

Alberta Apiary Job Definitions

Title:	Apiary Worker
NOC Number:	8431 – Low Skill Livestock Worker
Education:	None – English or compatible language with apiary owner.
Experience:	Minimum of 1 year working on a commercial apiary.

Duties

Apiary workers perform tasks such as the following on apiaries:

- Handle, feed and care for honey colonies in a manner appropriate for the season.
- Assist in the production of queen cells, nucs, queens or replacement hives.
- Recognize & report hive health issues & apply appropriate cures/controls.
- Move hives.
- Collect and package honey, pollen &/or beeswax.
- Drive & maintain vehicles (including large trucks) & forklifts.
- Bee yard maintenance.
- Manufacture, assemble & maintain hive equipment.
- Operate & maintain other apiary related equipment.
- Keep limited field and/or production records.

Working Conditions

Apiary Workers will work long hours at certain times of the year. They may be required to work evenings, nights, weekends and holidays. Many of the tasks are preformed outside in all kinds of weather. Although automation and mechanization have helped, the work is often repetitive and physically demanding, requiring some self motivation. They must follow safety precautions and wear appropriate protective clothing to avoid injury to themselves or others when working with machinery, tools or hives. Appropriate hygiene practices must be followed to prevent or control the spread of diseases from hive to hive or the contamination of the hive products. Apiary workers may routinely lift items weighing up to 20 kilograms or more.

Farm workers are not covered by labour standards, occupational health and safety, or Workers Compensation legislation in Alberta.

Personal Characteristics

Apiary Workers need the following characteristics:

- Good physical and mental health
- Good co-ordination and manual dexterity
- The ability to follow instructions and work with limited supervision
- General interest in apiculture and a willingness to learn.
- A responsible attitude when handling equipment
- Ability to work in a team environment in a pleasant and civil manner.
- Flexibility and adaptability

Education Requirements

The education and training requirements for an Apiary Worker is the ability to fluently communicate with the apiary owner and a willingness to learn.

Relevant Skills

The following skills are beneficial, but not required:

- Truck/Forklift/Equipment basic operation and maintenance
- Handyman & hand tool skills
- First Aid / CPR

Employment and Advancement

To advance, Apiary Workers may require several years of apiary experience and be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of many aspects of a commercial apiary.