

# Adaptive Beekeeping: for People with Disabilities and Veterans

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# AgrAbility

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AgrAbility is a non-profit that helps farmers, loggers, and fishermen with serious medical conditions to keep working.

We are a USDA program partnering the land grant university Cooperative Extension Service and non-profit disability service organizations.



# Assistive Technology

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Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece or product system that is used to maintain or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities.



# Physical Challenges

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- Common beekeepers' medical conditions include arthritis, back injury, carpal tunnel syndrome, and musculoskeletal injury
- Impaired activities are mobility to the hives, bending over to inspect frames, lifting hive bodies, grasping frames, moving hives, gripping hand tools



# Whole Hive Moving

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Hand-held dollies such as this one from MannLakeLtd.com lift from the sides of the hive bodies. Item #MH-105.



Fork Hand Truck

Item# HTK-2351



This hand truck from HandTrucksRus.com would move whole hives.

# Individual Hive Body Lifts: 2-Person Carrier

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The two-person hive carrier is a low-cost accommodation that divides the weight in half. It is item #935C at [BrushyMountainBeeFarm.com](http://BrushyMountainBeeFarm.com).

# Individual Hive Body Lifts: Cranes

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<https://www.northerntool.com> Item# 52837



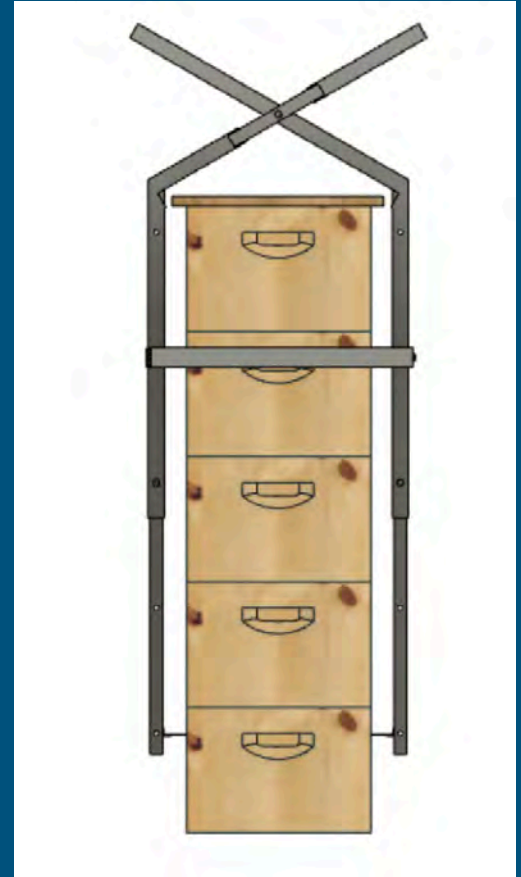


# Individual Hive Body Lifts: Cranes



# Individual Hive Body Lifts

<https://www.instructables.com/Hive-Lifter-Tongs/>



# Individual Hive Body Lifts

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# Individual Hive Body Lifts - Kaptar

