

# Apiary Products are Millers' 'Beeswax' at Farm Show

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LANCASTER, Pa. — Livestock and tractor shows, science exhibits and tasty food stands are often the first to come to mind in anticipation of the Pennsylvania Farm Show. But visitors can also add honeybee products to their list.

Among the 21 apiary exhibits at this year's Farm Show is that of Andy and Ashley Miller, owners of Honeybee Creations. The Millers will be at the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' stand, which features their honey; honey combs; honey candy and honey sticks; and beeswax candles and blocks, specially designed out of unique molds.

"The Pennsylvania State Farm Show is our largest show of the year and requires the most preparation of candles and blocks," said Andy.

They also sell apiary products through their Web site as well as other online markets and at craft shows. Other shows include the Lititz Rotary Club Craft Fair, Hummelstown Arts Festival, Hershey Winter Craft Show, Central

Dauphin High School Craft Fair and the West York High School Craft Show, just to name a few.

The Millers started making candles as Christmas gifts in 2006. Ashley's uncle, Stu Mathias, a beekeeper of 44 years, helped them get started with some blocks of beeswax and old candle molds. Andy explained that before they receive the beeswax, Mathias "processes the beeswax for our use in candles and blocks to remove any 'beehive dirt,' which could be bee wings, honey, stingers and so forth, that become part of the extraction process."

It wasn't long before Mathias was providing the Millers with honey and beeswax on a regular basis. "Shortly thereafter the need arose for someone to supply beeswax items for the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's marketplace booth at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show," Andy said.

What began as a hobby took off as a part-time business, and they began marketing their candles online. They expanded the variety of candles, as well as their creative horizons, with new and different molds.

"We are always on the lookout for unique jars and containers to make into candles, as well as keeping our eyes open for new and unique candle molds and beeswax block molds," said Andy. "We track online sales for trends in candle purchases as well."

Andy described his and Ashley's end of the candle-making process. "We melt the blocks in our 60-pound wax tank and further filter the wax to remove any additional dirt to ensure that the candles are particle and



Photos courtesy of Andy Miller, Honeybee Creations

Andy and Ashley Miller stand amongst apiary products for sale at the 2009 Farm Show.

dirt free, resulting in high-quality pure beeswax. We use cotton core wicks, no metals, so our candles are 100 percent pure beeswax, with no added colors, scents or fragrance oils."

Andy mentioned the popularity of their candles with brides-to-be. "Since we carry such a large variety of products, brides love our natural products," he said.

The Millers sell apiary products

from other beekeepers as well, such as lip balm, hand cream, pure honey and creamed honey.



The candles are made of all natural beeswax shaped in fancy molds.

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