



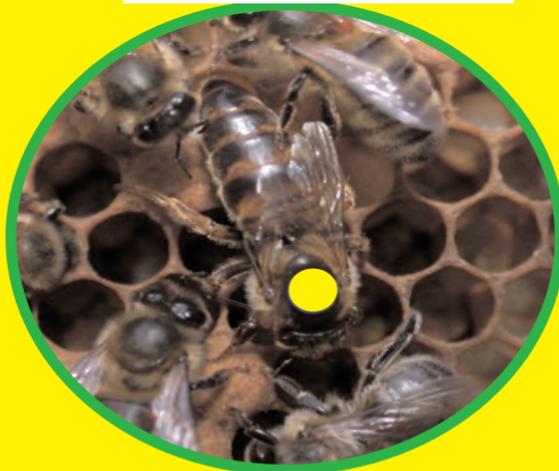
**The Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations
(Comhnascadh Cumann Beachairí na hÉireann)**

FIBKA

HANDBOOK FOR THE GUIDANCE

OF

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS



www.irishbeekeeping.ie



Foreword

As President it gives me great pleasure to present to our member associations a further revision of this guidebook. Arising from changes in personnel at association and Federation level it is necessary to update the guidebook on an annual basis so that it can be used with confidence by association officials. Changes are also necessary in the section dealing with disease guidelines, resulting from a further product being made available for Varroa control.

In it you will find contact details for all members of the Executive Council, the panel of lecturers, honey judges and Practical Beemasters. Members of the various committees who engage in the promotion and education of beekeeping are also clearly set out. It contains an invaluable amount of information on all aspects of Beekeeping in Ireland. Each association is linked to a member of the Executive Council who acts as a go between on Federation business. Due to the recent increase in Affiliated Associations some changes have been made in this area to reduce travel time for Council members.

Also detailed are services provided at Federation level such as a summary of our insurance scheme, availability of sugar at discounted rates, jar labels and of course, the library facilities for books, DVDs and videos.

Over the past few years there has been a large increase in interest in the craft and this handbook is an invaluable guide to those responsible for organising lectures and demonstrations at association level. Membership of Affiliated Associations has recently exceeded 2,500 for the first time ever, resulting in an increasing requirement for lectures at beginner and improver level. Details of our formal education system are well described in the booklet and associations should promote this area of the craft by facilitating study groups.

130 years of Organised Beekeeping in Ireland 1881-2011

Formation of the Irish Beekeepers' Association

The inaugural meeting was held at the Royal Dublin Society's rooms, Ballsbridge at 12 noon on April 21 1881. There were thirty persons present. In 1887 Mr. H Chenevix J.P. became Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the I.B.K.A. and continued in that position for a period of thirteen years. He was mainly responsible for its continued progress.

He introduced a monthly circular of notes and hints, which was supplied free to all members. The I.B.K.A. was now well on its way to maturity. The 1881 Land Act gave much assistance to the majority of Irish tenant farmers but it did not improve the plight of small farmers in the west of Ireland.

Eventually the British Government established the Congested Districts Board in 1891. It decided to provide this board with adequate sources of revenue. The idea was to give the families in the poor law electoral divisions of counties Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Kerry, and West Cork, a better reward for their labour. The board continued its activities for a period of thirteen years from 1891 to 1904 when it was taken over by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

In its first annual report for the year 1892, laid before the House of Commons on February 24 1893, it was recommended that beekeeping be included in the board's work in future, as it deserved encouragement.

The secretary of the board immediately appointed Mr Turlough O'Bryen to be instructor in beekeeping covering the respective area. He proved to be an outstanding success in this assignment and remained in the post until 1924.

In 1894 a special committee under the technical advisor, Mr C.N. Abbott, designed a hive, at the office of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, to suit the requirements of the congested districts board.

It was a tremendous success and became known as the Congested Districts Board hive (C.D.B.). The Abbott Brothers, 23 Merchants Quay, Dublin, supplied approximately one thousand of these hives to the board. It was the first standardised beehive to be put on the market in these islands. It was an outstanding hive for the production of section honey.

1897 American Foulbrood outbreak

This disease is as old as time. Aristotle described it as an inertness, which seized the bees and caused a bad smell in the hive. Von Schirach in 1769 was the first authority to give the disease the name of Foulbrood.

It was the introduction of the movable frame hive that showed up its existence in Ireland. It did not readily appear in skep beekeeping as the bees in the skep were destroyed on a regular basis and the honeycombs were all removed.

1901 Cork Beekeeping Association founded

The initial meeting was held at the Assembly Rooms, South Mall on July 5 1901. Mr William Deely, Whites Cross was elected Hon. Secretary, and the Chairman was Mr. R.M. Martin, V.P.

The Cork Exhibition 1902

This was an agricultural exhibition and the members of the newly formed Cork Beekeepers' Association played their part in urging the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction to erect a large straw skep focusing public attention on the beekeeping craft.

