Sweet time awaits fair visitors

GAITHERSBURG, Md - Visitors at the 1981 Montgomery County Fair, August 24-29, will have an opportunity to learn about the various ways bees contribute to agribusiness.

Indirectly, bees perform an invaluable function in the pollination of many crops and plants.

Directly, products from bees are used in the production of many valuable economic goods.

"Bees are critical to agribusiness as many crops are dependent upon them for pollination in order to produce fertile seeds," says Arthur Strang, superintendent of the Honey and Beeswax department.

"Crop yield can be drastically reduced if there aren't enough bees for pollination. Many farmers throughout the world rent colonies of bees to ensure the best possible harvest "

Honey is used in many food products, cosmetics and medicine. Many people prefer honey as a natural sweetener as an alternative to sugar.

Honey lovers will have an opportunity to buy some of the finest honey produced at the fair.

Beeswax is used widely in a variety of ways, including candle making.

Among the various displays in the Honey and Beeswax Department is an educational layout with pictures of worker bees and illustrations of the honey-making process. The display depicts the (301) 926-3100 complex process bees must go through to produce honey - from constructing the honeycomb, gathering nectar from flowers to the final stage of manufacturing the honey.

A replica of a 200-year-old domeshaped skep (beehive) discovered in a Monastary in Europe also will be on display.

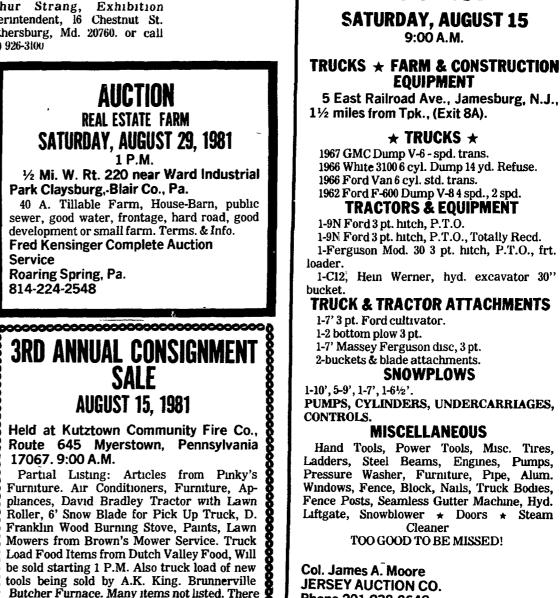
Early beekeepers used twisted straw to construct skeps which were about 2 feet high. Upon completion, they added a colony of bees.

Many of the Third World countries still use this type of skep, however wooden boxes with slats are used exclusively in the United States because the slats can be removed in order to collect the honey and then replaced for another crop. Unlike wooden boxes, the straw skep has to be cut in order to remove the honey and another one rebuilt in its place

Any one interested in participating in the Honey and Beeswax Exhibit must bring their



entries on Sunday, August 23 between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. For additional information contact Arthur Strang, Exhibition Superintendent, 16 Chestnut St. Gatthersburg, Md. 20760. or call



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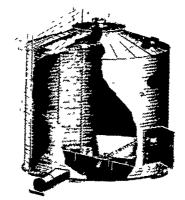
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^{\$} 1,799.52	20.8	15.3	4093	6	196	19.1 Ft.
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\$2,244.97	25.8	20.3	5302	8	198	19.1 Ft.
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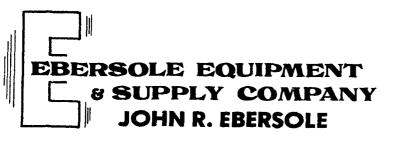
will also be a man with a load of cheese there.







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