



California Master Beekeeper Program: Apprentice Level

Description:

The mission of the California Master Beekeeper Program is to provide science-based education to future stewards and ambassadors for honey bees and beekeeping. The Apprentice level is designed to build a solid foundation of basic beekeeping skill and knowledge. Participants may stop at this level or continue on to the more advanced levels: Journeyman and Master levels.

Prerequisites:

- Must own/manage a minimum of one colony for at least one year.
- Must have at least one registered hive where possible (certain counties do not have the ability to provide this service to the beekeepers, this will be confirmed prior to acceptance into the program).

Expectations and Goals:

Interested individuals must complete the CAMBP application. Applications will be due on June 1st. Notification of acceptance into the program will be made by June 15th.

A \$200 program fee will be due no later than July 1st. This cost covers a single exam fee, CAMBP study guide, priority access and program discount to all CAMBP approved courses at UC Davis.

Individuals must score 75% or higher on both a written and field practical examination.

Upon completion, apprentice level beekeepers will be able to:

- Light and appropriately operate a smoker
- Identify different casts in the colony
- Open and examine a colony
- Properly manage the colony throughout the year
- Be able to identify and take care of any issues that the colony encounters
- Identify and build/assemble standard hive equipment
- Be able to properly feed colonies if needed
- Prevent colony robbing
- Monitor for pathogens and pests
- Re-queen a colony

In order to maintain an active status in the program individuals will be responsible for two BEEs per year. The following activities are pre-approved for satisfying Apprentice Level CAMBP BEEs requirements:

- Presenting a bee-related lecture or workshop to non-beekeeping group (youth or adult).
- Holding office in a local beekeeping association.

- Assisting members of youth organizations (4-H, Scouts, FFA), etc. with a bee-related project.
- Successfully mentoring a new beekeeper through at least one season.
- Giving a public demonstration on beekeeping topic at fair, festival or similar public event.

Curriculum:

- UC Davis Courses (see full description at <http://elninobeelab.ucdavis.edu/courses.html>)
 - Preparing for your first colonies
 - Working your colonies
- Lectures/Topics:
 - Basic honey bee biology
 - Anatomy of the Hive
 - How to start you colony
 - Inspecting your colony
 -

Beekeeping best management practices

- **Recommended Reading:**
 - Honey Bees and Beekeeping: A Year in the Life of an Apiary, 3rd Edition – Keith Delaplane (2007)
 - Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping – Dewey Caron(2013)
 - First Lessons in Beekeeping – Keith Delaplane (2007)
 - The Backyard Beekeeper, Revised and Updated: An Absolute Beginner’s Guide to Keeping Bees in Your Yard and Garden – Kim Flottum (2010)
 - The Beekeeper’s Handbook, 4th Edition – Diana Sammataro, Alphonse Avitabile, Dewey M. Caron (2011)

Exam Schedule (written and practical):

Test day option 1: 9/11/2016

Test day option 2: 9/18/2016