The skep was twenty feet high. It was constructed with straw ropes wrapped around a frame of timber covered with canvas and felt. The D.A.T.I. flagpole was placed on top.

Inside it had three circular shelves on which exhibits of honey and beeswax were accommodated. In addition a wide shelf was placed around the perimeter to provide for the display of hives and other beekeeping appliances. This was the largest exhibition of the beekeeping craft ever seen in Ireland. There were exhibits on display from all thirty-two counties. The exhibition lasted from May to November 1902.

1904 The Irish Bee Guide Published

The author of this Bee Guide was Rev. J.G. Digges MA and he also wrote the revised edition 'The Practical Bee Guide'. It ran into sixteen editions, totalling seventy-six thousand books published.

In an obituary on his death in 1933, the great English commercial beekeeper and author of three books on the craft, R.O.B. Manley, stated, "*It was a beautifully written book judged merely as a book of literature. In*

addition to this, it is undoubtedly by far the best of the general guides to beekeeping published in the British Isles."

Its sales are sufficient evidence of the truth of this statement. Rev. Digges also published *The Irish Bee Journal* which continued until his death.

1907 Special Course in Beekeeping at Albert Agricultural College

This special course in beekeeping for horticultural instructors was arranged between the department of agriculture and the county committees of agriculture with whom the instructors were employed.

There was a full attendance of the required instructors at the course, at the end of which a stiff examination was held. Following this course every county committee of agriculture in Ireland had qualified instructors in horticulture capable of giving instruction in the beekeeping craft.

1908 The Bee Pest (Ireland) Bill

This Bill was introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. T.N. Russell vice-president D.A.T.I. on June 18 1908. Second reading July 10, third reading July 13 passed through the House of Lords, received Royal assent and became law in Ireland on the 1st January 1909.

1912 Discovery of Isle of Wight disease (Acarine) in County Dublin

Mr. T O'Bryen, Beekeeping inspector, on the instruction of the Department of Agriculture visited the apiary of Mr. Wm. Scaly Gossett, Woodlands, Rochestown Avenue, Blackrock, Co.Dublin and took samples. Within a couple of days a bacteriological examination had been made and it was confirmed to be Isle of Wight disease. It was believed that the disease was introduced into Ireland by means of second-hand appliances from a diseased district in England.

A sub-committee was appointed by the I.B.K.A. to co-operate with the Department of Agriculture in handling the situation. It was too late to contain the outbreak because within the week a second outbreak was discovered at Mr. McDonalds apiary at 1 Burdett Avenue, Off Sandycove Rd., Dunlaoghaire.

The introduction of the I.O.W. (Acarine) was catastrophic, both for the Irish beekeepers and their organisation. D.A.T.I. had no statutory powers to deal with any bee disease except Foulbrood.

Acarine increased rapidly. Thirty-nine cases were reported in 1912/13. By the years 1924/25 it was so prevalent in some counties that it resulted in a complete loss of all bee stocks.

As a result of this degeneration some county committees, especially County Wexford, decided to import Dutch bees which, according to the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, were free from the disease. In some cases they proved not to be immune. It was discovered that where Dutch Bees were crossed with the native black bee larger numbers of stocks survived.

The infestation continued to increase, being very prevalent from 1924 to 1927, and then a virulent form of the disease re-appeared. It completely destroyed all stocks in some counties. Restocking with Dutch Bees began in earnest in 1927 when fifteen county committees of Agriculture adopted a scheme for restocking.

April 20th 1939 Committee Meeting

Mr. M.H.Read was in the chair, also present were Miss Morgan, and Mr. M.J. Bruton. The sole business of the meeting was to consider the advisability of winding up the I.B.K.A. It was therefore decided that this matter be placed before the annual general meeting on May 4 1939 and that the ordinary business of the AGM be made contingent on a decision to continue the I.B.K.A.

This was the last meeting recorded in the minute book. So ended the first phase of the I.B.K.A.

The Federation is born

In 1942 Robert N. Tweedy decided to give a series of talks on beekeeping in the Country Shop, St.Stephen's Green, Dublin as he felt there was a need for a beekeeper's organisation in Dublin.

These talks were very well attended and as a result twelve of the leading enthusiasts met on 14 January 1943 in the offices of Arthur Ganley, 20 Lincoln Place, Dublin and established an association. R. N. Tweedy was elected Chairman and A. Ganley, Honorary Secretary both pro tem. A week later on 21st January 1943 at the same venue the County Dublin Beekeepers' Association was formally launched.

As time went by the membership gradually increased to over two hundred and as a result two other branch associations, Mount Merrion and Balbriggan, were formed.

A short time after this R. N. Tweedy suggested that an effort be made to contact any other beekeepers' associations, which may be still functioning throughout the country including the six counties of Northern Ireland, with a view to forming an all Ireland body.

These associations were located with the assistance of the County Committees of Agriculture and were invited to assist in forming a Federation.

