



Survey of South African Bee Keepers

April 2008

University of Cape Town

Purpose of the survey:

1. To establish the size and distribution of the industry
 2. To explore the determinants of honey production per hive
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Please note:

This questionnaire was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Commerce Faculty of the University of Cape Town.

All responses will be treated absolutely confidentially.

Data will be reported in aggregate and anonymously at all times.

For more information please contact Dr. Beatrice Conradie at 082 496 7877.

A. Size, location & marketing strategy

1.	In which district is your main apiary site located?			
2.	How long have you been keeping bees?	< 2 years	2 – 10 years	>10 years
3.	Have you done any bee keeping courses?	yes	no	
4.	What is your highest academic qualification (incl. matric)?			
5.	Are you registered with SABIO?	yes	no	
6.	Are you a member of a regional organisation such as SCBIA?	yes	no	
7.	Are you currently paying a voluntary levy?	yes	no	
8.	What percentage of your income is derived from bees?			
9.	Which of the following descriptions appears your honey label? (Please tick.) Floral origin Indication of environmentally friendly production	Karoo Lucerne Fynbos Bluegum Multiflora Organic Badger friendly	If other, please list	
10.	Do you do pollination?	regularly	not every year	never
If yes, which crops				
12.	Do you sell wax?	regularly	not every year	never
13.	Do you sell propolis?	regularly	not every year	never

14.	To which of the following outlets do you sell honey? (Please tick all)	Individuals Road stalls Health stores Tuisnywerheid Supermarkets Processors Bulk buyers Other beekeepers Exports	If other, please list
15.	Do you bottle your own honey?	yes	no
	Do you bottle any other honey?	yes	no
16.	If yes, is the bottling plant HACCP accredited?	yes	no
17.	Does the farm have any certificate of good farming practices, e.g. EUREPGAP?	yes	no

B. Production general

18.	How many hives do you currently have?	< 30	30 – 100	100 – 300	300 – 750	> 750
19.	Do you ever feed bees?	yes		no		
20.	Do you move bees between sites other than for pollination?	yes		no		
21.	Which plants produce the highest honey yield?					
22.	At how many sites do you keep bees?					
23.	How far (km) do you have to travel to get to your bees?					
24.	Do you own the land on which you keep your bees?	yes		no		

25. If not, what arrangement do you have with the owner? (Please tick)	Pay rent Share of the honey Work his bees for a fee Other	
26. Are you insured against fire or bee stings?	yes	no
27. Do you take precautions against vandalism?	yes	no
If yes, what?		
28. Do you take precautions against natural damages, e.g. badgers, baboons or fire	yes	no
If yes, what?		
29. In which months do you collect honey?		
30. How are your hives arranged?	lines	circles
31. What in your experience is the optimal number of hives at a site?		
32. Do you know if your neighbours keep bees in the vicinity of your apiaries?	yes	no

C. Production at specific sites

Please answer each question with respect to your most important site or up to three most important sites.

	Site A		Site B		Site C	
33. How many hives do you have at this site?						
34. How far away (in km) is this site from the closest other apiaries?						
35. Are the hives in a shaded spot?	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
36. What direction do the hives' entrances face?						
37. Dominant vegetation surrounding the site (please tick)	Dune fynbos Mountain fynbos Lucerne Blue gums Aloes Klein Karoo Kidney beans Drogie Citrus Sunflowers	Dune fynbos Mountain fynbos Lucerne Blue gums Aloes Klein Karoo Kidney beans Drogie Citrus Sunflowers	Dune fynbos Mountain fynbos Lucerne Blue gums Aloes Klein Karoo Kidney beans Drogie Citrus Sunflowers			
38. If fynbos, when last was it burnt?						
39. How much honey did you produce per hive in 2007?						
40. How much honey did you produce per hive in 2006?						
41. How much honey did you produce per hive in 2005?						
42. Were any of these years particularly dry?	2007		2006		2005	
	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no

D. Additional information

43.	Do you know your average cost of honey production?	yes	no
44.	Do you know the cost of providing pollination?	yes	no
45.	How many people other than yourself do you employ in bee keeping?		
46.	Are these people solely employed for beekeeping?	yes	no
47.	What was your average honey price in 2007?		don't know
48.	At what honey price will you expand your number of hives?		don't know
49.	At what honey price will you contract your number of hives?		don't know
50.	Which of the following research topics are you interested in?	<p style="text-align: center;"> Optimal pollination Best plants for honey production Optimal feeding strategy Honey production costs Pollination costs The value of bees in fynbos </p>	
51.	How is the Cape Honey Bee different from other bees?		
52.	Where does the queen mate?		