

The Possibilities of Beekeeping for Women

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IS beekeeping an industry in which women can profitably engage? This is a question which is frequently asked, and to which different answers have been made. Miss Ethel Robson, of Denfield, Ont., has answered this question as follows:

"For the girl who wishes to make her living in the country there is probably no business which offers a better opportunity than beekeeping. The capital required for a start is comparatively small, brains and perseverance count for more than money, and with the present improved markets the returns are sure. The work is particularly adapted for women, as it has to be done in good weather; the greatest objection is the somewhat heavy lifting; but it is sufficiently interesting to be absorbing. The stings, so appalling to the uninitiated, always hurt, but unbelievable as it may seem you get used to them, and it is not like hanging either, you don't have to die first."

"The question of profit in beekeeping is a difficult one to answer definitely. A hive of bees is usually valued at about \$5. I myself bought some for \$4 and some for \$5 one spring; then we picked up a few odd hives at sales for less than this. However, you cannot count on this as it is only in case someone has died or is going out of business that you can get them for this. If purchased from

a regular dealer they would cost much more. Supplies for running 50 colonies would be worth at least \$100. As for profits \$5 a colony ought to be a fair average, though this is dependent on so many circumstances that the statement does not count for much—location, kind of nectar-bearing plants, condition of bees, feed required for winter stores, the season, etc. One year, with a spring count of 85 colonies, I had between \$300 and \$400 clear."

Mrs. G. A. Deadman, Brussels

The late Mrs. G. A. Deadman, of Brussels, for thirty years assisted her husband in managing their large apiary, and she understood the business as few persons did. Speaking recently to the writer on beekeeping for women, she remarked:

"The apiary has an attraction—yes, a fascination—for the woman who goes into beekeeping. It certainly had for me. Then, it is a healthful occupation, for it is outdoor work largely, and it gives one a change of work and thought. Some heavy lifting is necessary now and then, but assistance is generally available."

However, the woman who enters upon beekeeping must make up her mind to give all her time to it during the busy periods of swarming and extracting—say during June and July. After that there is packing, bottling, labeling, etc., to be attended

to, although this can be lightened by selling in bulk, which is usually the better way of disposing of the honey. But for months together the bees require little or no attention.

"Profits, as in other occupations, will be variable. The value of a hive of bees ranges from \$35 to \$100—rather the latter mark usually. There is a certain cost for appliances, say \$100 in a small apiary. Yields of honey range from 25 to 100 pounds a hive, but taking one year with another a good beekeeper should average 70 pounds to the colony, spring count. This, with the value of the natural increase in colonies by swarming would make the annual net per hive \$10, or perhaps a little more. Forty colonies of bees, therefore, would bring a woman beekeeper about \$400 for a few months steady work, leaving her considerable time for other employment."

"As to the honey flow much depends upon the weather, which may be just right, or it may be too dry, too wet, or too cold. The honey comes chiefly from clover bloom, and the blossom of the linden or basswood tree. The buckwheat bloom late in the season is also much appreciated."

"But just to show you how the honey crop varies, I would say that one year (1911) our apiary failed us, and we netted only 200 pounds from the colonies. It was our worst year. But the next season, although about one-third of our bees had been killed off, we sold fully 12,000 pounds of honey."

"The woman beekeeper may be born such, but even then if she be wise she will serve a real apprenticeship."



Should a Woman Milk?

It all depends. If there is a surplus of help in the house and a scarcity of it in the field, the woman has no choice but to do without milking. If, on the other hand, there is a surplus of help in the field and a scarcity of it in the house, the woman has no choice but to milk. Perhaps she prefers to milk in the house. She should visit some well-conducted apiary, and spend the honey season of say two months there even if she gets no remuneration for her labor. Then she should start for herself with only a few colonies at first, enlarging her apiary as she gains experience."—Farmers' Magazine.

Grandpa Biven's "Best Kept" Farm

Its Owner Had an Ideal not Limited by Dollars and Cents

"Do you know, I think the best kept in this neighborhood," Grandpa Biven remarked, as he came in from a long walk.

