manage queen rearing operations
- Ensure breeding yards are kept at 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
- Wear and maintain protective clothing and gear
- Train other beekeepers on your team
- Participate in ongoing R&D trials
- Clean and maintain beekeeping equipment
- Keep colony records



WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

A high school diploma will suffice; consider an Associate's or bachelor's degree in entomology or biology

THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, biology, mathematics, natural resources, horticulture, Spanish

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Large companies that produce honey products, small honey producers, or you may be self-employed

FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK



SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- American Beekeeping Federation
- American Honey Producers Association
- State & local Beekeepers Associations

AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

\$35,000