

## **BEEKEEPING IS IMPORTANT IN OHIO!!!**

Bees provide major pollination of Ohio agricultural crops and landscape flowers.

Jobs are provided by Ohio honey production, commercial and non-commercial.

A large economic impact is made through products of the hive and beekeeping supplies.

Health and cosmetic industry benefits are supplied through Apitherapy and bee products.

## **OHIO BEEKEEPING STATISTICS**

It is estimated that 40% of all the food we eat is a result of insect pollination.

Honey bees are the only pollinating insects which can be controlled by man and therefore, are very valuable to mankind.

It is estimated that honey bee pollination value in Ohio is \$57,202,300.

Ohio ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in USA in honey production (2009), with a honey production value of greater than \$1,513,000.

Of the 3,840 registered beekeepers in Ohio in 2010, 15 are commercial beekeepers (over 200 colonies).

Everything the honey bee produces can be used by mankind. Examples include: honey, beeswax, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, and Apitherapy.

The number of State of Ohio Apiarists has been reduced from 4 full time positions in 2009 to 1 part time position in 2010 while the number of honey bee colonies in Ohio has increased from 14,538 to 32,019 during the same time period.

## **OHIO BEEKEEPERS TASK FORCE**

An amendment in Am. Sub. H. B. No. 1 in the 128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Biennium Budget Bill created the Ohio Beekeepers Task Force within the Department of Agriculture (ODA). The Task Force was comprised of various members from both houses of the General Assembly, academia, beekeepers' associations, grower groups, county commissioners, farm organizations and regulatory officials.

Some of the conclusions of the Ohio Honey Bee Task Force were:

1. Need for bee / beekeeping educational programs
2. Protect Ohio apiaries and Ohio honey bees
3. Fund research for honeybee diseases and diagnosis of honeybee problems.

To read the Honey Bee Task Force report, visit:  
<http://www.wherethebees.com/>



For more information, contact the:

**Ohio State University Extension**  
Honey Bee Lab  
James E. Tew, PhD  
<http://honeybeelab.osu.edu/>

**Ohio State Beekeepers Association**  
<http://www.osba.org>

**Central Ohio Beekeepers Association:**  
<http://centralohiobeekeepers.org/>



## **WHAT COULD OHIO BE LIKE WITHOUT HONEY BEES?**

- No more honey
- No apples, peaches, strawberries
- No squash, raspberries, cucumbers
- No flowers

So should **YOU** be concerned that the bees are disappearing from Ohio?



Lithopolis Honey Festival

Bee Inspection



Central Ohio Beekeepers

2010 Bee Yard Beekeepers

Building Hives



Queen Insemination

## OHIO BEEKEEPING IS DECLINING


The number of honey bee hives has declined in Ohio from a high of 330,000 in the 1940s to 32,109 colonies in 2010.


**This decline represents close to 91% loss over a 60 year period.**


The number of active, registered beekeepers in our state has declined from 5,000 in 1940 to 3,840 in 2010. While the numerical decline of beekeepers may not appear alarming, the average number of hives kept per beekeeper has dropped significantly. It is estimated that 80% of beekeepers have five (5) or less colonies.

This decline parallels a number of societal changes, e.g., reduction in the number of family-run farms, expansion of suburban living into agriculture zones, the increase in new bee diseases and pests, concerns over Africanized bees and reduction in the price of locally produced honey.

 The value of pollinator crops is valued at 5 BILLION dollars


 Bees are the only insects that produce food eaten by man


 An estimated 80% of crop insect pollination is accomplished by honey bees


 Agricultural acres planted in pollinator dependent crops have already outpaced the availability of pollinators

## SUGGESTIONS OF WHAT SHOULD BE DONE...

1. Provide education for groups interested in honey bees and their decline in Ohio, e.g. garden clubs, landscape organizations, schools and libraries.
2. Adopt Standard of Identification of Honey.
3. Support research into honey bee decline and what can be done to improve their sustainability.
4. Provide funding increase for state Apiary program and the OSU Extension Apiary program.
5. Provide education about what damage is being done to honey bees with pesticides, herbicides and insecticides.
6. Encourage planting of forage plants for bees and to allow "wild areas" to be left without spraying and mowing.

 Bees must collect nectar from 2,000,000 flowers to make 1 pound of honey

 It takes 12 bees their whole lifetime to produce 1 teaspoon of honey.

 A hive of bees fly over 55,000 miles to bring you 1 pound of honey