
ADOPT-A-HIVE

Quarter 1 - 2021

With 2021 already underway, your adopted hive is doing much better than we could have imagined!

Due to much more mild weather during the winter, your colony has had a much better chance at surviving than we typically expect. But despite this success, **your hive isn't out of the woods just yet.** Anything can happen between now and mid-spring when foraging begins in earnest.

Constant uncertainty is one of the reasons beekeeping is such a *difficult* profession. On top of that, the costs associated with getting setup with even one beehive can make it quite difficult to [get started and grow an apiary](#).

As a general rule, beekeepers need to plan on a **bare minimum** investment of **\$700 per beehive** just to get going. Depending on the species of bees, the type of beehive, the tools, etc., that cost per hive can go up even further.

Many people are surprised to hear this cost per beehive (not to mention the ongoing maintenance costs). Why is beekeeping so expensive?

The biggest reason we've observed is that costs of honey bees, bee suits, woodenware, and other beekeeping supplies are on a *dramatic* rise due to inflation, demand, supply chain disruptions, COVID-19 and more.

Did you know? The queen bee lives for about 2-3 years on average, much longer than any other bees in the hive. She keeps busy during the summer months, when the hive needs to be at maximum strength, and lays up to **2,500 eggs per day!**

“I like pulling on a baggy bee suit, forgetting myself and getting as close to the bees' lives as they will let me, remembering in the process that there is more to life than the merely human.”

When we got started in beekeeping 18 years ago, we could secure a standard [3 lb. bee package](#) for **just \$17**.

Now, that same bee package is running at a *minimum* of **\$174** (often more). That is an astronomical jump of +924%.

As you can imagine, it takes a **world-wide effort** to help honey bees thrive. Luckily, there are many who want to help even if they can't or don't want to be beekeepers themselves.

Our [Adopt-A-Hive program](#) is just one of many ways you and others are helping save one of the planet's most important species. Thank you for being part of that journey with us!

Note: [click here](#) to learn more about the rising costs of beekeeping.

- SUE HUBBELL, AUTHOR