

Conditions Ideal for Honey Production

James D. Bowen Is Largest Beekeeper In Martin County

Thirty-three Apiarists Had Bees in This County Last Year

Despite existing conditions described as ideal and about the most advantageous to be found in the country, Martin County holds a low rank in the production of honey, according to the 1940 census. While honey culture is almost a lost art in the farm program, a few farmers in the county are recognized as able apiarists.

Last year there were 33 beekeepers in the county, the group with 379 hives producing the year before a total of 12,739 pounds of the sweet and healthful food. The county ranks 78th among the 100 counties in the State in the production of honey, the last census showing that there were 22,032 apiarists in North Carolina and that they, with 99,808 hives, produced 1,217,411 pounds of honey. This is an average of about twelve pounds of honey per hive for the State, as a whole, which is just a little over one-third of the average of 33 pounds produced per hive in this county.

Mr. James D. Bowen, turning from his heavy farm duties, is now recognized as the county's largest beekeeper. While he is naturally interested in the income from the sale of honey, profits are secondary with him. He has found

it fascinating to study the habits of the honey bee and to learn how to handle the honey makers. At the present time, Mr. Bowen has 350 hives and will produce nearly 20,000 pounds of honey this year, his production running far above that for the county and from four to five times the average for the State, as a whole.

C. L. Sams, veteran bee specialist of the N. C. State College Extension Service, says that Mr. Bowen has one of the most completely-equipped apiaries in the State. "By providing every essential necessary for the welfare of his colonies, and by becoming a very close student of the behavior of his bees, Mr. Bowen has built up a profitable honey enterprise," Mr. Sams declared. "His combs and every item of equipment is as near perfection as could be desired."

Harvesting the crop between May and July, for the most part, Mr. Bowen makes sizable shipments to retailers in Western North Carolina and to points as far away as West Virginia. He also distributes his products in about 20 eastern North Carolina counties.

Bee specialists have declared that Martin County is one of the most advantageous counties in the country for honey production. Climatic conditions are favorable, and the presence of the white gum tree in vast numbers offers one of the richest and most acceptable feeding grounds for the bee. Honey produced in this area does not possess the same ingredients as that found in honey produced by sugar-fed bees. At times bees in this section have been

KEEPER OF THE BEES



Virtually retiring from the role of active farmer after meeting with much success in that field, Mr. James D. Bowen has in recent years centered his attention on beekeeping. Producing as much as 30,000 pounds of honey in a single year, Mr. Bowen's plant is one of the largest in this section.

given a sugar diet, but such feeding is really an exception to the rule during the regular producing season.

Realizing the value of the feeding grounds in this section, commercial beekeepers come into Martin from other counties and states to center their production during certain periods of the year. Beekeepers from as far away as Maryland have operated in this county.

In this part of the county Walter Gurganus and Raymond Roberson are maintaining about 30 or more hives each.

PLAN AHEAD

When the present World War comes to an end, American farmers must readjust themselves to a different agricultural program. For instance, with the world trade on a new economic basis and the competition with American crops being keener than probably ever before, our cash crops will face drastic world competition, which will necessitate shifts in most farmers' programs.

Old Recipe For Egg Nog Is Found In North Carolina

Philadelphia Merchant Records Recipe in Diary Back in 1787

Drinking "Egg Nog" is an old custom in North Carolina, according to the diary of William Attmore, a Philadelphia merchant, who made a business trip to the State in the winter of 1787. He observed several "Assembly Men" accustomed to drinking a dram before breakfast. Gin, cherry-bounce and egg nog were included among the daily drinks.

The entry in the Philadelphia merchant's diary written somewhere in North Carolina for Christmas morning, 1787, reads:

"This morning, according to North Carolina custom, we had before breakfast a drink of egg nog. This compound is made in the following manner: In two clean quart bowls were divided the yolks and whites of five eggs, the yolks and whites separated, the yolks beat up with a spoon and mixed up with brown sugar; the whites were whisked til the straw would stand upright in it; when duly beat, the yolks were put to the froth, again beat for a long time; then half pint of rum poured slowly into the mixture, and the whole kept stirring till well incorporated."

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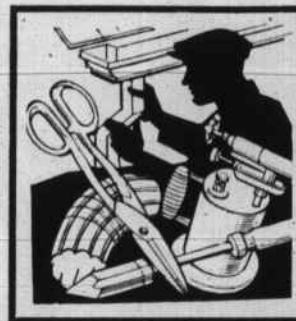
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