<https://www.countryfields.ca/products/kaptar-lift-electric>



# Individual Hive Body Lifts: DIY

Based on the invention of Bardwell Farms

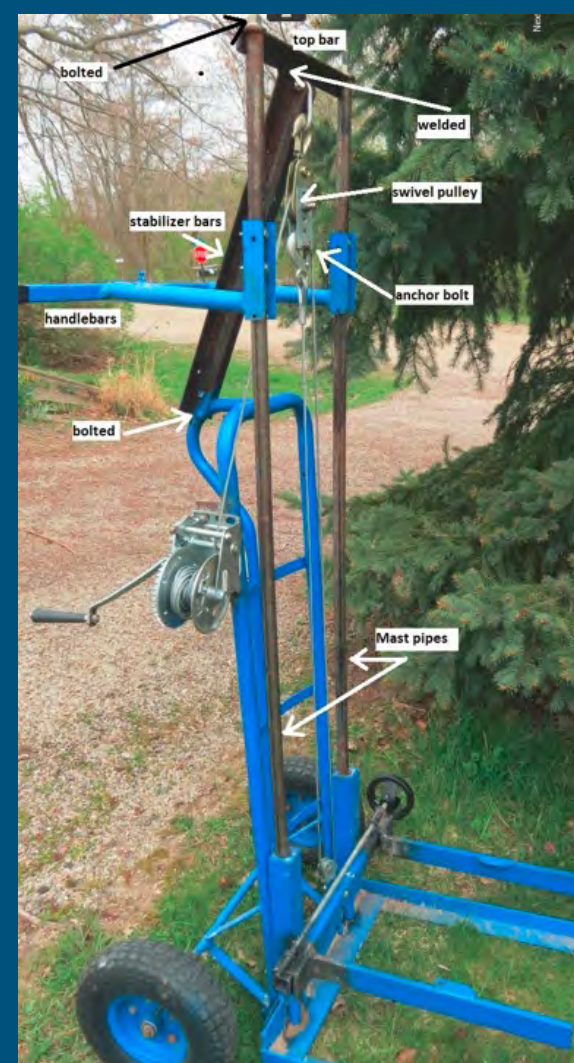
<https://youtu.be/318rE043rb8?si=LKDStVq9PAUsRarp>



# Individual Hive Body Lifts: DIY

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# Hand Tools

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<http://disabilityworktools.com/gripeeze-heavy-duty-trade-glove/> \$35



Frame Grip



14 inch Giant Hive Tool

<https://www.betterbee.com/beekeepers-tools-and-smokers/beekeeping-tools.asp> \$12

# Hand Tools

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and Apiary  
Dogwood Ridge Bees  
Hidden Hollow Honey  
Midnight Bee  
Superior Bee

BeSmart  
Discover  
PLY POINT

2  
Bees  
Beehive





 BeeCastle

**Kuebler Honey Farms**  
805-973-2690  
www.kueblerhoney.com  
Instagram: @kueblerhoney  
Facebook: Kuebler Honey Farms

Millet





# Bee Yard Mobility

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Woody Glover's bee yard (Stephen Clay McGehee)



<http://volusiabeekeepers.org> ~\$250  
<http://www.greenhousemegastore.com/product/5902>

<http://burghbees.com/> ~\$800

# Bee Yard Mobility

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~\$3000



# Beehive Access

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# Beehive Access

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[www.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) item# B00870EJJS



[www.NorthernTool.com](https://www.NorthernTool.com) item# 143666  
\$2200

# Beehive Access

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# Beehive Access

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# Beehive Access

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<https://www.horizontalbees.com/>







305

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beeformed.org

BEE

Multi Stand

Single Stand \$185



www.whiskeytrailbees.com  
whiskeytrailbees@gmail.com







# Workshop

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# Workshop

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# Workshop

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- Heat
- Seat
- Table
- Floor
- Ergonomics!



# Workshop

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# Workshop

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# Workshop

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GlobalIndustrial.com sells an ergonomic workbench and tool balancer to support heavy tools. It is item #wg249497.



# Workshop

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# Honey Room

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<https://www.dadant.com>

[http://greatlakesgeneralstore.com/Speed-King-Electric-Uncapping-Knife\\_p\\_755.html](http://greatlakesgeneralstore.com/Speed-King-Electric-Uncapping-Knife_p_755.html)

<https://www.betterbee.com>

# Honey Room

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The double roller uncapper setup in a mesh-based tub







# Conclusion

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Assistive technology in the apiary will increase the likelihood of success for a beekeeper with medical impairments. Beekeeping is a very satisfying enterprise, and can be done by workers with medical impairments. Modified tools and equipment enable tasks that would otherwise be impossible or unhealthy for the worker.



# Thank you!

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[www.AgrAbility.org](http://www.AgrAbility.org)