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Apiarist

Job Description

- § Build or put together parts of ready-made beehives
- § Treat and paint beehive parts to prevent wood rot
- § Negotiate with property owners and government agencies for sites on which to keep their bees
- § Transport hives to sites which have been assessed for honey and/or pollen production potential
- § Insert sheets of wax stamped with a honeycomb imprint into frames to be placed into hives
- § Remove honeycombs from the hive and extract honey
- § Look after and repair beehives and honey-extracting equipment
- § Control bee diseases, pests and parasites in working hives
- § Package and sell honey, pollen, propolis and beeswax
- § Re-queen colonies and raise queen bees for own use or sale
- Negotiate with farmers to provide pollination services in the growing of nut, fruit, seed and vegetable crops
- § Process and clean beeswax.

Additional Information

After gaining adequate experience, beekeepers may choose to focus upon one of four main industry segments: apiary, queen bee production, marketing and packing, or pollination. Some may specialize as apiary inspectors/advisers or laboratory diagnostic technicians.

Beekeepers travel a lot, examining honey and pollen flora and transporting beehives by truck from site to site as plants start flowering. Much of their time is spent out-of-doors and away from home. Many wear protective clothing such as overalls, gloves and hats with nets attached to protect their faces.

Eligibility

Education and Training:

You can work as a beekeeper without formal qualifications. You will probably get some informal training on the job. However, entry to this occupation may be improved if you have qualifications. The following course, offered externally throughout Australia, has no formal educational requirements.

Some previous beekeeping experience gained through hobby activities, as well as some knowledge of botany and skills in wood working and metal working, would be an advantage. Work experience with a commercial operator is recommended.

Short Courses

TAFE New South Wales - Open Training and Education Network: TAFE Statement in Beekeeping - Apiculture Practices