In June 1943 the honorary secretary of the newly formed Ulster B.K.A. informed the County Dublin B.K.A. that there were 23 local associations in the Six Counties and intimated that they would welcome the setting up of an All Ireland Federation. However, when this body was formed they did not associate themselves with it.

On the 9th of August 1943 the officers of the County Dublin B.K.A. with Miss E. Thompson, Dr. W. Sexton and Mr. E. Lemass were constituted a Federation Sub-Committee with power to inaugurate an All Ireland body. After a lot of effort the Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations was duly established on St.Patrick's Day, 1944 at 20 Lincoln Place, Dublin. Such was the birth of the present Federation of Irish beekeepers' Associations and it has stood the test of time right down to the present day with a membership of approximately two thousand five hundred and fifty members in fifty three local associations.



THE FEDERATION OF IRISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

Handbook for the Guidance of Affiliated Associations

AIMS OF THIS HANDBOOK

1. To provide the Officers of Affiliated Associations with simple guidelines for the efficient running of their organisations.
2. To supply information on the services available from the Federation together with useful contact addresses and telephone numbers.
3. To provide information on the Federation examinations, including awards, regulations and examination fees.

COMPOSITION OF ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

Each Association shall be managed by a Committee comprising of: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and six other members. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are key figures in each Association, its success or failure will largely depend on them. They should continually recruit new members to the ranks, follow-up on lapsed members and enlist the co-operation of existing members in this important operation. They should continuously promote the aims of the Federation, the sales of An Beachaire and actively encourage members to sit the Federation examinations.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN

The Chairman is responsible for the smooth working of the Association and should promote the aims of the Federation.

- He/she should have a pleasing personality and a sympathetic understanding of other people's viewpoints
- have the skill to decide when to speak and when to keep silent

- though in command of the proceedings he/she has got to resist the temptation to dictate
- should encourage discussion to ensure that the minority viewpoint gets as much attention as the majority viewpoint
- should ensure the meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion and kept within a time limit.
- shall take the chair at all Association meetings; if unable to do so, he/she will delegate that duty to the Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman will have a casting vote in addition to his/her ordinary vote should voting be equal in any division.

SECRETARY

The Secretary's duties include:

1. Attendance at all Association Meetings.
2. Recording the Minutes of Committee Meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

Before each meeting he/she should:

- a) Draw up agenda in consultation with Chairman.
- b) Check meeting venue.
- c) Notify members in good time. (Usually a minimum of 7 days).
- d) On meeting night, arrive in good time at venue.
- e) Read to the meeting, minutes of previous meeting.
- f) Read relevant sections of correspondence.
- g) Record accurately and briefly the minutes of each meeting.
- h) After each meeting, write minutes in minute book.
- i) Answer correspondence immediately.
- j) Notify Treasurer of any expenses.
- k) Get feedback from members and inform Chairman.
- l) Check on forthcoming events.
- m) After AGM notify any change of Officers to Secretary, FIBKA.

TREASURER

The Treasurer is responsible for all funds received and disbursed on behalf of the Association together with the keeping of records and accounts in respect thereof.

He/she should:

Provide the Federation Treasurer with a listing of all paid-up members accompanied by cheque for:

- a) Affiliation fees.

Subscriptions should be sent to the national Treasurer

Receipts should be issued for all funds received; this is particularly important in the case of the membership subscription, as a member is considered to be insured from the time that the subscription has been paid and a receipt has been issued for it.

It is recommended that the membership subscription should be set at a level sufficient to cover the cost of:

- a) Association administration expenses.
- b) Affiliation fee.
- c) Insurance.
- d) *An Beachaire*

Members should be encouraged to pay accordingly.

The Treasurer should forward the insurance and affiliation fees to the Federation Treasurer as soon as practicable after collection.

Beginners Course

In recent times there is renewed interest in beekeeping by the general public with many aspiring beekeepers seeking to undertake beginner s course. Without new and enthusiastic members associations will not survive. It is vital that associations conduct a Beginner s Course at local level during the late autumn or early spring to cater for new beekeepers. Generally the expertise to run such courses is available from within the local association. The FIBKA Preliminary Syllabus should be covered, such that by the end of the lecture series and Apiary demonstrations, participants are ready to sit the Preliminary Exam. The different areas of the syllabus should be divided so as to give a balance across 6 — 8 Lectures. It may also be a worthy objective that all participants round off their course by sitting the Preliminary Examination, however this should not be compulsory.

New Members

Special attention should be paid to new members. They should be encouraged to pursue their interest in the craft. An experienced or neighbouring beekeeper might invite and encourage the novice to accompany him/her on a visit to an apiary or offer to go along with the new recruit to look after his/her bees.

Outdoor demonstrations should be a feature of every Association's activities and at these the beginner is taught how to manipulate bees effectively.

Winter lectures illustrated with slides, films or videos, will keep up their interest and satisfy their thirst for knowledge. They should all be encouraged to subscribe to *An Beachaire* so they will keep up-to-date with the latest information.

