

Franklin County Beekeepers Association

Do you want to be a beekeeper?

The purpose of this meeting is to provide a basic idea of what beekeeping is, what it entails, how much it costs to get started & potential outcomes to help people decide if beekeeping might be for them. There is not time to discuss how.

We encourage taking our Beginner Beekeeping Basics course (or other course), work with a mentor & use of the internet to search for information. But we caution that there is a lot of stuff out there & not all is a good idea. Be cognizant of where the video is made & understand that the best beekeeping practices in Florida are not necessarily the best practices in Maine. Look for a similar climate to here in PA.

You will get stung. Think about keeping EpiPens

Legal Aspects

Pennsylvania

- Must register \$10.00 fee and a State Inspector may visit your apiary
- Hives must be able to be inspected - removable frames
- Bees crossing borders must be inspected
- Permit needed to sell bees & State needs notified

Local township/city/development

- Check to see if they have any restrictions.

Insurance - check with your home owners policy

BUYING BEES -

Options: Swarm, Package or Nuc (Nucleus hive)

Package: A box with typically 3 pounds of bees (like 10,000 bees), a mated queen in a cage, can of sugar water.

Estimated Cost: \$100-\$180 in 2018

Nuc: You get typically 5 built out frames with three containing different stages of brood and two with honey & pollen, complete with a laying queen. A working mini-hive.

Estimated Cost: \$150-\$200.00 =2018

Swarm: Rescue from waiting place or hive and collect all the bees and the queen.

Estimated Cost: Free

Packages

Advantages

Usually readily available
get bees sooner
Less money

Disadvantages

Bees not related to the queen
Unproven Queen
Take time to develop and build comb
Need to feed, feed, feed
may abscond

Nucs

Advantages

Get a working colony
Proven producing queen
Easier transfer to your box.
Faster growth / better success rate
Do not need to feed
Guarantee of live, laying queen all stages of brood. (proven hive)

Disadvantages

Sometimes not available until May or June
Using foreign comb & equipment
More Expensive
Typically deep so must add shim & should buy deep frames to fill out hive box

Swarm:

Advantages

Free
Correct age bees

Disadvantages

Don't know where they came from
Have to feed
Finding and catching them all w/queen
Can Abscond

Langstroth Hive

Configuration: Deep Ten Frame Brood Boxes
and Shallow 10 Frame Supers

Telescoping Cover Need 1 Cost: \$12.75

Inner Cover Need 1 Cost: \$5.75

Shallow Honey Super (option) w/ Frames
Need 3-4 Cost: \$32.25 Each

Queen Excluder Plastic, metal, wood
framed metal Need 1 Cost: \$4.00 Plastic

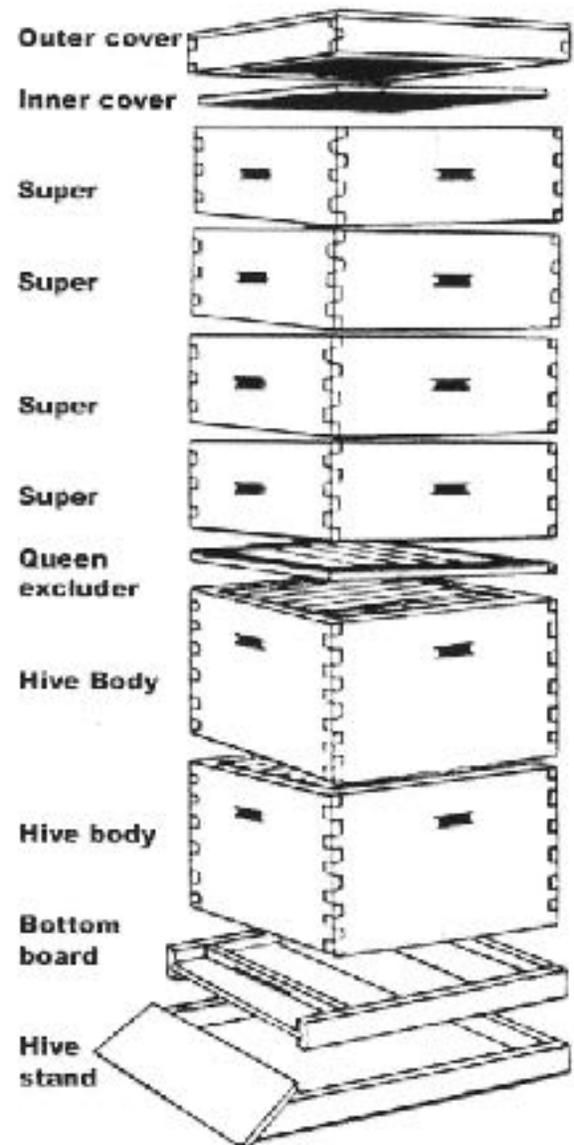
Deep Brood box w/ Frames Need 2 Cost:
\$35.75 Each

