

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 _____

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

December Date _____ Trainer _____

- Melting beeswax
- Making dipped candles
- Making poured candles
- Making wax block
- Making lip balm, soap, etc. (Saturday activity)

January Date _____ Trainer _____

- Bee diseases
 - Foulbroods
 - Chalkbrood
 - Sacbrood
 - Nosema
- Bee pests
 - Mites
 - Small hive beetle
 - Wax moth
- Medications and alternatives
- Protection from animals
- Clean equipment before visiting other apiaries to prevent disease spread
- 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
- Lighting smokers – bring your smoker if you have one
- When and how to use smoke
- Preparing for package arrival
- Hive location
- Installing package bees - video

April Date _____ Trainer _____

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

May Date _____ Trainer _____

- Swarm prevention
- Catching swarms
- Queen rearing
- 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.

Visit the club 4-H website for more information at www.IronBeekeeper.org or contact the 4-H office at (435) 586-8132 or Blaine Nay at (435) 590-7569.