Constitution

It is advisable that each Association would draft its own Constitution. The Federation's Constitution is available towards the rear of this booklet. Other FIBKA literature, such as this handbook, handouts for public exhibitions, Summer Course Brochures are obtainable from the FIBKA Secretary.

Example of an Agenda for a Local Association AGM held in Oct/Nov/Dec

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual General meeting
3. Matters arising from Minutes
4. Secretary's Report
5. Accounts and Treasurer's Report
6. Apiary report
7. Election of Officers (List the various Officers)
8. Election of Committee Members
9. Subscriptions for coming year
10. Activities planned for the year ahead
 - (a) Indoor Lectures
 - (b) Outdoor Demonstrations
 - (c) Possible Summer Outing

- (d) A Honey Show
 - (e) Beginners Course
 - (f) Examinations
 - (g) Completion of Motion and Nomination form for Congress
 - (h) Delegates to Congress
 - (i) Social occasion
11. Presentation of Certificates to successful candidates
 12. Purchase of equipment for members by bulk order to be organised in - Feb/March
 13. Any Other Business
 14. Date and place of next Annual General Meeting.

THE SERVICES ON OFFER FROM FIBKA

1. Annual Summer Course - Gormanston College: Mid-late July - details from the Summer Course Convenor.
2. Annual Congress - AGM held on Wednesday of Course Week send Association Delegates as per FIBKA Constitution.
3. Annual Beekeeping Proficiency Examinations, Course Week Gormanston, and also provincial centres. Consult the Examination Coordinator.
4. Annual National Honey Show - Course Week, Gormanston College.
5. Members of Associations affiliated to FIBKA are fully insured against third party liability. Particulars from: FIBKA Secretary.
6. Annual supply of sugar, for bee feeding, at reduced price.
7. The FIBKA publishes monthly Journal - "*An Beachaire*" (Official Organ of Federation).]
8. Comprehensive library of beekeeping books and videos. Books and videos on loan free, borrower pays return postage. Contact the Librarians.
9. Arbour Week - week following first Sunday in March. Tree plants (nectar bearing) are available at reduced price.
10. Special attractive Federation honey jar tamper proof labels, complete with bar code are available to members of Affiliated Associations who are also listed on the insurance register

- . The Federation label acts as a seal over the cap of the honey jar and has a number on it and also the Federation s Logo.
A record of the numbers is held by Michael Woulfe, who also administers the scheme. The labelling scheme is confined to FIBKA members who pack only Irish honey and whose names and addresses appear on the honey jar.
- 11. Lecture Notes -A series of lecture headings, suitable for Beginners Courses may be obtained from Peter Whyte Tel. (067) 21237.
- 12. Maintains a panel of lecturers/instructors to talk to associations
- 13. Working closely with DAFF to promote the good health of bees.
- 14. Working closely with UBKA and BBKA for the benefit of beekeeping

DIRECTORY OF LECTURERS AND DEMONSTRATORS

- It is important that you make contact with your future speaker well in advance as many are booked out well in advance
- Don't forget to send them reminders a week or so prior to the engagement with clear details of the venue
- Arrange with the speaker to have the necessary equipment available screens, projectors extension cables etc. Nowadays many speakers have their own laptop and projector.
- If a speaker has to travel a long distance he or she would probably appreciate some light refreshment prior to the meeting.
- It is good practice to follow up an engagement with a letter of thanks, even when a vote of thanks has been made at the meeting.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES

All persons, whose name appears on the panel of speakers/instructors in the list in this Handbook as well as Honey Judges, normally receive a contribution for visiting and lecturing to any affiliated Association of FIBKA; the primary responsibility for this payment shall lie with the local Association and the sum paid shall be a matter for the Association. In addition the Federation will pay a €0.50 per mile travelling allowance on receiving a request in writing stating the name of the Association

visited the purpose of the visit, the date of the visit and the mileage travelled. The Federation will not be responsible for any other charges. If overnight accommodation is necessary, it will be the responsibility of the local Association. Expenses as set out above are not allowed where the lecturer is visiting his/her own Association. The Federation mileage allowance shall only be allowed for lectures within the State. Any Speaker residing outside the State shall be entitled to payment from the Federation provided they are servicing an Association Affiliated to the FIBKA

FIBKA PANEL OF LECTURERS/INSTRUCTORS

See website for current details

FIBKA EXAMINATIONS AND CERTIFICATES

Full details on all educational matters including the latest changes, examination application forms etc may be obtained by visiting the Federation website www.irishbeekeeping.ie or by contacting the **Examination Co-ordinator:** Education officer

See www.irishbeekeeping.ie for current exam requirements in the education section

FIBKA QUALIFICATIONS

Practical Beemaster's Certificate: Successful candidates will be entitled to teach and examine beginners.

Senior Certificate: The holder of this certificate is an expert beekeeper, competent to advise on all aspects of beekeeping and to teach modern methods.

