

## The Beekeeping Buzz

By Nicole Reggia

Beekeeping has always had a sweet spot in Pennsylvania. But with Philadelphia's embrace of green roofs, planted medians and gorgeous parks, you can also add rooftop honeybees. There is an increasingly young urban beekeeping movement in the city, in addition to many domestic hives in the 'burbs.

Although keeping honeybees is scientific and advanced, hives require very little to maintain. Beekeeping increases pollination, provides a healthier environment and provides a micro business opportunity for many. The products of beekeeping (honey, wax and bee pollen) are profitable and in high demand.

Honeybees are disappearing across the country and putting most fruits, nuts and vegetables at risk. Nearly one-third of all bees in the country have vanished due to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The list of plants that simply won't grow without bee pollination is a long one. One in three bites of fruits or vegetables you eat is pollinated by honeybees and their pollination is critical to our food supply.

What can you do to help honeybees and improve the environment? Consider housing a small hive with sweet results! The agriculture beekeeping industry is a 16 billion dollar per year business.

Not too bad for an insect.

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