



Basic beekeeping competencies

Lancaster Beekeepers advisory leaflet No 13



BASIC BEEKEEPING COMPETENCIES

If you have completed the Introduction to Basic Beekeeping workshop and are interested in becoming a beekeeper, this is the next step. Run over six afternoons, the course covers all the basic competencies and under-pinning knowledge needed to keep a colony of bees.

Open to anyone who has completed the Introduction to Basic Beekeeping workshop, this integrated practical and theoretical course is designed to introduce you to the basic competencies you will need to manage a colony of bees. The course comprises six afternoon sessions covering the following topics:

- * Annual bee cycle
- * Apiary hygiene
- * Assembling equipment
- * Assessing colony temperament
- * Bees and similar insects
- * Bee development cycle
- * Bee hives and their parts
- * Bee Inspectors
- * Brood examination
- * Cell types
- * Feeding
- * Finding and marking the queen
- * Hive records
- * Honey bees as pollinators
- * Sources of nectar & pollen
- * Manipulation techniques
- * Nectar, pollen, propolis etc
- * Protective equipment
- * Reading brood patterns
- * Residents of the bee colony
- * Setting up an apiary
- * Swarm control
- * Treatment of stings
- * Unwelcome visitors
- * Use of essential tools
- * Varroa damage

Each participant will receive a comprehensive work book containing the theoretical knowledge underpinning the practical skills and space to record the practical experience gained on the course and subsequently.

This course is run annually over four weekends, normally during May, at the Apiary, Yealand Conyers, Carnforth, Lancs.

The course is limited to 20 places and early booking is strongly advised.

For full details of the next course visit:

www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk