

# BEEKEEPING: GETTING STARTED

Nathan Hermond: Extension Associate, PVAMU Cooperative Extension Program



# BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- WHY DO YOU WANT TO WORK WITH BEES?
- CONSIDER YOUR ENVIRONMENT AND CHOOSE LOCATION
- CREATE A LIST OF SUPPLIES
- STUDY HONEYBEE LIFESTYLE AND BEHAVIORS (INCLUDING CASTES)
- DEDICATE TIME FOR BEEKEEPING
- MAINTAIN THE HIVE

# PURPOSE OF BEEKEEPING

- WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN?
- HONEY/WAX PRODUCTION
- LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING OF BEES AND THEIR LIFESTYLES
- HELP THE BEE POPULATION
- AID AGRICULTURE
- ECONOMIC BENEFITS



# BEEKEEPING ENVIRONMENT

- CLIMATE/WEATHER PATTERNS (START IN SPRING)
- URBAN VS RURAL LOCATIONS
- WHAT TYPES OF FLOWERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE BEES?
- HIVE ACCESSIBILITY
- SUNLIGHT: IN WARM CLIMATES FIND AN AREA SHADED FROM THE AFTERNOON SUN
- FIND A NEARBY WATER SOURCE



# LIST OF SUPPLIES

- BEEHIVES
- FOOD/WATER
- PROTECTION GEAR
- SPECIAL TOOLS



# HONEYBEE EDUCATION

- LEARN THE LIFE CYCLE
- DIVISION OF LABOR AND CASTES: YOUNG, WORKERS, QUEEN, DRONES AND THEIR PURPOSE
- IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT: POLLINATION, FOOD AND SUPPLIES PRODUCTION
- INTERACTION WITH OTHER SPECIES: PESTS, HONEY EATERS
- HOW DO HUMANS INTERACT WITH BEES?
- REQUIRED MAINTENANCE

# BEEHIVES

- DECIDE WHICH HIVE TO PURCHASE (AND DO LOTS OF RESEARCH)
- LANGSTROTH: MOST COMMON AND PROVIDES THE MOST HONEY, MANAGE FREQUENTLY
- TOP BAR: LEAST HONEY PRODUCED, SIMPLEST DESIGN, PERFECT FOR EDUCATION, VERY FREQUENT MANAGEMENT NEEDED
- WARRE: LEAST MANAGEMENT NEEDED, A NATURAL SELF SUFFICIENT HIVE
- MAKE SURE THE HIVE IS STURDY AND WELL MADE AND ALLOWS THE BEES TO THRIVE (STUDY MAKE UP OF WILD BEEHIVES)

## BEEHIVES CONT.





# THE BEES

- PURCHASE BEES ONLINE
- CATCH WILD BEES
- UNDERSTAND HOW THEY COMMUNICATE AND THEIR BEHAVIORS
- MUTUAL RESPECT

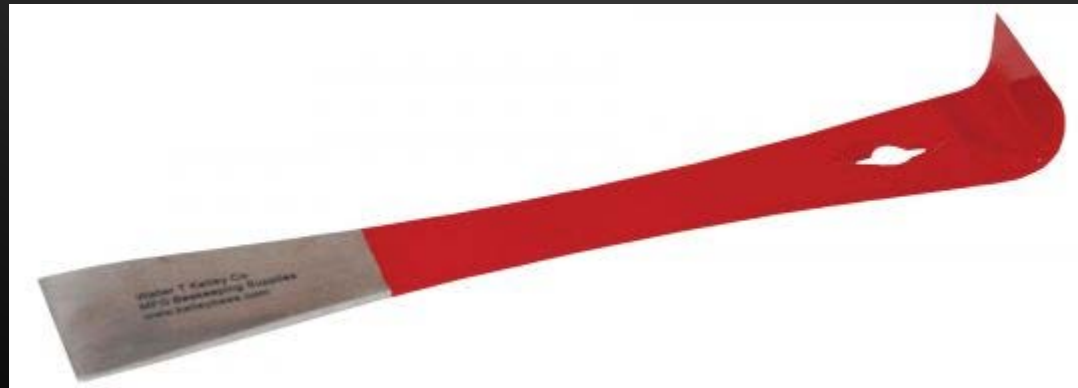


# PROTECTION GEAR

- BEE SUIT: COVER YOUR ENTIRE BODY (INCLUDING YOUR FACE)
- BOOTS TO TRAVERSE TERRAIN AND SEAL YOUR SUIT
- MAKE SURE THE SUIT HAS A ZIPPER
- AVOID WEARING FLORAL OR BRIGHT DESIGNS WHEN AROUND BEES

# SPECIAL TOOLS

- FORCEPS: TO HANDLE BEES AND OTHER INSECTS IF NECESSARY
- HEAVY DUTY GLOVES THAT BEES CANNOT STING THROUGH
- SMOKER: HELPS TO KEEP BEES CALM
- HIVE TOOL: HAS A HOOK FOR LIFTING FRAMES AND SCRAPER FOR CLEANING
- BEE BRUSH: USED TO MOVE BEES



# DEDICATE TIME

- CLEANING
- MONITORING BEE ACTIVITY
- PLANTING PROPER FLOWERS FOR BEES
- FEEDING/WATERING
- CREATE A SCHEDULE FOR VISITING AND MAINTAINING YOUR BEES



# MAINTENANCE

- WATCH AND OBSERVE
- DEAL WITH PESTS INCLUDING HIVE BEETLES AND VARROA MITES
- CHECK HONEY PRODUCTION
- SPEND TIME WITH BEES

# FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- HONEY PRODUCTION
- FUNDS
- RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD/TERRITORY
- ALLERGIES



# RESOURCES

- [NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY \(KIDS\)](#)
- [BEEBUILT.COM](#)
- [BETTERBEE.COM](#)
- [BEEKEEPBLUB.COM](#)

# QUESTIONS

