



ANDREA NOVOTNÁ - BEE WAX CANDLES

A friendly and family approach to bees and their products..

Identification details

Name: Andrea Novotná

Location: Ústěk, Česko

Farm size: about 100 beehives

Year of foundation: 2015

Main activities: bee products, candles, apimassage, apitherapy

Web / Facebook / Twitter: <https://www.vceli-svicky.eu>

Andrea was born in Prague but spent most of her life in the countryside. There, she also fell in love with various animals. Although her parents disagreed with her desire to study agricultural school, she works with animals.

She studied social and mass communication. However, she expanded her education to include vocational training at a specialized beekeeping school.

Andrea first came to bees around 1995, but due to her allergy to bee stings, she focused on bees only in theory, helping with the honey harvesting and preparation of bee wintering. She also made beeswax candles and went to markets where she sold her products.

Her Bee Farm was established in 2015 when she started with ten beehives.

The farm's main activity is beekeeping and processing of bee products, especially honey and wax. They currently work with about 100 hives at 7 locations. The family believes that bees are the healthiest when they can consume honey, so Andrea leaves them a large part of their honey and adds minimal sugar. Every time they visit bees, they talk to them politely. They do not need to use much smoke.

In addition to agricultural activities (beekeeping), Andrea is also engaged in producing candles, gift sets and creative sets. They also sell cosmetics, mead and honey sweets. At the same time, they organize excursions or seminars in apitherapy.

Since the establishment of the farm, the family has had to invest mainly in bee accommodation - hives, transportation, protective clothing (even for excursions), honeycomb, etc. We have also renovated some areas of our farm, equipped storage facilities and recently we are building an Apihouse and a small training centre. The Apihouse will host not only educational and awareness-raising activities on apitherapy.

Andrea has completed several international courses in apitherapy. In addition, Andrea offers honey massages, Kinesio-tapping, etc. In 2018, she was approved by the Czech Beekeepers Association as a lecturer.

Andrea decided to do business in this field because she is fascinated by the life of bees. The main impetus for the establishment of the farm was the fact that Andrea was not satisfied with the administrative activities she did for a living.

The farm is specific as being a family business and, at the same time, a social enterprise. If possible, they try to employ people disadvantaged in the labour market (women with lower education, small children or a disability). She also cooperates with local organizations, farms, and public administration.

Viability of small farms managed by young farmers under new
"farm-to-fork" strategy (2020-1-CZ01-KA203-078495)

Andrea sees the farm as a stable and prosperous bee supply company and a major training company in twenty years. She wants her children to continue the activities she has started.

Photo:

