

Bee
Cost Study
for

Glenn
County

Farm Advisor's Office
Glenn County
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University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Orland, California

FOREWORD

This cost study was conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service by request of the Glenn County beekeepers. The study was made on a 3,000 hive operation, assuming the operator was starting up in beekeeping.

A first-class operation was assumed for this study. All new, modern equipment was included in the investment cost. The operation is based on a multiple purpose enterprise -- bees, honey, pollination and by-products.

BEE COST STUDY FOR GLENN COUNTY
3000 HIVES

by
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Honey

CAPITAL INVESTMENT	<u>3000 Hives</u>	<u>Per Hive</u>
Hive and bees (2 story)		
Basic hive \$9.30 + 37¢ tax	\$29,010.00	\$ 9.67
Assemble - labor 2½ hours @ \$2.00/hr.	15,000.00	5.00
2 lb. package	12,000.00	4.00
Hive placement - 20¢ per hive (install bees)	600.00	.20
Total	<u>\$56,610.00</u>	<u>\$ 18.87</u>
2 - 2 ton trucks	10,400.00	
3/4 ton pickup	3,100.00	
Warehouse	13,000.00	
Land	800.00	
Well and pump	800.00	
Total	<u>\$28,100.00</u>	<u>\$ 9.37</u>
Extraction Equipment		
Extractor	425.00	
Pump	70.00	
2 motors	100.00	
Spinner and motor	235.00	
Uncapper	775.00	
2 - I.H. tanks (500 gal.)	600.00	
Steam generator	38.75	
Burner and propane tank	100.00	
Capping melter	100.00	
Total	<u>\$ 1,743.75</u>	<u>\$.58</u>
Warehouse Equipment		
2 clamp trucks	100.00	
1 barrel truck	75.00	
1 power saw and jointer	350.00	
1 arc welder	200.00	
4000 baby nucleus @ \$1.00	4,000.00	
Platform scales	65.00	
Power drill 1/2"	80.00	
Power sander	80.00	
Paint sprayer	400.00	
Miscellaneous equipment	400.00	
400 extra super.	1,500.00	
Shaking equipment	300.00	
Total	<u>\$ 7,550.00</u>	<u>\$ 2.52</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$94,003.75</u>	<u>\$31.34</u>
INCOME		
Pollination @ \$2.64	\$ 7,920.00	\$ 2.64
Honey 33 lbs. per hive @ 9¢	8,910.00	2.97
Wax 1/2 lb. per hive @ 40¢	600.00	.20
Package bees	14,730.00	4.91
TOTAL	\$32,160.00	\$10.72

EXPENSES

3000 HivesPer Hive

*Labor

Labor 4 hours per hive @ \$1.50

a. inspection

b. feeding

c. moving

d. queening rearing

e. shaking bees

f. pulling honey

g. requeening

h. disease control

i. shop work

j. bookkeeping

k. public relations

l. find bee location

m. warehouse work

1) extract honey

2) wax rendering

3) packing honey

fireguards around yards

Total

\$18,000.00\$ 6.00

Feed - 20 lbs. sugar per hive @ \$7.54

4,500.00

1.50

Supplies

Feeder cans 1000 @ 25¢

250.00

Smokers 10 @ \$3.38

33.80

Veils 10 @ \$1.976

19.76

Packages

2,000.00

Hive tools

1.46

Queen cages 2 holes 4500 @ \$25.00/M

112.50

3 holes 3000 @ 5¢ each

150.00

Total

\$ 2,567.52\$.86

Repair hives \$500, Trucks \$1,000

1,500.00

.50

Gas and Oil

1,800.00

.60

Insurance, truck, compensation and fire

630.00

.21

Pest control

100.00

.03

Utilities, telephone \$240; power \$15; gas \$15

270.00

.09

Taxes (.053 rate)

230.00

.08

Assessed values:

Land \$750.00; Buildings \$2,030.00;

Bees and Equipment \$1,550.00

Pasture

660.00.22

Total Cash & Labor Cost

\$30,257.52\$10.09

Depreciation of equipment, buildings, etc.

\$ 6,685.00

\$ 2.23

Interest on investment

2,844.12

.95

Total

\$ 9,529.32\$ 3.18

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$39,786.84\$ 13.27

Management Income

— \$ 7,626.84

—\$ 2.55

* Includes operator's labor and all hired labor. Pay for management is included in management income.

Note: Appreciation is here expressed to Glenn County beekeepers for assistance in compiling these figures.

SUMMARY

Beekeeping at present does not appear to be a lucrative business. It should be kept in mind, however, that this study represents a very high investment for a multiple purpose operation.

Many operators in more specialized fields do not require this total investment cost in specialized equipment.

The labor requirement cannot be greatly altered, but a totally family-operated enterprise may provide more family employment income and reduce the out-of-pocket cash cost.

Some operators may find it less initial investment to grow into the business as a sideline enterprise while maintaining other sources of income.

Under the present structure of investment costs and costs of operation, beekeeping cannot be recommended as a full time enterprise for the beginner.