Bottom Board Need 1 \$9.75

Entrance reducer Need 1 \$0.75

Hive Stand. Might need 1 \$12.50

Estimated Cost as listed \$246.00



Minimum configuration to get started: Telescoping lid,
inner cover, 2 - brood boxes, bottom board, entrance
reducer, hive stand. Cost: \$113.00

Langstroth Hive

Configuration: Medium 8 Frame Boxes
All Around

Telescoping Cover Need 1 Cost: \$12.75

Inner Cover Need 1 Cost: \$5.75

Queen Excluder Plastic, metal, wood
framed metal Need 1 Cost: \$4.00 Plastic

3 medium 8 frame Brood box & 3 medium
8 frame supers w/ Frames Need 6 Cost:
\$28.55 each (171.30 ttl)

Bottom Board Need 1 \$9.75

Entrance reducer Need 1 \$0.75

Hive Stand. Might need 1 Cost: \$12.50

Estimated Cost as listed \$216.50

Minimum configuration to get started: Telescoping lid,
inner cover, 3 - medium boxes, bottom board, entrance
reducer, hive stand. Cost: \$111.10



Deciding on hive body

10 Frame Boxes

| Type | Width | Length | Height | Weight | Cost/ Frames |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|--------|--------------|
| Deep | 16 1/4" | 19 7/8" | 9 5/8" | 80 lbs | \$35.75 |
| Medium | 16 1/4" | 19 7/8" | 6 5/8" | 50 lbs | \$33.25 |
| Shallow | 16 1/4" | 19 7/8" | 5 11/16" | 40 lbs | \$32.25 |
| | | | | | |

8 Frame Boxes

| Type | Width | Length | Height | Weight | Cost/ Frames |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|--------|--------------|
| Deep | 13 3/4" | 19 7/8" | 9 5/8" | 64 lbs | \$31.05 |
| Medium | 13 3/4" | 19 7/8" | 6 5/8" | 40 lbs | \$28.55 |
| Shallow | 13 3/4" | 19 7/8" | 5 11/16" | 32 lbs | \$27.55 |
| | | | | | |

5 Frame Boxes (Nuc Boxes)

| Type | Width | Length | Height | Weight | Cost/ Frames |
|---------|--------|---------|----------|--------|--------------|
| Deep | 9 1/4" | 19 7/8" | 9 5/8" | | \$20.00 |
| Medium | 9 1/4" | 19 7/8" | 6 5/8" | | |
| Shallow | 9 1/4" | 19 7/8" | 5 11/16" | | |
| | | | | | |

Prices per Irvin Martin's 2017 Price List, FOB Irvin's

Different sources may provide different dimensions

Tools & Auxiliary items

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Smoker | \$30-\$35 |
| Feeder (1 per hive) | \$8.00 to \$25.00 |
| Hive Tool | \$7 - \$12 |
| Bee Brush | \$6 |
| Frame Rest | \$15 (convenience item) |

1" thick Shim
2" Thick Shim
Mouse guard
Spray Bottle
Robbing Screen

Spare Stand, Bottom Board, Inner Cover, Telescoping lid
Compete Nuc (\$35.00)

Feed

- Sugar Water - Feed packages, Feed fall, feed during dearth (25 - 100lbs/hive)
- Vitamins (\$25.00)

Other

Hive winterization
Journal
Mite treatment
winter feed

Protective gear

- veil - always wear your veil.
-
- range from full single piece suits to jackets & just a veil. Gloves. Boots?
- For you & spouse or family members.
- Sources : Catalogs, ebay or Amazon
- light colored clothing.

