



Southwest British Columbia Small-Scale Farm Enterprise Budget: **Honey Bee**



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This enterprise budget presents costs and returns for a 50 hives small-scale farm in southwest British Columbia, Canada. The sample values are typical of small-scale hive production. These values were derived from data gathering sessions with representative farmers from the region, but do not represent any particular farm, and should be used only as a guide. The actual costs of production may vary from farm to farm depending on production method and scale, machinery use and other input costs. This budget is also available as a dynamic MS Excel spreadsheet to facilitate more detailed planning for your own operation. Please refer to the “Institute for Sustainable Food Systems Enterprise Budget User Guide for assistance in tailoring the spreadsheet to your own farm.

Assumptions:

- 1) The size of the bees is 50 hives
- 2) 15 extra hives are included as replacement
- 3) The interest rate is fixed at 5%
- 4) The annual fixed cost is estimated using the straight-line depreciation method.
- 5) Management time is not included as a cost. The net return over total cost may be considered as the return to management time.

REVENUE						
	Quantity /50 Hives	Unit	\$/Unit	\$/50 Hives	\$/Hives	Your estimate
Honey	2000.00	pounds	8.00	16,000.00	320.00	
TOTAL REVENUE				16,000.00	320.00	

ANNUAL VARIABLE COST						
	Quantity /50 Hives	Unit	\$/Unit	\$/50 Hives	\$/Hives	Your estimate
Bees and Queens						
Bees	50	packages	175.00	8,750.00	175.00	
Queens	25	number	135.00	3,375.00	67.50	
Bee Replacement	15	packages	175.00	2,625.00	52.50	
Total cost				14,750.00	295.00	
Feed						
Sugar	500	pounds	1.00	500.00	10.00	
Pollen Patties	50	number	3.00	150.00	3.00	
Total feed cost				650.00	13.00	
Medication						
Formic Acid	100		4.00	400.00	8.00	
Fumagilin-B and Oxytet 25	1		130.00	130.00	2.60	
Total medication cost				530.00	10.60	
Harvesting						
Honey harvesting labour	24	hours	\$15.00	\$360.00	\$7.20	
Transportation between hives	1		\$100.00	\$100.00	\$2.00	
Jars	3250	number	\$0.75	\$2,437.50	\$48.75	
Label	3250	number	\$0.17	\$552.50	\$11.05	
Total harvesting cost				\$3,450.00	\$69.00	
Miscellaneous						
Cleaning supplies	1		250.00	250.00	5.00	
Repair and maintenance				240.00	4.80	
Interest on working capital			5%	993.50	19.87	
Total miscellaneous cost				1,483.50	29.67	
TOTAL VARIABLE COST				20,863.50	417.27	

ANNUAL FIXED COST			
Item	\$/50 hives	\$/hive	Your estimate
Bee boxes	2,414.86	48.30	
Equipment and tools	381.72	7.63	
Overhead	126.00	2.52	
<i>TOTAL FIXED COST</i>	2,922.57	58.45	

TOTAL COST	\$/50 hives	\$/hive	Your estimate
<i>TOTAL VARIABLE AND FIXED COST</i>	23,786.07	475.72	

NET RETURN			
Item	\$/50 hives	\$/hive	Your estimate
Returns Above Variable Cost	-4,863.50	-97.27	
Returns Above Fixed Cost	13,077.43	261.55	
Returns Above Total Cost	-7,786.07	-155.72	

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