

Study Guidelines

South Carolina Master Beekeeper Program

Certified Level

At the certified level the individual should be familiar with the basic skills and knowledge necessary for the beginning hobby beekeeper. The individual must pass a written and practical test.

Reference

- The Hive and The Honey Bee

Publications

- American Bee Journal
- Bee World
- Bee Culture
- Speedy Bee

Honey Bee Diseases and Pest

- American Foulbrood
- European Foulbrood
- Chalk Brood
- Sacbrood
- Varroa Mites
- Tracheal Mites
- Nosema
- Symptoms, causative agent, treatments
- Small Hive Beetle
- Wax Moths
- Africanized Honey Bee

Beeswax

- Processing
- How bees produce
- Uses

Honey

How produced

- Nectar and Pollen sources
- Conversion into honey-sugars
- Percent moisture

Processing

- Granulation/Re-liquefied

Bottling

- Selling
- Conversion from nectar to honey
- Uses
- Types in S.C.

Bees

Races and Subspecies

- Origins
- Traits

Reproduction

- Requeening techniques
- Mating
- Swarming
- Dances

Basic anatomy; Queen/worker/drone

- Parts
- Breathing
- Organs
- Glands

Swarming

Seasonal hive transformation/evolution and management

Africanized bees

Pesticides

- Applications
- Toxicity
- Poisoning symptoms

Bee Equipment

- Parts and uses of a beehive
- Traits of a good bee yard

Products of the hive

- Honey
- Beeswax
- Propolis
- Venom
- Wax moth larvae
- Package Bee and Queens

Key people in beekeeping; past and present

- L.L. Langstroth
- Harry Laidlaw

Hive Manipulation

Honey Bee Management

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Winter

The practical test will include but not limited to:

1. Be able to light and properly use a smoker
2. Be able to recognize:
 - Different caste of bees
 - The queen or at least tell how to find the queen and what she looks like.
3. Be able to differentiate between:
 - Bee brood
 - Pollen
 - Capped honey
 - Uncapped honey
 - Recognize Propolis and describe its various functions

The candidate should be able to describe and tell the function of everything dealing with an active beehive.