

THE PROSPECTS OF BEEKEEPING IN UKRAINE

Rybarak O. S., *rybarakalex@gmail.com*

Dmytro Motornyi Tavria State Agrotechnological University

Even though agriculture in our country is not experiencing the best of times, apiculture is now the main occupation for almost 700,000 people. Beekeepers in Ukraine carry out their activity not only due to the economic and commercial considerations but because of state support policy. At the state level, development of this sector and the whole industry itself is governed by the standards reflected in the Beekeeping Law, which was adopted in 2000. According to it, all bee products and beekeeping itself are not taxed. The law regulates the process of breeding, industrial use of bees, provides protection of bee families. Now any beekeeper who intends to use bees on an industrial scale must follow the rules of the law, in accordance with the established rules.

Beekeeping depends entirely on the environment. If its transformation from a hobby into an industrial business is a matter of profitability, then maintaining its ecosystem is a matter of the existence of the industry itself.

The main factor here is crop farming, which has a direct impact on beekeeping. Without a large honey base - plants rich in nectar and pollen - the bees will have nothing to pollinate and therefore produce honey. Beekeepers of Poltava region have already faced this problem. There, farmers have sowed rapeseed, soybeans, wheat and corn on the vast majority of fields, thus bees have produced less honey.

In addition to preserving and increasing the number of honey plants, it is also necessary to monitor their processing with chemicals. The contaminated pollen will lead to producing poor quality honey that will not be certified. In addition, the overuse of chemicals is one of the main reasons of bees' death. The situation can be improved if the issues of pollination of plants and their treatment with chemicals will be regulated between these branches of agriculture.

Ukrainian beekeeping is one of the most rapid developing branches today. However, in order to maintain this success, beekeepers and the state need to take systematic steps. Firstly, there is a need of accepting European standards of production; secondly, beekeeping should be more protected by the state. Without these issues implementation Ukrainian beekeepers have a little chances to conquer export markets.

In the first half of 2017, Ukraine increased its honey exports almost twice in comparison to the same period in 2016: from 15.2 thousand tons to 29.6 thousand tons. The main importers are the USA (\$18.9 million), Germany (\$10 million) and Poland (\$5.6 million). Exports in this area are growing at a tremendous rate each year: if in 2015 its total volume was 36 thousand tons, in 2016 it reached already 56.9 thousand tons, which is an increase of 58%. If we take the 2011 figures, growth will be even more impressive - 4 times [1].

The European Union is the main market for Ukrainian honey. In 2016, 43,000 tones of this product were exported to the EU, which is about 75% of total honey exports. The main factors of its demand in the EU is the low price of Ukrainian honey - in 2016, it was even cheaper than the Chinese one. Ukrainian exporters consider the optimal quota volume to be 20 thousand tones [1]. However, the EU protects its own manufacturer and strictly regulates the amount of export.

Although beekeeping is rather young industry in Ukraine, it has great prospects for both Ukrainian and world markets.

References

1. Редих Э. Кто экспортирует мед из Украины: вебсайт. URL: https://biz.censor.net.ua/resonance/3118042/kto_eksportiruet_med_iz_ukrainy (Last accessed 28.09.2019)

Language adviser: Lemeshchenko-Lagoda V.V., Teacher of the Department of Foreign languages