



Beekeeping Basics

Make honey covered bananas while you learn about beekeeping.



A **beekeeper** is a person who provides hives as shelters for bee colonies. A collection of beehives is called an **apiary**. Apiaries may have just a few hives or thousands of hives. Beekeepers monitor their hives to make sure the bees stay healthy. They provide food for the bees when local nectar is scarce.

Bees produce honey, beeswax, and other products in the hives. Beekeepers can harvest and sell these products. Honey is used as a sweetener in food. It is also used to make medicines and cosmetics. Beeswax is used to make candles, cosmetics, and furniture polish. It can also be used to create art!

More than 150 different food crops in the United States depend on pollinators, and bees are responsible for about one-third of crop pollination. If bees are not available to pollinate flowers and crops, it can reduce the amount of food produced. Beekeepers often rent their hives to local farmers during the growing season to help with pollination. During the winter months, some beekeepers ship their hives to farmers in warmer parts of the country.

We need to thank bees and beekeepers! Without them, there would be fewer fruits, nuts, grains, and vegetables for us to eat and enjoy.



Recommended Ag Literature:

The Beeman
by Laurie Krebs

To watch a video about harvesting honey click [here](https://tinyurl.com/128818zu).
<https://tinyurl.com/128818zu>

To watch a video about MD products made from honey and beeswax click [here](https://tinyurl.com/orvb6gqp).
<https://tinyurl.com/orvb6gqp>

To watch a video showing how Mack the dog helps keep Maryland bees healthy click [here](https://tinyurl.com/a29vmpa1).
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Easy Honey Baked Bananas

Honey is used as a sweetener in this yummy snack.

Ingredients:

- Ripe bananas
- Honey
- Cinnamon



Instructions:

1. Cut bananas length wise and place in cooking dish.
2. Drizzle honey over bananas.
3. Sprinkle some cinnamon on top.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 – 20 minutes.
5. Serve with ice cream or yogurt.

Recipe and photo courtesy of hungryhealthyhappy.com

