

BEEKEEPER/APIARIST



Do you want to work in an exciting and ecofriendly industry that actively encourages the participation of women and provides the following opportunities?

- learn about bees and their role in the environment
- work outdoors and travel
- potential to run your own business
- produce pure and healthy products
- advance your education
- potential to make a substantial income



OVERVIEW OF INDUSTRY

The Australian honeybee industry consists of approximately 30,000 registered beekeepers who own a total of around 668,000 hives. Australia is one of the top ten honey producing countries in the world, with a large amount of honey produced in Australia exported to a variety of countries overseas in both bulk and retail shipments. Commercial beekeeping has been incredibly successful because of the extensive areas of native vegetation available in Australia. The use of bees for pollination plays a significant role in the success of many agricultural industries. Commercial pollination of field crops and horticultural crops is being recognised as a growth industry in Australia.

WHAT DOES A BEEKEEPER DO

Beekeepers manage honeybee hives to produce honey, beeswax, queen bees, and pollen propolis. They know how to properly collect and store these apiary products, while also caring for the bees and maintaining the hive. Beekeepers may work for large commercial bee farms or are self-employed, owning medium-sized independent bee farms. Beekeeping/apiary is a nomadic job involving travel from site to site to transport beehives to areas where plants are flowering. Beekeepers may also provide commercial pollination services to help pollinate fruit, vegetable, nut, and seed crops. Beekeepers adhere to strict guidelines such as the Australian Honey-Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice to do their part to help preserve the native flora and help with pollination.

“I love working as a beekeeper because I’m outdoors and working closely with nature to assist in the pollination of native plants and trees to preserve Australia’s ecosystem”

For further information or advise contact mac@agrifooditab.com.au



BEEKEEPER/APIARIST

Selection Criteria:

A beekeeper does not work set shifts and will need to meet the criteria listed below -

- Enjoy working outdoors
- Physically fit and not be allergic to bees
- Able to work alone in isolated locations
- Ability to keep accurate records and meet legislative requirements
- Drivers licence an advantage
- Able to work a flexible work schedule
- Passionate about working with bees
- Awareness of good hygiene and WH&S requirements.

TASKS YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO DO

Manage/manipulate honeybee swarms
Transport beehives to suitable locations
Identify pests and diseases to maintain the health of honeybees
Build/maintain beehives
Remove honey from beehives
Extract honey
Collect apiary (bee) products (e.g., honey, pollen, propolis, bees wax)
Package bees and sell apiary products
Provide pollination services to producers
Keep accurate records and botanical knowledge
Select suitable bee sites for apiaries

Training Requirements and Pathways

Entry level:

Completion of **AHC21216 - Certificate II in Rural Operations** as a school-based trainee or previous attainment will provide credit for some units in **AHC31818 Certificate III in Beekeeping**.

Traineeship:

The current industry VET qualification that you would enrol in would be **AHC31818 Certificate III in Beekeeping**. This qualification usually takes 12-18months to complete. Traineeships are available and training must take place "on the job" as this is a practical and specialised occupation.

Income/opportunities

Income and opportunities in this industry will depend on whether you are a new entry employee or running your own successful business specialising in a particular service. Some may specialise as apiary inspectors or advisers, or laboratory diagnostic technicians. Pollination services can provide a regular and lucrative source of income to commercial beekeepers. Some Beekeepers work in research to monitor the impact of pesticides, parasites, and global warming on bees, colony management, nutrition of apiary products and pollination.

The annual salary for Beekeeper jobs in Australia ranges from \$50,000 to \$70,000. Salary ranges are based on hirer disclosed salary ranges stated in job ads in the last year (2022). Current wages listed on Fairwork Australia are as follows -

- Junior farmhand (under 16 y/o) \$463 per week
- Senior farmhand (level 8) \$966.50 per week.

Pollination services: The beekeeper's knowledge and skill are paramount in providing a professional pollination service. Price is normally quoted per hive and includes GST. Most pollinators would consider \$80.00 per hive as the base price for any short-term pollination contracts. Longer pollination services would be significantly higher.

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