Catalog Pricing

Full Suit w/ Veil \$110 - \$130

Jacket w/ Veil: \$80

Veil w/ Hat: \$30 - \$45

Goatskin gloves \$20 - \$25

Buy good gear that is comfortable & offers protection.

Can visit Brushy Mountain in Lewisburg or Mann Lake in Wilkes Barre

Honey production - think food grade Not first year.

- Extractor - buy or rent? Kit \$500.00 \$350.00 extractor
- Decapping station \$100.00
- decapping fork \$7.00
- screens & filters \$40 +
- sealable buckets jars & lids & labels
- honey house (selling off site) - dedicated place, cleanable hot & cold water,

Cost Summary First year 2 hives - almost all reusable

Woodenware (2 hives) \$400-\$500

Tools & auxiliary items \$150 - \$200

Protective Gear \$80 - \$150/person

Bees \$200- \$300

Location: setting up your yard.

Should face South or East

Be in a sunny location (8 hrs/day). Get morning sun.

Not in a damp or flood prone location.

Can be late afternoon shaded

Away from traffic but approachable by vehicle.

Near food & water. Water within a 1/4 mile. .

Winter Wind protection.

Keep bees where you can see them - near your house if possible.

Protect from predators - put hives 18" above ground out of reach of skunks, possums, etc. (higher off ground, the higher your top box)

Protect with a fence for bear protection if you're in bear country

Be a good neighbor. (with close neighbors)

- Try to maintain peaceful bees.
- Try to prevent swarming
- Not work the bees when your neighbors are out
- provide water especially if your neighbor has a pool
- erect a 6' fence or hedge between you & your neighbor to force bees to fly higher

Time Requirements

Managing - what needs to be done & how much time is required?

What is going into the hive?

New beekeepers may want to “go in” every ten days to 2 weeks - purpose to learn. Know a queen is present. Look for swarm cells. check food supply, look for health issues. 1/2 to 1 hour/hive

Later years - minimum

Spring: Inspect the hive (are they alive?) Do you have a queen, do you need to feed? Remove insulation, etc from winter. (1/2 - 1 hour per hive)

Late Spring, put on honey supers. Check for queen. Is activity where it should be? Swarm Cells?

Summer, look for queen, check honey supplies, check for mites. Monitor food supply. Look for swarm cells June, July, August

Fall - prepare for winter, food supply? Feed? Mites? reduce hives, insulate etc September/October/November?

Keep in mind that hive inspections are dependent upon the weather.

If you are feeding, then you need check the feeders. If you opt for a small entrance feeder, that might be everyday & if you opt for a larger top feeder it might be twice a week.

Equipment choices can affect time requirements

Useful Links

Franklin County Beekeepers Ass'n Web Page

www.FCBAPA.org

Franklin Country Beekeepers Ass'n Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/310096252347657/>

Penn State Honey Bees <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/bees>

managing pests research http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/projects/projects.htm?accn_no=414288

State Apiary Registration form <http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/pdf/registration.pdf>

Irving Martin - woodenware 985 Mt Rock Rd Carlisle, PA 717-776-0244

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm - Supplies <http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/>

Mann Lake - Supplies <http://www.mannlakeltd.com/>

Betterbee - Supplies <http://www.betterbee.com/>

Kelley Bees - supplies <https://www.kelleybees.com/>

Electric netting (bees) http://www.premier1supplies.com/c/fencing/electric_netting/

Rose Hives Good videos <http://www.rosebeehives.com/>

First year: <http://www.homegrown.org/forum/topics/beekeeping-101-the-first-year>

Beekeeping info <http://www.honeybeesuite.com/>

Bee Culture magazine <http://www.beeculture.com/>

Manual: <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/agrs93.pdf> (used in short course)

Educational Resources <http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/educational-resources/>

PA State Beekeepers Ass'n <http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/>

Choosing right size boxes

<http://wibmagli.hubpages.com/hub/Beehives-A-Guide-To-Choosing-the-Right-Size-Boxes>

Email me: darking@innernet.net & I can e-mail this list with live links