

The Illinois Beekeeper's Calendar*

(adapted from the Brushy Mountain Bee Farm Catalog of Beekeepers Supplies)

<p style="text-align: center;">January</p> <p>Review colony records; evaluate the previous year; make plans for the new year; order and build new equipment; repair damaged equipment; read and take the time to learn from last year's mistakes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February</p> <p>Check colonies for stores by hefting hives; feed with sugar if necessary; check for dead colonies and remove if found; order package bees & queens for desired delivery dates, late in month feed 1:1 sugar water & pollen substitute.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <p>Inspect twice this month for stores, queenrightness, mites, and diseases; reverse brood chambers; continue feeding 1:1 sugar water & pollen substitute, treat to prevent foulbrood, nosema, and control mites; remove wrap.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">April</p> <p>Inspect twice this month for congestion, queenrightness, diseases, and mites; act to prevent swarming; divide colonies or requeen if planned; install package bees; remove all drugs four week before main nectar flow; check for adequate stores.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">May</p> <p>Inspect twice for congestion, queen cells, diseases, mites, stores, and queenrightness; add drawn supers for spring honey flow; watch for swarming and act to control it; check for incoming pollen; join weak colonies; protect unused supers with PDB.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June</p> <p>Inspect twice for congestion, queenrightness, diseases, mites, and stores; watch for swarming; process spring honey if there are full supers; add more supers as necessary; protect unused supers with PDB.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July</p> <p>Inspect colonies once for congestion, queenrightness, diseases, mites, and stores; remove and process full supers; provide additional supers as needed; search for markets for honey; protect unused supers with PDB.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">August</p> <p>Inspect colonies once for stores, queenrightness, diseases, and mites; remove and process full supers; remove queen excluders; protect unused supers with PDB; super for fall nectar flow.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">September</p> <p>Inspect once for diseases, mites, and queenrightness; requeen if necessary or planned; inspect for stores; remove last honey supers; put in Apistan strips, menthol, and extender patties; treat for nosema.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">October</p> <p>Prepare colonies for winter; feed 2:1 sugar water to increase colonies' stores for winter if necessary; provide upper ventilation hole for wintering; reduce entrances; package hive products; sell, sell, sell.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November</p> <p>Develop additional markets for hive products; continue selling; purchase additional equipment for next year, winterize hives; attend ISBA meeting in Springfield. Details are available through ISBA web site: http://www.isba.ws/</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December</p> <p>Take a well-deserved rest!</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

* Activities may vary by month depending upon unseasonable weather conditions and location.