

Honey Bees!

People farm with bees for many reasons. Bees are beneficial insects because they produce honey, beeswax, and pollinate crops. Anyone can keep bees but there are also problems that go with it. They have the ability to sting!

The farmer needs a suitable location, proper equipment and to find out where to get their bees from a supplier. They also need to learn as much as possible about bees from expert beekeepers and books before they get started.

Let's talk about bees. They are four-winged, flower feeding insects. They have body hairs and enlarged hind feet. Most bees have a stinger! Honeybees and bumble bees are the most common. Bumblebees are larger and stronger than honeybees. Honeybees are very popular and have been adopted by at least sixteen states as their state insect. There are actually 10,000 to 20,000 species of bees!

Honeybees are social bees and live in colonies. They are small insects. A small colony or hive contains about 20,000 bees. They hive is made up of one queen, hundreds of drones and thousands of worker bees. The queen bee creates all the babies for the hive. The

drones are male bees without stingers and the worker bees are all females that can't have babies.

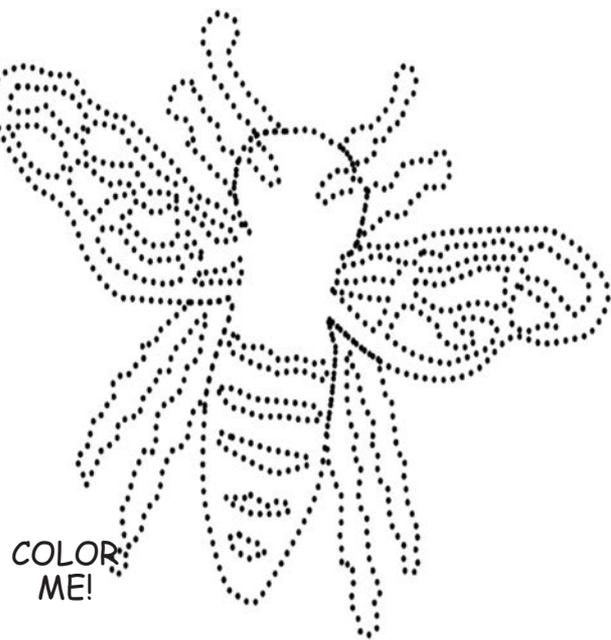
The hive is made up of cells made of wax. This is where the queen bee lays her eggs. She can lay 1500 eggs in a single day. When they hatch, they are fed by the worker bees. The worker bees also clean the hive and they build comb cells. It is in the comb cells



they store the honey.

The workers collect pollen and nectar from flowers. They use a form of dancing to communicate information to each other regarding where the food they find is at. The pollen is used as the protein source and the nectar as the energy source. When the pollen lands on the pistils of the flower, it results in cross-pollination. This is important for the farmer's crops and flowers. Watermelon, cantaloupe and cucumbers are just a few of the crops that require honeybees to pollinate. Bees then turn the nectar into honey.

It takes over four thousand flowers to make just a tablespoon of honey!



COLOR
ME!