

Products from the Hive

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Honey -- Honey is liquid sugar made from the nectar of flowers that is used by both honey bees and man as food. Honey has antibacterial qualities; it is often claimed that eating local honey can help fend off allergies. More than 200 million pounds of honey are produced in the United States annually, with an equal amount being imported for human consumption. Honey is consumed in many forms:

- *extracted honey* -- liquid honey; honey that has been extracted from the combs
- *comb honey* -- honey that is in the comb
- *chunk honey* -- honey that consists of a piece of comb honey immersed in extracted honey
- *creamed honey* -- finely crystallized honey

Pollination -- approximately every third mouthful of food you eat is a product of honey bee pollination. Honey bees account for about 80% of all insect-pollinated food that humans eat.

Pollen -- a gamete produced by the male parts of flowers used by honey bees to make bee bread (a mixture of pollen and honey) to feed larvae and nurse bees. Some humans eat pollen for its high nutritional value. Typical pollen consists of up to 35% protein, 10% sugars, carbohydrates, enzymes, minerals, and vitamins A (carotenes), B1 (thiamin), B2 (riboflavin), B3 (nicotinic acid), B5 (panothenic acid), C (ascorbic acid), H (biotin), and R (rutine).

Propolis -- a sticky substance gathered from tree buds by honey bees and used as “glue” to fill in any unwanted spaces or cracks; used by man to treat skin disorders. It is used by humans as a health aid, and as the basis for fine wood varnishes.

Royal Jelly -- a fluid secreted by special glands on the head of a nurse bee used to feed baby bees. It is also the powerful, milky substance that turns an ordinary baby bee into a queen. Royal jelly is sold at premium prices, sometimes rivaling imported caviar. It is used by some people as a dietary supplement and fertility stimulant. It is loaded with all of the B vitamins.

Beeswax -- a substance made from six wax glands on the underside of the abdomen of a worker bee used to make comb; man most commonly uses wax in candle making and art. It also is used by humans in drugs, cosmetics, and furniture polish.

Bee Venom -- the poison contained in the venom sack of a honey bee used to sting predators or enemies; in some cases bee venom is used to treat the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, neuralgia, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and even multiple sclerosis.

Bees -- are also a product of the hive. Some beekeepers raise queen and worker bees so that they may be sold for profit. Establishing new hives requires stock for the initial colony of bees that will take up residence in the hive. This is a multi-million dollar business in the United States.

