

The Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program

What it provides.

The Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program is a Regional Beekeeper Training and Certification Program. Headquartered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the program provides opportunities for training, education, outreach, and mentoring for beginning and advanced beekeepers that will improve colony survival and drive economic success. This program will focus on colony management, bee biology, pests, pathogens and other stressors, as well as land stewardship, business and marketing, and professional development. Great Plains Master Beekeepers will be both advanced in beekeeping knowledge as well as being competent advocates for bees.



How it works.

After becoming a member, you receive all the basic benefits of the program and enrollment is free.

As you work through the program, you log in to note which courses or workshops you have completed. When you are ready, you demonstrate your newly learned skills through quizzes or hands-on application. Each level contains required courses, volunteering time and field training to ensure the rigor of the program.

Why would I want to do the program?

The reasons vary on why someone would want to participate in a Master Beekeeping program. Some want the additional education. Some see it as a goal to obtain. Most understand that beekeeping is a hobby of passion and working with other like-minded individuals makes them a better advocate for all bees and pollinators.

Why does my local club promote this program.

The Boone Regional Beekeepers Association is committed to finding and promoting beekeeping resources that would be of benefit to their members. Currently, we have two members that are provisional certified educator. With the program in the earliest stages of development, the GPMB committee is allowing a few experienced beekeepers to have this title until the testing processes are completed vetted. The courses developed and presented by Jim and Valerie Duever, owners of Jim 'n' I Farms, Inc. have been accepted into this program. Jim and Valerie have the provisional certification. Any other individuals presenting their course are more than qualified to present and discuss the materials in that section.

What are my next steps after completing one of the requirements?

As an individual, you are responsible to recording any courses, volunteer opportunities and field training hours completed. GPMB provides short videos to describe the registration and verification process for each type of requirement.

What are the requirements?

Each of the levels requires coursework, field training, volunteer hours and an exam to progress to the next level. Here is quick summary of activities in the categories. More details are available on the [Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program](#) website.

Volunteering

Volunteer Hours can be earned by:

- Speaking to a civic group, school, 4-H, or other group about bees, beekeeping, or pollination.
- Participating in an interview for a radio, TV, or newspaper story about beekeeping.
- Assisting an individual in preparing a state or county fair exhibit (regarding bees or beekeeping).
- Speaking to a club about some aspect of beekeeping.
- Assisted with a state or national beekeeping meeting.
- Serve as an officer in a beekeeping club or association.
- Spending time working an educational display or exhibit regarding bees or beekeeping.
- Organize a new bee club or association.
- Write a newspaper, magazine, or newsletter article about some aspect of beekeeping.
- Teach an exploratory level beekeeping class (Journeyman/Master level).
- Teach a beginning beekeeping class (Master level only).

**volunteer hours performed prior to participating in the master beekeeping program cannot be claimed.*

Program Overview

Level		Apprentice	Journeyman	Master
Main Focus		This level focuses on basic training for colony management which includes starting colonies, health assessments, honey production, and overwintering to improve survival rates of honey bees.	This level focuses on training that refines management skills and promotes economic growth for the beekeeper.	This level focuses on professional development for beekeepers as educators, communicators and advocates for the beekeeping industry, as well as improving their management and pest monitoring.
Educational Learning Objectives		Complete all learning objectives 1.1-1.20 to advance	All of Apprentice level plus Complete all B, L and P learning objective and at least 3 E and M learning objectives	All of Journeyman level plus Complete 15 additional learning objectives, one in each focus area. Final Master Project is also required for full access to GPMB teaching resources
	(B) Biology	3 choices 1.01 thru 1.03	3 choices 2.01 thru 2.03	6 choices 3.01 thru 3.06
	(E) Business and Economics	1 choice 1.04	7 choices 2.04 to 2.10	7 choices 3.07 thru 3.13
	(L) Land Stewardship	1 choice 1.05	2 choices 2.11 and 2.12	2 choices 3.14 and 2.15
	(M) Management	14 choices 1.06 thru 1.18	12 choices 2.13 thru 2.24	5 choices 3.16 thru 3.20
	(P) Professional Development	2 choices 1.19 and 1.20	2 choices 2.25 and 2.26	6 choices 3.21 thru 3.26
Volunteer Hours	Per Year	10	20	20
	Total cumulative	20	60	40
Field Hours	Total cumulative	20	40	80
Knowledge Assessment		Multi-choice Exam	Field Exam	Field Exam and Master Project
Cost		Free	\$80 Testing Fee	\$100 Testing Fee, every other year

Field Training

Field training hours are required for each level of the Great Plains Master Beekeeping course. Field training exists so beekeepers are versed in the technical knowledge of how to keep bees, and in the subtle nuances of maintaining them. All the practical knowledge from workshops and courses will become more apparent when you experience the concepts inside of a living beehive.

Types of accepted field training:

- Working your own hives with mentor or other beekeeper
- Hive inspections/checks
- Extracting or harvesting honey
- Treating your bees
- Building equipment for your bees
- Processing beeswax or other hive product