

Beekeeping Planning Budget

Using this budget, farmers can estimate the costs and returns of beekeeping. Table 1 presents estimates based on prices in December 2025. Detailed assumptions and capital investments are summarized in Tables 2 and 3. Establishment reflects the first year of beekeeping with two hives. Honey-producing operations with 10, 20 or 30 hives are modeled. Going from establishment to 10 hives can take three to five years with normal growth. Farmers can customize a budget using the [Missouri Beekeeping Enterprise Budget workbook \(XLSX\)](#).^{*} Use the “Your estimate” column to plan your costs and returns.

Table 1. Missouri beekeeping budgets (dollars per hive).

	Establishment of two hives	10 producing hives	20 producing hives	30 producing hives	Your estimate
Income					
Honey (1-pound bottles)	0	720	720	720	
Beeswax (1-pound blocks)	0	15	15	15	
Total income	0	735	735	735	
Operating costs					
Bees	165	50	50	50	
Labor – production	378	340	312	265	
Labor – processing and harvest	0	227	208	176	
Feed – sugar and pollen patties	44	22	22	22	
Mite treatment	1	1	1	1	
Smoker fuel	2	2	2	2	
Bottles and labels	0	57	57	57	
Wrap/insulation for overwintering	48	48	48	48	
Marketing	0	74	74	74	
Repair and maintenance	12	9	7	11	
Miscellaneous costs	10	5	3	3	
Operating interest	24	30	28	26	
Total operating costs	684	864	811	733	
Ownership costs					
Depreciation on capital investments	82	65	50	70	
Interest on capital investments	25	22	17	26	
Farm business overhead	50	15	15	15	
Total ownership costs	157	102	82	111	
Total costs	841	965	893	843	
Income over operating costs	-684	-129	-76	2	
Income over total costs	-841	-230	-158	-108	
Return to land and management	-463	337	362	333	

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

^{*}extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/UrbanAgriculture/Docs/beekeeping-budget.xlsx

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Table 2. Input assumptions used in Missouri beekeeping budgets.

Selected input quantities	Per acre	Selected input prices	Dollars per unit
Honey yield, pounds per hive	60	Honey market price, per pound	12.00
Beeswax yield, pounds per hive	1	Beeswax market price, per pound	15.00
Operating interest, annual percentage	7.25	Replacement bees, 3-pound package	165.00
Repairs and maintenance, percent of capital	1.5	Labels and bottles, each	0.95
Marketing, percent of sales	10	Labor, per hour	18.91

Table 3. Capital investments used in Missouri beekeeping budgets.

	Establishment of two hives (dollars)	10 producing hives (dollars)	20 producing hives (dollars)	30 producing hives (dollars)	Lifespan (years)
Beekeeping					
Nuc boxes (with frames)		450	630	1,080	10
Hive boxes (deeps, with frames)	820	1,400	2,800	4,200	10
Hive boxes (supers, with frames)	130	650	1,300	1,950	10
Hive covers	80	400	800	1,200	10
Bottom boards, inner covers	130	650	900	1,350	10
Hive stand material	35	175	350	525	10
Oxalic acid vaporizer	150	150	150	150	10
Hive paint	35	105	210	350	10
Queen excluder	24	120	240	360	10
Hive tool	13	13	13	13	10
Hive feeders	18	45	63	108	10
Smoker	50	50	50	50	10
Bee brush	10	10	10	10	10
Hive beetle traps	6	30	60	90	10
Protective gear (jacket, veil, gloves)	140	140	140	140	10
Storage shed		350	350	6,500	15
Honey extraction					
Hot knife		100	100	100	5
Capping scratcher		12	12	12	5
Honey extractor (powered)		850	850	2,800	7
Honey sieve (metal)		40	40	40	5
Bucket with honey gate		80	200	400	10
Uncapping tub		200	200	400	10
Miscellaneous		50	50	50	5
Wax rendering					
5-gallon buckets		20	40	60	10
Double broiler		20	20	20	10
Wax molds (1 pound)		100	200	300	10
Total	1,641	6,210	9,778	22,258	

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