

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

Sources: Supply Houses, Local beekeepers, local suppliers (Contact FCBA for a list)

Most Common Options : Package or Nuc (Nuke - Nucleus hive)

Package: A box with 3 pounds of bees, a mated queen in a cage, can of sugar water. Estimated Cost: \$90/\$120 in 2016

Nuc: You get 5 built out frames with three containing different stages of brood, a laying queen and two frames with honey & pollen. A working mini-hive. Estimated Cost: \$150/\$175 in 2016.

Packages

Advantages

Usually readily available
Less money
Available earlier

Disadvantages

Bees not related to the queen
Unproven Queen
Take time to develop
Need to feed

Nucs

Advantages

Get a working colony
Proven producing queen
Easier transfer to your box.
Faster growth / better success rate

Disadvantages

Sometimes not available until
May or June
Using foreign comb
More Expensive

If you are certain about beekeeping - try to order Nucs in early December. More confident you will get your bees by April 1st.

If not, you can order the first week of the course. Some sources may be sold out

Langstroth Hive

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

Telescoping Cover Need 1 Cost: \$12.25

Inner Cover Need 1 Cost: \$5.25

Shallow Honey Super (option) w/ Frames
Need 3-4 Cost: \$27.00 Each

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

Deep Brood box w/ Frames Need 2 Cost:
\$30.75

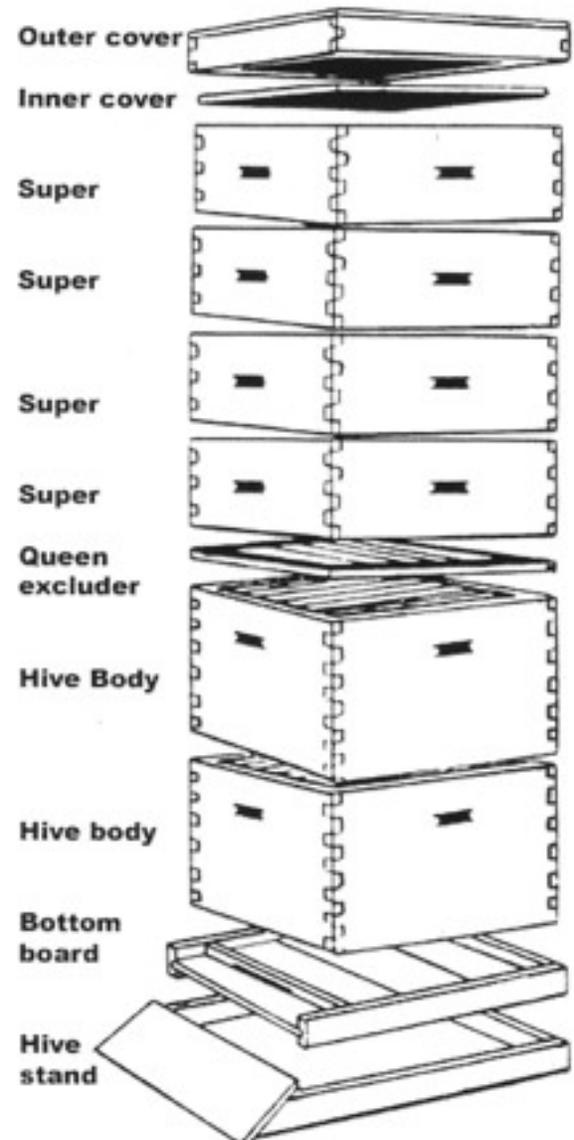
Bottom Board Need 1 \$9.00

Entrance reducer Need 1 \$0.50

Hive Stand. Might need 1 Cost: \$11.50

Estimated Cost as listed \$185.00 to \$212.00

Minimum configuration to get started: Telescoping lid,
inner cover, 2 - brood boxes, bottom board, entrance
reducer, hive stand. Cost: \$100.00



Langstroth Hive

Configuration: Medium 8 Frame Boxes
All Around

Telescoping Cover Need 1 Cost: \$12.25

Inner Cover Need 1 Cost: \$5.25

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:
\$24.20 each

Bottom Board Need 1 \$9.00

Entrance reducer Need 1 \$0.50

Hive Stand. Might need 1 Cost: \$11.50

Estimated Cost as listed \$213.70

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 size 10 Frame Boxes

Type	Width	Length	Height	Weight	Cost/ Frames
Deep	16 1/4"	19 7/8"	9 5/8"	80 lbs	\$30.75
Medium	16 1/4"	19 7/8"	6 5/8"	50 lbs	\$28.00
Shallow	16 1/4"	19 7/8"	5 11/16"	40 lbs	\$27.00

8 Frame Boxes

Type	Width	Length	Height	Weight	Cost/ Frames
Deep	13 3/4"	19 7/8"	9 5/8"	64 lbs	\$26.95
Medium	13 3/4"	19 7/8"	6 5/8"	40 lbs	\$24.20
Shallow	13 3/4"	19 7/8"	5 11/16"	32 lbs	\$23.20

5 Frame Boxes (Nuc Boxes)

Type	Width	Length	Height	Weight	Cost/ Frames
Deep	9 1/4"	19 7/8"	9 5/8"		\$20.25
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 2014 Price List, FOB Irvin's

Different sources may provide different dimensions

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

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. But not too close.

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

- (Show picture of richard's water and out truck bed)

- 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 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 (bears) 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>