"Why, Grandpa, there aren't near so many acres in it as there are in some other places." "Harry can't afford to buy as much machinery as most of the other farmers—he often has to hire or trade work for what he uses. 'His buildings are old and he can't support the amount of stock that we do,' objected one after another of his grandchildren.

"No matter, he keeps what he has in good condition," Grandpa persisted, and he keeps the best of all his. His animals are always thrifty, and you never see a weed in his crops or any tool of his under the weather. He hasn't torn down his house or his barn and put up new ones, but he has kept both in good repair and put in to them all the conveniences he could, and they look better suited to his little place than showier ones would do. If he ever feels like it he can add on to either one of them, same as he can buy more land if he gets able; but all the time he's keeping the associations of his youth, and not separating himself from any of them, as he might if he was reaching after big things in a hurry."

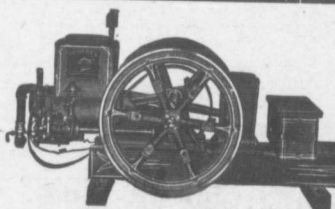
"And there's all the little things he keeps," Grandpa went on. "The things you might as well have on the farm as not, if you'd think of it—by-products of a factory man would call them. For instance, he's always kept his honey at home or had it made up there. That's a crop most farmers strive after for nothing. Bees? Of course he keeps them. Not too many, for his young folks aren't grown yet, and he doesn't want to make too much work for his wife and himself—good health's another thing he believes in keeping and he's left a few basswood trees around the farm—only place I know where you can smell

their blossoms—and a little strip of white clover along his roadside."

"And he lets his boys raise popovers and keep the nut trees, and he's got a wood-lot. It's going to be a wonderful thing for him, that wood-lot, when the rest of folks around here haven't a stick of timber left to them. And then the birds he keeps and the wild flowers! The wood-lot's just the place for them, of course, he Harry isn't too stingy to scatter a little grain for his bob-whites in winter time, or too lazy to hang up marrows and beet for the chickens, and woodpeckers, to say nothing of other cold weather visitors that clean up all the weed seeds and larva they can pay for it."

"And he's far-sighted enough to leave some wild cherries and to leave about for the robins to feed on while his own fruit is ripening, and a brush pile here and there for the catbirds and chickadees to build in, and he isn't ashamed to let a thing stand just because it's handsome. Why, he wouldn't cut down those wild crabapple trees back of the meadow any more than he would the lilacs his grandparents planted in his dooryard, and he thinks lots of an elder bush in blossom and those sumachs that redden up his west fence in the fall."

"It's alongside of his place you always see the finest tiger lilies and fireweed, and he's left one a headland two feet wider than it need be because the spring beauties and wake-robins always grew rich there. He's got a tree or two left in his fields because they were fine ones, and enough set out at his road edge to keep it shady, and he keeps the road-bed in good order without anyone telling him to. He argued for half a day once to keep the water plants, wild cucumber and morning glory vines, but the bridge-ends because he said he'd see things planted beside the bridges in the city parks that didn't look near so pretty."



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"He keeps," as would say, some papers and others to-date with the time for in his home pantry, the respect the faith of his wife, children, and main their appreciation of. "Perhaps he'll keep together, for his morning" the Agricultural College in veterinary school," she says that she body that isn't a father; and if you better keeping than to have you do it."

Shingles and S

I DO not know who decided preference of houses. Perhaps I am a regular reader Ladies' Home Journal inherited from as I from Nova Scotia was led farm homes are more than in any other area. There is no sign greater pleasure than houses, built on artistic sides artistically stained properly embowered and vines. This mania rhapsodies of a dream ideal that I am attracted in my own home have already seen many others.

Shingles I believe in stages over the brick in this and other Ontario a starter shingle, as much as brick. We not call in a contractor to give us figures on but do a considerable work ourselves, shingles very advantageous in labor whatever is required. I remember the first I ever did. I was just a single side looked at if an expert carpenter job.



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Waiting to B. Children will be mentioned in a future to the law must only to J. C. P.