Lecturer's Certificate: Holders will be known as Certified Federation Lecturers (C.F.L) and their names will be included in the panel of lecturers.

See website for exams

www.irishbeekeeping.ie

THE FEDERATION INSURANCE SCHEME

It has come to the notice of the Executive Council that there is some misunderstanding about the above scheme. Below we set out details of the cover under our policy

Who is covered?

All beekeepers who are members of an affiliated association and who pay the contribution towards the insurance premium, and all beekeepers, who reside in Northern Ireland and who subscribe to our Journal and who also pay the contribution towards the insurance premium have full cover under the terms of our Policy.

A list of all those insured is kept by the Treasurer.

What is covered?

All insured members are covered in respect of any injury or loss sustained by a third party as a result of the insured's beekeeping.

In addition the land owners on whose lands members may keep their bees is indemnified in respect of any damage or loss caused by beekeeping activity.

The owners of halls or offices in which Association meetings are held are also indemnified against any third party claims.

In addition to the foregoing the policy covers the Federation and Officers in respect of events attended by the Federation such as The National Ploughing Championships, National Country Fair, and RDS etc.

HONEY

The policy also covers honey sold by members in respect of any injury caused by the sale of such honey provided that such honey is produced in Ireland.

It is important to state that only Irish honey is covered under this heading. Any honey imported into Ireland is not covered. It is essential that any beekeeper that buys honey satisfies himself that the honey bought is the bone fide produce of the vendor.

Irish honey is covered in Ireland, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. This means that members', honey is covered while members attend the London Honey Show or similar event. The amount of cover under the policy is €6.5M

If proof of Insurance is required contact the *Secretary*

BEEKEEPERS CODE OF CONDUCT

All Beekeepers should be aware of the beekeeper's code of conduct and make every effort to adhere to the guidelines.

I hereby undertake as follows: -

1. To site my hives and apiaries away from places frequented by the public where they are likely to cause nuisance to neighbours or those in the vicinity and to ensure that the general public cannot easily access them.
2. To ensure that my apiary sites are stock proof and not close to areas where Bloodstock are worked, trained or exercised.
3. To ensure as far as possible that my bees are of docile temperament and to work towards this by eliminating bees that show undesirable characteristics and to take all reasonable steps to control swarming.

4. To manipulate my bees in a responsible manner and in suitable weather conditions, especially in urban areas so that no nuisance is caused to neighbours or those in the vicinity and especially at the time of removing the honey crop.
5. To ensure that the honey crop is removed in a responsible manner, extracted and stored in suitable containers free from all contaminants especially moisture odours and chemicals.
6. To present honey for sale in a proper clean container free from all debris and labelled in accordance with current legal requirements
7. To participate as an active member of my Local Association where I can acquire the skills and knowledge to become a competent and responsible beekeeper and to encourage other beekeepers to do likewise.
8. To strive to ensure good neighbourly relations at all times

APIARIES SITES

On the 8th of November 2007, the President and Secretary of FIBKA met with representatives of Coillte to discuss the continued provision of apiary sites for beekeepers. Coillte have agreed to continue to provide sites where possible for bees and agreed the terms for the following 5 years.

- (1) The cost per site is €40 per annum for association members
- (2) They will permit up to 15 hives per site.
- (3) Coillte ask members to use secluded areas as far as possible and avoid areas of known public use.
- (4) No signage is necessary.
- (5) Arrangements for keys should be made with the local Forest manager details available from their website www.coillte.ie.

CRITERIA FOR PRODUCTION AND SALE OF NUCLEI

The Executive Council meeting on the 28th of May 2011 approved a directive as to the criteria for a standard nucleus for the information of both producers and purchasers as follows:-

The production and availability of nuclei is paramount to the success of the beekeeping industry in Ireland. Without the constant availability of nuclei, beginners cannot enter the craft and may be tempted to import. It is therefore very important that nuclei are of a certain standard before being offered for sale especially to the unsuspecting and often over enthusiastic beginner. Bees should always have the following characteristics:

- Good honey producers
- Non swarming strain
- Disease resistance
- Docile

Bees with the above traits are suitable for the breeding of queen and the production of nuclei. Nuclei are usually classed as *Over-Wintered* or *Summer/Autumn* produced.

Criteria for an Over-Wintered Nuclei

Over-Wintered nuclei offer many advantages to the buyer. Firstly the colony is well established with a queen that is proven and the possibility of collecting a crop of honey with proper management. The risks associated with over wintering are no longer an issue if purchased in late April and the first inspection is completed by the seller assuring that all is within the necessary standard. The following should be considered when purchasing:

- Queen must not be more than one year old, bred from good quality native stock.
- Queen should be clipped and marked.
- Queen egg laying viability should be greater than 95%.
- Queen should be laying in a minimum of 2/3 of at least 2 frames.
- Frames should be standard Hoffman type all of the same design.
- No frames should be broken or damaged in any way.
- All combs should be in a good and clean condition, preferably less than one season old.

