

Love **SO** SWEET

Get inspired by this rustic wedding at a honey farm in Ohio.

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMMA MCMAHAN

Tip

WHEN YOU'RE USING A THEME FOR A PARTY, KEEP THE THEMED DETAILS SMALL SO THEY WON'T OVERWHELM THE EVENT.

• • • • •



While The Honey Farm doesn't have any hives, Jennifer supports the local bee communities. "We do this by planting wildflower fields, not spraying with harmful products and leaving our clover pasture to grow longer before cutting," she says.

We all love a dream wedding,

and what's better than a dream wedding with farmhouse style? Jennifer Stanley has owned The Honey Farm for three years, and she both lives on the property and rents it out as a wedding venue May through October. She decided it was time to design her own dream wedding shoot, complete with gorgeous details and a sweet, honey-inspired theme.

VISION

When it comes to planning a party—whether that's a birthday party, retirement party or wedding—having inspiration is key. Jennifer worked with wedding planner Ashlee Wooten of Eva and Co. to help her vision come to life. "We wanted to center the wedding around Jennifer's venue," Ashlee says. "The bees and color palette feel like autumn, with the strong, vibrant colors that are in honey." Ashlee used the foundation of a red area rug set against the backdrop of the red barn, and paired it with rustic details and vibrant fall colors as accents.





(top, left) The red barn and area rug provide a strong color for the foundation of the table, while rustic elements like the chairs and hive domes add farmhouse charm. (top, right) The bride's bouquet displays a perfect fall palette, with red and yellow sunflowers.

PARTY

At its heart, a wedding is a celebration, so it was important to focus not just on the visual details, but also the practicalities of how the party would flow. "The goal of each event is creating an experience," Ashlee says. "The experience should create a warm and inviting atmosphere where guests never want to leave." The Honey Farm has a slew of cool features and add-ons that couples can rent along with the venue, such as oversized lawn games and a large display board for a donut bar.

When planning your own party, Ashlee stresses the need to start with the practical element of budget. "Start with a budget; then move to the 'have-tos' and go from there," she says. "Make sure you're aware of what your budget is. Be aware and upfront with yourself." Even if your event is a Halloween party or girls' night in, knowing how much you want to spend on the event will help you stay focused and not incur larger costs than you'd expected. After all, in the end, it's the people who will make your party the dream event you're imagining.

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128.

DIY Vintage WINDOW BOARD

Turn an old door or window into a "whiteboard" you can use in your home or at your next party.

FINDING THE PIECE: This is a great item to look out for during your next flea-market shopping trip. It might be an old window or an old door—either will work, as long as it has glass. You can also look at reclaimed materials stores, which have old parts from homes and other buildings.

RESCUING THE PIECE: Before you use it, you'll want to make sure there aren't any safety hazards. If there is a pane with broken glass, knock out that single pane so there aren't any sharp edges. You might also want to sand down any sharp places on the wood to avoid splinters. Finally, clean the whole door or window, finishing with a glass cleaner.

USING THE PIECE: All you need to use your piece is a whiteboard marker in your preferred color. Plan out your design before you start so you don't accidentally smear it as you go. Then pen your design onto the glass, and set it where your guests will see it.

(right) An old door displays the table assignments so guests know where they're sitting when they arrive at the reception.

