

# University of Florida

## Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab

### Online Master Beekeeping Courses

<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honey-bee/extension/events-and-activities/master-beekeeper-program/>

Apprentice Beekeeper training is the first of four certifications beekeepers can achieve through the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Master Beekeeper Program. It will help beekeepers adopt beekeeping best practices and educate the public about bees.

The online course is self-paced and includes eight modules that cover beekeeping basics, such as honey bee biology, beekeeping equipment and hive management. All who enter the program start at the Apprentice level regardless of their previous experience.

No previous beekeeping experience is required, and there are no maximum or minimum age limits. However, trainees must show they are serious about keeping bees. In addition to completing the modules, participants must currently keep bees and must have kept bees for at least a year at any point before achieving a given level in the program.

Users complete the course by passing a hive inspection practical assessment, which can be done remotely by video recording or in-person at annual beekeeping events in Gainesville, Florida. In the assessment, beekeepers demonstrate how to perform beekeeping activities such as lighting a smoker and inspecting a bee colony. The cost is \$250.

The Advanced Level online course is the second level of the UF/IFAS Master Beekeeper Program. You must be an Apprentice Beekeeper in the UF/IFAS MBP to take this course. This course focuses on pest and pathogen management in honey bee colonies as well as the practices associated with the primary benefits we derive from honey bees, namely pollination services and hive products. Throughout this online course and the required year of hive management experience, participating beekeepers will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to manage and reap the benefits of healthy bee colonies. Additionally, you will learn what you need to start sharing your knowledge of honey bees with others.

Register for this course if you are already an Apprentice Beekeeper and would like to continue in the UF/IFAS Master Beekeeper Program.