- Comb containing excess drone or unusable cells should be rejected.
- Combs should where possible be free of chalk brood.
- All cells should be checked for AFB and the nuclei rejected if any signs or symptoms of AFB are found.
- Nuclei should be checked for signs and symptoms of EFB in April and rejected if found.
- At least four combs should be covered by bees.
- Bees should be free of Nosema & Acarine.
- Adequate stores should be present to last the colony at least 7 days.

Colonies will vary from season to season. However the importance of not selling underperforming bees cannot be over emphasized. It is better for the seller to keep nuclei an extra two weeks rather than off loading to a beginner who discovers that there is no return from his investment and commitment at the end of the year.

Criteria for Summer/Autumn Nuclei

Many beekeepers make up nuclei as a swarm control method during late May/June. This is quiet an acceptable method of beekeeping and can produce good quality nuclei. The same criteria applies to these nuclei as to the over winter one but the following should also be taken into consideration.

- Queen should not be raised from a colony that exhibits traits that are not specified at the start of this document.
- Queens should not be raised from eggs or larvae in the nuclei.
- Point of hatching queen cells, virgin queens or mated queen from a breeder queen should be used to head up the nuclei.
- Nuclei should only be sold after the queen is laying showing sealed brood, preferably on several frames in order to assess her viability.
- It may not be practical to clip a young queen but the option of marking her for ease of identification should be considered.

The summer nuclei should be ready for sale end of July/early August. There is still adequate time for the beginner to manage it to an adequate size colony without too much difficulty.

Nuclei made at the end of or after the honey flow will again build up but the possibility of losing them over the winter is greater. Often there is inadequate time to assess the queen. If the season is drawing to a close it is more prudent for the purchaser to get the seller to over winter the nuclei and then purchase it the following spring. Order your nuclei in August/September.

All sales of nuclei should include an advisory leaflet as to what is needed as the colony expands. Seller should keep records of all sold nuclei for traceability.

Guidelines on Bee Stings

There are a number of actions that a beginner can take to make the transition into beekeeping both smooth and successful. Joining a beekeepers association is high on the list and thereby avail of the many services it provides including the effects of bee stings and the wearing of protective clothing. It is inevitable that at some stage a beekeeper will get stung and for that reason a tub of antihistamine ointment should be kept at hand. If the beginner is in any way allergic to stings he/she should not contemplate taking up beekeeping without seeking medical advice.

What to do in the apiary:

If a beekeeper has a severe reaction to stings —

1. Move the person away from the hives.
2. Scrape out the stings.
3. Get the person to sit down and place in the recovery position so that he/she is as comfortable as possible to help breathing.
4. Always have a charged mobile phone near at hand and ring for an ambulance — give the address of the apiary and say it is a bee sting reaction.

The patient's doctor might have prescribed an Epi-pen adrenaline injection to carry, for an emergency. Only the patient or a trained colleague who has been given prior permission by the patient may use this injection.

HONEY LABELLING REGULATIONS

	1. Optional WEXFORD	
	1. Optional HONEY	
Produce of IRELAND	5 A. BEEKEEPER Anywhere Sometown Any County	2. 454g
		4 BB End 2011
		6 L 05678

A Typical Label

(each section box has a number in the top left hand corner; look up the relevant number below for the regulations pertaining to each section)

(1) The name provided for in Community Provisions

HONEY sub types are

- a) Blossom or Nectar Honey
- b) Honeydew Honey
- c) Comb Honey (includes cut comb honey)
- d) Chunk honey or cut comb in honey
(honey containing one or more pieces of comb honey)
- e) Drained honey (Honey obtained by draining decapped broodless combs)
- f) Extracted Honey (obtained by centrifuging decapped broodless combs)
- g) Pressed Honey (obtained by pressing broodless combs with or without the application of moderate heat not exceeding 45°C)
- h) Filtered Honey (obtained by removing foreign organic or inorganic matter in such a way as to result in significant removal of pollen)
- i) Baker's Honey, which is suitable for industrial use or as an ingredient in other foodstuffs and may have a foreign taste

or odour; and/or have begun to ferment or have fermented and / or have been over heated. In this case the words 'intended for cooking only' shall appear in close proximity to the product name. Except for Categories c); d) h); and i) above these names may be replaced by the simple product name **'honey'**.

