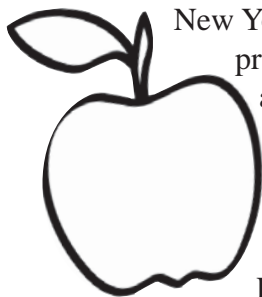
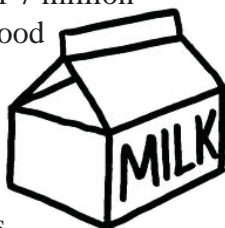


Intro to Agriculture

Agriculture, growing plants and raising animals, is important to New York State. About 23% of the state's land area, or 7 million acres of land, are used by the 36,300 farms to produce food products.

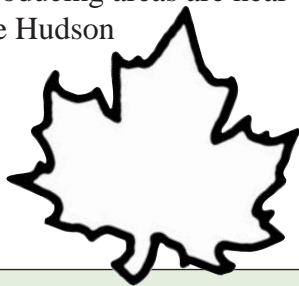
Milk is New York's leading agricultural product and ranks third in the United States for milk production.



New York ranks second in the nation for our production of apples. Our leading varieties are McIntosh, Empire, Red Delicious and Golden Delicious.

Grapes for juice and wine place New York third in US production behind California and Washington State. The four major grape producing areas are near Lake Erie, the Finger Lakes, the Hudson Valley and eastern Long Island.

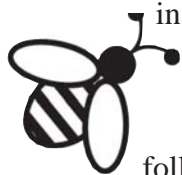
In 2011, New York produced 564,000 gallons of maple syrup which ranked our state second in the nation behind Vermont.



Farmers in New York grow many other crops and raise birds and animals too! Be sure to look for our next

installment when we start "buzzing" about bees, pollination and honey.

Look for the following "Bee" features:



- **Basic Bee Facts**
- **Busy As A Bee** - common expressions from bees
- **Sweet As Honey** - uses for honey including a recipe
- **Bee Word Search and Crossword Puzzle**

Newspaper Activity: Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads that show examples of New York State agriculture.

How many examples did your class find?



Basic Bee Facts



A honeybee's body has three sections, a head, the middle section, called a thorax, and an abdomen.

The honeybee has six legs and four wings that come from the thorax and two antennae that come from their forehead.

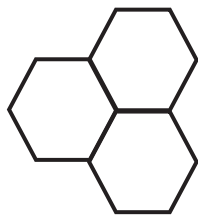
A bee smells, tastes, and feels with its two antennae. It also senses things with the hairs on its body and legs.

A bee has five eyes: two large compound eyes on each side of its head and three smaller eyes on top of its head.

Bees use their long, tubelike tongues like straws (called proboscis) to suck the nectar out of the flowers and they store it in their stomachs and carry it to the beehive to make honey.

A beehive is built with wax produced in special glands in the workers' abdomens.

All worker bees are female. They build the beehive and perform all the jobs necessary for the survival of the hive.



A bee uses its stinger to defend itself. Only worker bees sting people or animals.

Each beehive cell is a six-sided shape called a hexagon.

Newspaper Activity: Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads about industry, or types of businesses, in your community. How many have ties to agriculture? Do you find any involving bees or honey?



Busy As A Bee

The expression “busy as a bee” means to be very busy or active because bees seem to be always doing something. There are other sayings that have their origins, or “BEEginnings,” with bees. Here are a few more:

She has a bee in her bonnet.

Someone who cannot stop talking about something because he or she thinks it is important.

That is the bee’s knees!

Something that is the best of its kind.

That is none of your beeswax.

Something that is none of your business.

She’s the Queen Bee.

A girl or woman who is the leader of a group.

You’ll attract more bees with honey than with vinegar.

Being nice or sweet-tempered will get you what you want sooner than being ill mannered or sour-tempered.



Newspaper Activity: Look through the local newspaper (print or online) for common expressions or idioms.

HINT: The Sports Section is a good place to start your search.



Sweet As Honey

Honey is a natural sweetener, it is used in lotions and soups to increase moisture and honey has been used for centuries as a way to soothe a sore throat. Many people use honey in cooking and baking. Here's a fun, kid-friendly recipe:

Honey Krispie Bars

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup Honey
- 3/4 cup peanut butter, chunky
- 3 1/2 cups Rice Krispies
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup butterscotch chips



Instructions: Bring Honey and peanut butter just to a boil. Add vanilla and cereal. Mix well. Pack into ungreased 9" x 13" pan. Melt chocolate chips and butterscotch chips together and spread over bars. Let cool and enjoy.

