

HONEY BEES & HONEY MAKING

- There are more than 25,000 species of bees in the world.
- Nearly 3,500 different bee species reside in the United States.
- A honey bee colony is made up of three types of bees: Worker Bee, Drone and Queen Bee.
- Nearly 99% of the bees in a colony consist of Worker Bees (sterile adult females). The job of the Worker Bee is to care for young bees, gather and store nectar, make honey, produce wax and care for the Queen and the Drones.
- Drones are male bees. Drones do NOT have stingers. The only job of the Drone is to mate with the Queen Bee.
- The Queen Bee is larger in size (approx 1/3 larger). She has a stinger and can sting many times without dying. The Queen Bee's only job is to lay eggs (sometimes up to 3,000 per day).
- Honey Bees communicate not by speech, but by dancing. A Worker Bee will perform a dance for others in order to tell them where to find food. The bees "dance" in a figure-eight shape and shake their bodies to communicate.
- Worker bees collect nectar and pollen from a flower. Nectar is collected and stored in a bee's mouth and pollen is collected by its furry body and stored on its hind legs.
- When the Worker Bee returns to the colony, she either feeds the young bees the nectar she collected or she deposits the nectar into an empty cell. Wax produced by the Worker Bee is used to seal the nectar-filled cell.
- When water evaporates from the nectar-filled cell, nectar is changed into honey.
- Pollination is an unconscious byproduct of bees honey-making process.
- It takes a bee 1000 trips collecting nectar to make 1 teaspoon of honey.
- During the honey-making season a bee will only live 6 weeks.
- In the winter, when there is no nectar to eat, bees eat the honey they have stored the summer before.

HONEY BEES & POLLINATION

*When honey bees travel from flower to flower, they perform a service for farmers, called **pollination**. The furry body of the Worker Honey Bee allows for pollen to stick to them. By spreading pollen from one flower to the next, the Honey Bee is actually helping fruits and vegetables grow (and they don't even know they're doing it). At Carrigan Farms, we depend on our Honey Bees to help our apples, peaches, pumpkins and more grow! Without honey bees we could not eat a lot of fruits.*

DID YOU KNOW?

*A bee does not want to sting you. A Worker Bee will die if forced to sting. Therefore, we should **NOT** be afraid of a bee. We should, however, respect a bee. You should **NEVER** run, jump or wave your hands around a bee. These actions frighten a bee, therefore, prompting the bee to defend itself and its colony by stinging you. Simply stand still with your arms at your side. If near you, a bee may fly around and sniff to see if you are a flower. When she discovers you are not a flower, she will simply fly away!*