

# Iron County 4-H Beekeeping Club Calendar & Syllabus

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**October** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Elect club officers
- Calendar of club activities for the year
- Personal goals for the year (eg successfully keep or help keep one or more hives and prepare one or more entries in the county fair such as honey, wax, and candles)
- Member's workbook
- Recommended books: *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Delaplane or *The Backyard Beekeeper* by Flottum or *The Beekeeper's Handbook* by Sammartaro or *Beekeeping Basics* (free PDF download) by MAAREC
- Recommended magazines: *Bee Culture* or *American Bee Journal*
- Online introduction: <http://tinyurl.com/6dtsqk5>

**November** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Melting beeswax
- Making dipped candles
- Making poured candles
- Making wax block

**December** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

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

**January** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Bee diseases
  - Foulbroods
  - Chalkbrood
  - Sacbrood
  - Nosema
- Bee pests
  - Mites
  - Small hive beetle
  - Wax moth
- Medications and alternatives
- Protection from animals
- Apiary sanitation
- Insecticides

**February** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Need and agricultural value of bees
- Colony social organization
- Bee anatomy
- Yearly colony cycle

- Flower anatomy
- Good plants for honey production
- Races of bees
- Careers related to beekeeping

**March** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Assembling woodware
- Preparing for package arrival
- Hive location
- Installing package bees - video

**April** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Use of protective clothing
- Lighting smokers – bring your smoker if you have one
- Smoker fuels
- When and how to use smoke
- Installing package bees – live
- Installing nucs - live
- Feeding packages (syrup and pollen)

**May** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Swarm prevention
- Catching swarms
- Queen rearing
- Marking queens
- Inspect a member's hive(s)
- Adding supers

**June** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Inspect a member's hive(s)
- Splitting hives
- Equalizing colonies

**July** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Inspect a member's hive(s)
- Process honey using crush and drain method
- Process honey using cut comb method
- Process honey using chunk honey method
- Legalities of selling honey
- Preparing for the county fair

**August** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Honey harvest
- Process honey using extractor
- Process wax using solar melter
- Preparing for the county fair

**September** Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

- Preparing hives for winter
- Overwintering bees
- Overwintering supers
- Enter projects in Iron County Fair

All Iron County youth ages 8 to 18 as of January 1 are eligible to participate. Owning hives is not necessary. Interested youth who cannot own their own hives have access to hives of club mentors.

Club meetings are generally held on the second Friday of each month from 6 PM to 9 PM.

Youth and parents who satisfy all above training subjects and complete the assigned workbook earn certification as an *Iron Beekeeper*. *Iron Beekeepers* are qualified as club trainers and, as such, may help teach new beekeepers.

For more information visit the club FaceBook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/IronBeekeeper/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/IronBeekeeper/) or the club website at [www.IronBeekeeper.org](http://www.IronBeekeeper.org) or contact the 4-H office at (435) 586-8132 or Blaine Nay at (435) 590-7569.