

INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING COURSE 2012 - SYLLABUS

SESSION 1 THE HONEY BEE – LIFE CYCLE & ANATOMY

28th February

Aim:

- To give a detailed understanding of the Anatomy of the Honey Bee.
- The Stages of Development of Workers, Drones & Queens, together with their Life Expectancy.
- Understand the Honey Bee's Life Cycle.
- To gain a brief history of the early Domestication of the Honey Bee.
- The Introduction of Wooden Rectangular Frames.

SESSION 2 HIVES, FRAME BUILDING, TOOLS, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING & BEE STINGS

6th March

Aim:

- To consider & identify different Hives & Hive parts.
- To Demonstrate the Construction of a Basic Frame & Insert Wax Foundation.
- To understand the importance of & the difference between Top & Bottom Bee Space.
- To identify the Tools & the necessary Protective Clothing that is required.
- Honey Bee Stings & how to treat them.

SESSION 3 THE APIARY –BEE YEAR, RECORD KEEPING &- OBTAINING YOUR BEES

13th March

Aim:

- To consider where to Obtain Equipment
- To know Where & How to site Hives.
- Bee Friendly Plants.
- To understand the stages of the Bee Year & know how best to look after your Colonies.
- How to Record Events.
- Getting your Bees & introducing them to your Hive.

SESSION 4 SWARM CONTROL. HONEY BEE HEALTH, HYGIENE & DISEASES

20th March

Aims:

- Have knowledge of Swarming, why it occurs & best measures to deal or prevent it.
- To gain Knowledge of various Diseases, Health Issues & the effect they have on the Honey Bee.
- Best Hygiene Practices & Disease Prevention Methods.
- The Bee Inspector, EFRA, Bee Base, British/Essex Beekeeping Associations & Harlow Beekeeping Division

SESSION 5 THE HONEY HARVEST, WINTER PREPARATIONS

27th March

Aim:

- To understand the process of conversion of Nectar to Honey.
- Honey Extraction.
- Cleaning Supers, Bottling, Labelling & Harvesting Wax.
- Winter Preparations & Predators, Pests & Preventative Measures.
- British Beekeeping Association, Essex Beekeeping Association & Harlow Beekeeping Division.
- Identify those students for the 2 apiary sessions & divide into two Groups.
- Protective Clothing required for Apiary Visits

SESSIONS 6 & 7 - APIARY SESSION 1 & 2 (We have two apiaries for you to visit, a different site per session.)

22nd & 29th April

Aim:

- Practical approach to Protective Clothing, Apiary requirements and Hive positioning.
- Introduction to working Hives and identification of The Queen, Workers & Drones.
- Identifying the difference between types of Hives and Hive Parts.
- Frame assessment - to Identify Pollen, Honey, Eggs, Larva & Capped Brood.
- Instruction in the use of Tools & Equipment.