Except in the case of Filtered Honey or Baker's Honey the product names may be supplemented by information referring to:

1. (options)
 - (a) Floral or vegetable origin if the product come wholly or mainly from the indicated source and possesses the organoleptic, physico-chemical and microscopic characteristics of that source.
 - (b) Regional, territorial or topographical origin, if the product comes from the indicated source.
- 2) The net quantity using the kilogram (kg) or gram (g) as appropriate
 - (a) Weights for liquid honey must be 57g, 113g, 227g, 340g, 454g or multiples of 454g for imperial units or 62.5g, 125g, 250g, 500g 750g, 1kg, 1.5kg or multiples of 1kg for metric.
 - (b) The minimum height of lettering for weight indications is 4mm for both 'half pound' and 'pound' weights of honey.
- 3) The country or countries of origin where the honey has been harvested. If the honey originated in more than one country the following may be used:
 - (a) 'blend of EC honeys'
 - (b) 'blend of non EC honeys'
 - (c) 'blend of EC and non EC honeys'
- 4) The date of minimum durability, which shall:
 - (a) Be preceded by the words 'best before end...' as the date will not include an indication of the day.
 - (b) Consist of the month and year in uncoded chronological form.
- 5) The name or business name of the manufacturer, packager or seller.
- 6) The Lot Number. Lot means batch of sales units of a food stuff, manufactured or packaged under practically the same conditions.

Lot number is preceded by the letter 'L' except, when it is clearly distinguishable from the other indications on the label.

In general the Minimum Size of Lettering

(excluding the weight lettering) is:

If no dimension greater than 120mm = 1.5mm in height

If one or more dimensions greater than 120mm but none greater than 300mm =2.5mm

If one or more dimensions greater than 300mm but none greater than 450mm =4mm

If one or more dimensions greater than 450mm but none greater than 600mm =2.5mm

Dimensions mean height, length, and breadth of rectilinear container and height and maximum diameter of curvilinear containers.

Fractions are deemed a single letter with height measured from the top of the upper figure to the bottom of the lower figure.

FIBKA TAMPER EVIDENCE LABEL FOR IRISH PRODUCED HONEY

FIBKA operates a tamper proof label to help identify Irish Produced Honey. The label costs €30 per 1,000, with a once off registration fee of €5. They are available in rolls of one thousand from the Controller Mr Michael Woulfe, Railway House, Midleton, Co Cork 021-4631011 email: glenanorehoney@eircom.net.

The labels are available to anybody who fulfils the following conditions:-

1. The Federation labels will be available to persons who are members of an Affiliated Association and whose name is on the Insurance Register.
2. Producers own label must conform to current legislation on labelling of foodstuff.
3. Specimen of Producers own label to be supplied to the Controller Mr Michael Woulfe, Railway House, Midleton, Co Cork 021-4631011 email: glenanorehoney@eircom.net
4. The labels sold to members are non-transferable.
5. Labels are available to members who produce Irish Honey exclusively.
6. A member whose affiliation lapses will be required to pay the registration fee on rejoining.
7. Honey presented for sale with the Federation attached must be of a high standard in every respect. Poorly presented honey may be used as grounds for expulsion from the Scheme.
8. The Federation reserves the right to expel any member from the Scheme on being satisfied that the rules have been broken.
9. On joining the Scheme members must sign the attached
Consent Form .

I _____

of _____

agree to accept the above regulations and conditions governing the use of the Federation label on Irish Produced Honey.

Signed: _____ Date: _____



IRISH HONEY JAR LID

Mr Tony Lord of Alpack Ltd has sponsored the artwork in designing a new honey jar lid. The lid, which will be common to the eight, twelve and sixteen ounce jars, is similar to the current cover. It has the Federation Logo printed in colour and also the words "Irish Honey Direct from the Beekeeper". Those lids are only sold to those producers who are entitles to use the Federation Tamper Proof Label and whose names are registered with the Controller Michael Woulfe.

LIBRARIES

FIBKA operates a Book Library and a DVD/Video Library.

Book Library

The book library is maintained by Librarian Jim Ryan. The books are set out in the usual format used in the book trade. The author, then the title

followed by the edition, the date and the number of pages, follows the number of each volume. There are other abbreviations used: - CAB refers to the lectures delivered to the Central Association of Beekeepers.

The initials IBRA after an entry indicate those published by the International Bee Research Association. Where possible the country of origin is given. All Irish publications are indicated as are those published in the US. The bulk of the books are in the English language.

When ordering books please order by number. This makes it easier to send on the right book.

Borrowers are allowed to borrow two books at a time for a period of one month. Those who have not borrowed previously from the Library should furnish a letter from their Association secretary confirming their current membership. Books must be ordered by post or email: not over the telephone. A full list of books is available on the website.

Available from Librarian **Mr Jim Ryan,**

"Inisfail", Kickham Street, Thurles, Co Tipperary

Tel. No. 0504-22228 or email:jimbee1@eircom.net

DVD/VIDEO LIBRARY

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

- (1) The Librarian will post DVD's out to Association Secretaries on request and the Association concerned will pay the return postage.
- (2) Associations can borrow a maximum of two DVD's at any one time.
- (3) Associations can hold a DVD for a period of two weeks and must return it within this time period.
- (4) DVD's are the property of FIBKA and must be replaced if lost or damaged.

INDIVIDUALS

- (1) An individual borrower must be a member of an association affiliated to FIBKA.
- (2) A letter from the Secretary of the borrowers Association confirming their membership must accompany the first application.

