

Beekeeping classes at Okaloosa County Extension Office

Okaloosa County Extension and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (UF/IFAS) will present a series of classes called Beekeeping in the Panhandle. The classes cover a variety of beekeeping topics including types of honey bees, pollen collection and how to split hives. These classes will be offered by interactive video at the Okaloosa County Extension Office located at 5479 Old Bethel Road in Crestview from 6-8 p.m. on the scheduled dates.

Eight sessions are as follows:

- Monday, Nov. 21: Introduction to Bees
- Monday, Nov. 28: Introduction to Beekeeping and Beekeeping Equipment
- Monday, Dec. 5: Bee Management
- Monday, Dec. 12: Pests and Diseases
- Monday, Jan. 9: Honey Plants and Pollination Ecology
- Monday, Jan. 16: Products of the Hive
- Monday, Jan. 23: Splitting Hives, Increasing Hive Numbers and Pollination
- Monday, Jan. 30: Others Topics in Beekeeping

Speakers will include UF/IFAS Extension Entomologists and apiary specialists with Florida's Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Bureau of Plant & Apiary Inspection

A Beekeeping Tradeshow is also being held at the Washington County Extension Office located at 1424 Jackson Ave. in Chipley on December 10 at 10 a.m. Preregistration is at 9 a.m. the day of the event. This free tradeshow consists of hands-on demonstrations, exhibits and more.

Along with the registration form, a \$50 fee per person and \$25 for each additional person covers the cost of the classes and materials. You can mail the registration to the Okaloosa County Extension Office, 5479 Old Bethel Road, Crestview, FL 32536. Registration and payments are due by November 16.

For more information or to register, please contact Larry Williams, Okaloosa County Extension Director, at 689-5850 or lwilliams@co.okaloosa.fl.us.

Larry Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Okaloosa County, November 3, 2011