

Introduction to Beekeeping – Course Outline



The **Lee County Extension**, in collaboration with the **Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida (BASF)** offers an introductory beekeeping class this summer.

Classes begin on Friday July 31, 2009. Space is limited to 30 students. Prepaid registered students receive full startup kit including a bee suit, bee veil, gloves, bee box and books at a cost well below the real value of the materials.

Cost of the course is \$90. For registration details call Claudia Piotrowicz at 239-533-7514 or e-mail cpiotrowicz@leegov.com. *Pre-payment is necessary for registration.*

Deadline for registration is July 16, 2009

Morning classroom sessions will be held at the Extension Office located in Terry Park. Afternoon practical sessions will be conducted on the farm of a BASF member beekeeper.

July 31, 2009 – History of Honey Bees and their Behavior; Basic Materials

START	END	TOPIC
8:30am	9:00am	Course introductions
9:00am	9:30am	History of the honey bee and its uses
9:30am	10:00am	Honey bee hierarchy, Africanized bees
10:00am	10:15am	Break
10:15am	10:30am	Video – Benefits of Beekeeping, Equipment, Locating Your Hive
10:30am	10:45am	Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
10:45am	11:30am	Beekeeping equipment (boxes, comb foundations, smoker, etc)
11:30am	Noon	Choosing a location for your hive
Noon	1:00pm	Lunch Break
1:00pm	4:00pm	Practical - putting together boxes, becoming familiar with tools

August 7, 2009 – Getting Started/Basic Management

START	END	TOPIC
8:30am	9:00am	Review
9:00am	9:30am	When and where to start; getting supplies
9:30am	9:45am	Knowing your location and what to expect from it
9:45am	10:15am	Video – Hiving Your Bees, Entering a Hive
10:15am	10:30am	Break
10:30am	11:00am	Hiving and your first week
11:00am	11:15am	Entering a hive
11:15am	Noon	Basic/Early management skills set
Noon	1:00pm	Lunch Break
1:00pm	4:00pm	Practical – Transporting bees, hiving, entering, management skills

August 14, 2009 – The Harvest

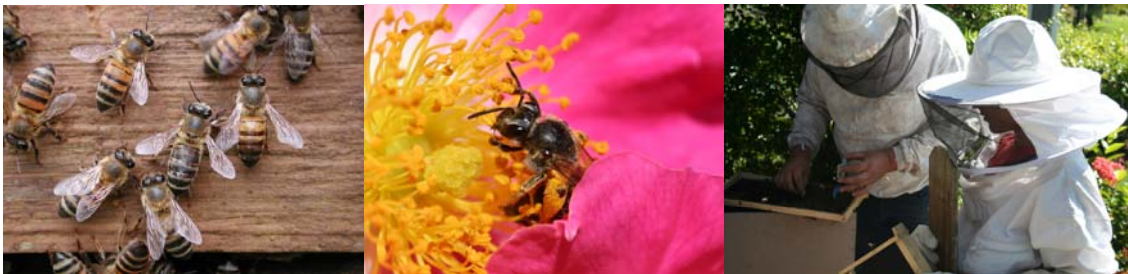
START	END	TOPIC
8:30am	8:45am	Review
8:45am	9:00am	What is honey? What is beeswax? What are their uses?
9:00am	9:15am	Video - Harvesting
9:15am	10:15am	Managing for Production (comb, surplus boxes, etc)
10:15am	10:30am	Break
10:30am	11:15am	Harvesting honey and beeswax
11:15am	11:45am	Extracting honey and beeswax
11:45am	Noon	Bottling, basic marketing and industry information
Noon	1:00pm	Lunch Break
1:00pm	4:00pm	Practical – Surplus boxes, comb, harvest, removal, bottling

August 21, 2009 – Advanced Management and Disease/Enemies

START	END	TOPIC
8:30am	8:45am	Review
8:45am	9:00am	Video –Second Season Start-up, Swarm Prevention
9:00am	9:30am	Queen Management and Swarming
9:30am	10:00am	Fall and winter
10:00am	10:30am	Starting your second season
10:30am	10:45am	Break
10:45am	11:45am	Diseases/Enemies (Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, Follow-up)
11:45am	Noon	Where to get more information and assistance (Local resources)
Noon	1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	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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