- (3) Individuals are limited to one DVD at any one time.
- (4) Individuals must undertake to replace any damaged or broken DVD's
- (5) A borrower must return the DVD within two weeks; failure to do so will disqualify the borrower from obtaining further DVD's.
- (6) The borrower must pay €3 towards the cost of posting out the DVD and this fee can be enclosed in the return envelope.

SCHOOLS ETC

Schools or other organizations if interested should contact the Librarian and arrangements can be made to accommodate if at all possible.

SLIDES

The following sets of slides on Beekeeping topics are available to Federation Lecturers and Association Secretaries. Each set comes with explanatory notes.

1. Activities of Worker Honeybees	8 Slides.
2. Composition of the Colony	12 Slides.
3. Activities within the Colony.	12 Slides.
4. Foraging Bees.	12 Slides.
5. Bumble Bees Life History.	8 Slides.
6. Queen Rearing /Introduction	12 Slides.
7. Seasonal Management of Honey Bees.	18 Slides.
8. Bumble Bee Life Cycle Colony.	8 Slides.
9. The Honey Bee.	8 Slides.
10. Hive Types and Other Equipment.	18 Slides.

Please contact the Video Librarian to arrange to hire them.

PUBLICATIONS

FIBKA has four publications for sale:-

BEES, HIVES, & HONEY

Published by FIBKA — Edited by Eddie O Sullivan

This book has been compiled from writings by some of Ireland's most prominent beekeepers of the present day. It is an instruction book on beekeeping published as a millennium project and should prove a modern treatise on the craft of beekeeping and its associated products.

There are over 200 pages, also many photographs and illustrations.

Price €12 (Paperback) or €18 (Hardback). Please add €5 p & p

Available from Eddie O Sullivan, Phone: 021-4542614,

email: eosbee@indigo.ie - ***This book is now out of print.***

THE IRISH BEE GUIDE — by Reverend J.D. Digges.

First published in 1904, It was proclaimed as an excellent book on bee-keeping. It also won a place as a notable production in the literary context. It eventually ran to sixteen editions and sold seventy-six thousand copies overall.

The name was changed in the second issue to ***The Practical Bee Guide***. One hundred years later, a decision was taken to honour this great work. What better way to do it than to re-issue the book as it was in 1904 when it first entered the literary world. The re-print is an exact replica of the original first edition.

The price per copy are Hardback €20 and Paperback €10.).

Please add €5 p & p

Available from Eddie O Sullivan, Phone: 021-4542614.

email:eosbee@indigo.ie

BEEKEEPING IN IRELAND —A HISTORY — J.K.Watson

This book gives the history of the craft from time immemorial to 1981. It is well bound, hard backed and excellently presented. There are 293 pages of valuable information and 53 pictures of prominent beekeepers past and present. Price €7.00.

This book is now out of print.

THE BEE MAN OF COUNTY CLARE by J.K.Watson

This book covers the life of Turlough Butler O'Bryen 1853 — 1928 who was employed by the Department as a Beekeeping advisor and travelled the country advising and assisting beekeepers.

A limited number are available at €7. Please add €3 p & p

Contact FIBKA Secretary Michael G Gleeson 087-6879584

email:mGGLEE@eircom.net

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW LONDON

Irish beekeepers have attended and exhibited at the National Honey Show since it's inception in 1923. In order to assist members to get their exhibits to the venue FIBKA will organize transport there and back. Generally two vehicles travel, one from the south of the country and the other from the midlands regions.

If you wish to sent exhibits contact

FIBKA Secretary **Michael G Gleeson** 087-6879584

email: mgglee@eircom.net

REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

PRESIDENT'S CUP

The FIBKA President presents this trophy, known as The Beekeeper of the Year trophy, together with a Certificate annually to a member who has excelled in some aspect of beekeeping or who has given exceptional service to the Federation; any Association can recommend a member for the award. The Association Secretary should submit the recommendation (in a form suitable for subsequent publication in *An Beachaire*) to the FIBKA Secretary before the 1st of April; the Federation secretary will place the recommendation before the FIBKA Executive Council, which will make the decision. The winner's name will be engraved on the cup.

SUMMER COURSE

See website for current programme

www.irishbeekeeping.ie

QUEEN MARKING

The internationally agreed code of colours for queen marking is:

GREY or WHITE for any year ending 1 or 6

YELLOW for any year ending in 2 or 7

RED for any year ending in 3 or 8

GREEN for any year ending 4 or 9

BLUE for any year ending in 5 or 0

The colour for 2012 is YELLOW



The Federation of IRISH BEEKEEPERS Associations
(Comhnascadh Cumann Beachairí na hÉireann)
Established 1881 Reconstituted 1943

CONSTITUTION
July 2011

See the website as this is subject to minor alterations if deemed necessary at congress



*“Nature never did betray the heart that loved her”
(William Wordsworth 1770-1850)*