Recipe by: Carol Shaw, Best of Show Award, Cooking with Honey Contest, American Beekeeping Federation, 2009.

Honey should not be fed to babies under one year of age. Honey is a safe and wholesome food for older children and adults.

Newspaper Activity: Look through the local newspaper (print or online) and other sources for recipes that uses honey. If not, honey can be used as a substitute for all or part of the sugar in a recipe. For more honey usage and storage tips go online to **www.honey.com**.

Bee Word Search



www.myvocabulary.com

O X B F D T N X H J L J S N Z
A I O R C M N O V W G C R E K
F O O E T A N I L L O P E E D
D N S A Y E N O H G A A W U W
E N N A Y J D D G T G F O Q P
I D L C N E C T A R R F L A P
X X O A C W M D X P I A F W V
M M A Z V O I Q U T C R Z P L
B P T W G R L N W S U M X H R
P P O N S K A L G Y L E V I H
V A I L G E A L L S T R L C Z
M T M C L R E P U R U V H Q X
S W A R M E B B U A R N S W G
Z U J U U O N T Y P E P R G E
W D F N I K M L J Z D Z U W E

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Find and circle the agricultural words listed below:

AGRICULTURE
BEESWAX
DRONE
FARM
FLOWERS

FOOD
HIVE
HONEY
HONEYCOMB
INSECT

LARVA
NECTAR
POLLEN
POLLINATE
PUPA

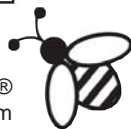
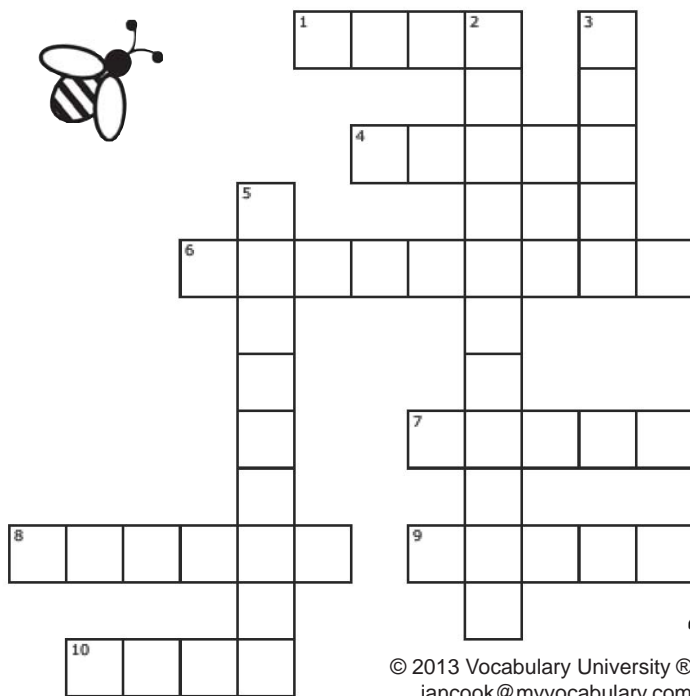
QUEEN
STING
SWARM
WINGS
WORKER

Newspaper Activity: Select a story from the newspaper that is interesting to your class. Use the important words from the story to make a new word search or crossword puzzle. Give yourselves extra credit if the story is about New York State Agriculture.

To learn more about NYS Agriculture go to www.agclassroom.org/ny/

Bee Crossword Puzzle

www.myvocabulary.com



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Use the clues below to fill in the bee and agricultural terms.

Across

1. A stage of an insect usually enclosed in a cocoon
4. An early form of an insect
6. Six-sided wax cells built by honeybees that contain bees and a thick sugary liquid
7. To prick sharply
8. A sweet liquid used by bees to make honey
9. A male bee without a stinger and

unable to gather honey

10. Where a colony of bees live

Down

2. Farming; cultivation and production of plants and animals
3. To form and leave a hive quickly and in great numbers
5. To fertilize a flower with fine yellow grains

WORD BANK:	HIVE	NECTAR	STING
AGRICULTURE	HONEYCOMB	POLLINATE	SWARM
DRONE	LARVA	PUPA	

For more vocabulary lists and puzzles go to www.myvocabulary.com