

# Beginning Bee Keeping Course Outline 2020

## Saturday, Feb 29<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00 AM **Welcome to the Bee Keeping Community**  
Cook County Farm Bureau – Debbie Voltz  
Access to Resources:  
    Cook DuPage BeeKeeping Association  
    Illinois State Beekeepers Association  
State & Local Regulations
- 10:00 AM **Honey Bee 101**  
Caste System  
Unique Characteristics of the Honey Bee  
What Do Bees Need to Thrive?  
Best Locations for Hives
- 11:00 AM **Selecting the Right Bee Stock for Your Needs**  
Differences Between Stocks  
Where Do Package Bees Come From?  
What are the advantages of starting with a Nucleus Colony?
- 11:30 AM **BeeKeeping Safety**  
Equipment Standards  
Mechanics of the Sting: Sting, Venom, Alarm Pheromone  
Anaphylaxis, Normal, and Large Local Reactions
- 12:00 PM **Break**
- 12:15 PM **Working Lunch**
- Hive Construction and Equipment**  
Most Common Types of Bee Hives  
The Budget, Costs of Equipment, and Local Equipment Sources  
Demonstration of Hive Configurations
- 1:00 PM **Installing A Package**  
Photo Demonstration  
Most Common Calamities
- 2:00 PM **Introduction to “Seasonal Management”**  
How Colony Population Changes Thru Out the Year  
Keeping Records - What to Track  
Keys to Staying Out in Front
- 2:30 PM **Q&A & Wrap-Up on the Day**
- 3:00 PM **End of Day One**

## **Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

9:00 AM

### **Seasonal Management System**

For each change of season, a discussion of what the bees are doing, where do they draw their resources, what poses any threat- be they predators, disease, insects, parasites, etc...; What are the Beekeeper's Best Practices, and what needs to happen to stay one step ahead:

Spring Feeding

Natural Pollen Sources

Hive Body Rotation

Inspections

Healthy Brood Chambers

Adding Supers

Splits

Recognizing the Flow

Summer Solstice

Harvest

Dearth

Robbing

Fall Flow

Winterizing

11:45 – 12:15

### **Break**

12:15 – 1:00

### **Working Lunch**

Q&A

1:00 PM

### **Pests & Pestilence (anything not Varroa)**

2:00 PM

### **Varroa Management**

3:00 PM

### **Program Conclusion**