

Introduction to Beekeeping – Course Outline



The UF/IFAS **Lee County Extension**, in collaboration with the **Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida (BASF)** offers a 4-week introductory beekeeping class this summer. Classes begin on Saturday March 4, 2017. Space is limited to 12 students. Students receive a basic kit including bee veil, smoker, hive tool, resource book, and one-year membership to BASF. **Bees are NOT provided as part of this package!**

Cost of the course is \$135. Make Checks payable to BASF (Mail to 3406 Palm Beach Blvd, FM 33916). Pre-registration is necessary for inclusion in the class. For details call Celeste Fournier at 239-284-4078 or e-mail celeste@swfbees.com. Morning classroom sessions are at the North Fort Myers Recreation Center. Afternoon practical sessions are at the BASF apiary.

Deadline for registration is February 28, 2017

March 4, 2017 – History of Honey Bees and their Behavior; Basic Materials

START	END	TOPIC
9:00am	9:15am	Course introductions
9:15am	9:45am	History of the honey bee and its uses
9:45am	10:15am	Anatomy of the honey bee
10:15am	10:30am	Break
10:30am	11:00am	Honey bee hierarchy, Africanized bees
11:00am	11:15am	Video - Benefits of Beekeeping, Equipment, Locating Your Hive
11:15am	11:30am	Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
11:30am	12:30pm	Lunch Break
12:30pm	1:15pm	Beekeeping equipment (boxes, comb foundations, smoker, etc)
1:15pm	1:30pm	Choosing a location for your hive
1:30pm	1:45pm	Break
1:45pm	4:00pm	Practical - becoming familiar with tools, and hive equipment

March 11, 2017 – Getting Started/Basic Management

START	END	TOPIC
9:00am	9:15am	Review
9:15am	9:45am	When and where to start; getting supplies
9:45am	10:00am	Knowing your location and what to expect from it
10:00am	10:30am	Video – Hiving Your Bees, Entering a Hive
10:30am	10:45am	Break
10:45am	11:15am	Hiving and your first week
11:15am	11:30am	Entering a hive
11:30am	Noon	Basic/Early management skills set
Noon	1:30pm	Lunch Break
1:30pm	4:00pm	Practical – Transporting bees, hiving, entering, management skills

March 18, 2017 – The Harvest

START	END	TOPIC
9:00am	9:15am	Review
9:15am	9:30am	What is honey? What is beeswax? What are their uses?
9:30am	9:45am	Video - Harvesting
9:45am	10:30am	Managing for Production (comb, surplus boxes, etc)
10:30am	10:45am	Break
10:45am	11:15am	Harvesting honey and beeswax
11:15am	11:45am	Extracting honey and beeswax
11:45am	Noon	Bottling, labeling, basic marketing and industry information
Noon	1:30pm	Lunch Break
1:30pm	4:00pm	Practical – Surplus boxes, comb, harvest, removal, bottling

March 25, 2017 – Advanced Management and Disease/Enemies

START	END	TOPIC
9:00am	9:15am	Review
9:15am	9:30am	Video –Second Season Start-up, Swarm Prevention
9:30am	10:00am	Queen Management and Swarming
10:00am	10:30am	Fall and winter
10:30am	10:45am	Break
10:45am	11:15am	Starting your second season
11:15am	11:45am	Diseases/Enemies (Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, Follow-up)
11:45am	Noon	Where to get more information and assistance (Local resources)
Noon	1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm	4:00pm	Practical – Queens, swarming, first steps in Africanized honey bee removal

- The University of Florida, IFAS Lee County Extension Office is located at 3406 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida 33916. Visit our Website at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Visit the BASF website at www.swfbees.com



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