

# Iron County 4-H Beekeeping News

Iron County, Utah  
December 2017

## Last month's club activity

At our November beekeeping activity, we had 3 youth and 2 adults in attendance. We spent the evening making candles.

## Next club activity

Our December beekeeping activity will be on Friday, December 8 at 6 PM at my home (714 South 1175 West, Cedar City).

We will cover the following topics:

- Why keep bees
- Stings, allergies
- Hives, smoker, protective clothing, etc.
- Bee sources
  - Package bees
  - Nucs
  - Swarms
  - Removals
  - Established hives
- Ordering bees and equipment
- Planning an giving a presentation



If you want to give a presentation on any of these topics, please let me know.

## December in your bee yard

The queen is no longer laying eggs. To stay warm, the bees are clustered for the winter. There will be some flight activity on the warmer days, mostly cleansing flights. Almost all of the drones in the hive have been driven out.

There is not much we can do for the bees at this time except:

- Remove all medication treatments (if remaining) on a warm day with little or no wind.
- Ensure that entrance reducers are on the hive to help maintain temperature.
- If you have not put on your mouse guards, get it done now. A mouse can make a terrible mess of your hive.
- Check that your hives have enough ventilation to help remove moisture from the hive. Excess moisture is more dangerous to your bees than cold temperatures.
- Make sure the hive entrance isn't blocked by snow.
- Don't open your hives during the Winter unless the winds are light and the temperature is above 50 degrees. Even then close it up quickly.

Winter months are a good time to catch up on some reading in books or trade magazines. Identify additional markets for your bee related products for the next year.

Make plans to attend the Utah Beekeeper's Association convention in February ([www.utahbeekeepers.com/convention.htm](http://www.utahbeekeepers.com/convention.htm)).

### Elected club officers:

- President - Ethan Hess
- 1st Vice President - Elliott Hess
- 2nd Vice President - Open
- Secretary - Open

### Other announcements

The 4-H registration year runs from October through September. If you haven't registered as a 4-H member for the 2018-18 year, please do so right away at [ut.4honline.com](http://ut.4honline.com). If you need help with the process, call the Iron County 4-H Coordinator, Angela Hackwell, at (435) 586-8132.

The 4-H program offers leadership opportunities for youth at the county level in addition to within our beekeeping club. If you are interested, call Angela Hackwell at (435) 586-8132.

It's time to renew your state beekeeping registration for 2018. Being a youth beekeeping club, the Iron County 4-H Beekeeping Club may register the apiaries of its youth members with the state at no charge. If you are a youth member of the club and want to be included in this free registration, please email your name, phone number, and apiary location to me at [blaine@nay.org](mailto:blaine@nay.org). This free registration is for youth only.

Club members are encouraged to set personal goals for the year including keeping a record of the progress of their bees, expenses, lessons learned, and other aspects of their beekeeping hobby. You can enjoy some competition by preparing one or more entries in the county fair such as honey, wax, and candles. All this is part of your workbook (<http://tinyurl.com/c9j72xc>) and can also be part of your 4-H Portfolio (see <http://utah4h.org/htm/general-forms/portfolios/>).

When you've completed your beekeeping workbook, please call me to set a date and time to go over your workbook and what you've learned so you can earn your *Iron Beekeeper* certificate.

In addition to the New Jersey 4-H beekeeping manual (<http://tinyurl.com/786xsro>), members are also encouraged to read at least one other book on beekeeping such as *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Delaplane, *The Backyard Beekeeper* by Flottum, *The Beekeeper's Handbook* by Sammataro, or *Beekeeping Basics* (free PDF download at <http://tinyurl.com/4mz5d99>) by MAAREC. I have several beekeeping books you may borrow. There are two very good magazines: *Bee Culture* and *American Bee Journal*.

We have a club website at [www.ironbeekeeper.org](http://www.ironbeekeeper.org) and I have my own beekeeping webpage at [www.ironbee.us](http://www.ironbee.us). These websites have links to a lot more online learning opportunities as well as several vendors from whom you can buy equipment and bees.

The club is on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/IronBeekeeper/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/IronBeekeeper/).

The Iron County 4-H website is <http://extension.usu.edu/iron/htm/4-h>.

Iron County 4-H Facebook - [www.facebook.com/groups/150034192364/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/150034192364/).

Some free resources to learn more about beekeeping:

- A 13-lesson YouTube course in beekeeping is available at [www.tinyurl.com/nrzgbe9](http://www.tinyurl.com/nrzgbe9).
- A short online introductory course on beekeeping at <http://tinyurl.com/6dtsqk5>.
- Another online course is at [www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping\\_class/](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping_class/).
- Long Lane Honey Bee Farms also has some very good online lessons on beekeeping at [www.honeybeesonline.com/lessons.html](http://www.honeybeesonline.com/lessons.html) and podcasts on beekeeping at [www.honeybeesonline.com/studiobeelive.html](http://www.honeybeesonline.com/studiobeelive.html).
- Brushy Mountain Bee Farm has some very good videos at <http://tinyurl.com/bldenau>.

I am always available to answer questions or to help you with your bees. Feel free to call me any time.

Please share this letter with your parents and interested friends.

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