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## UNH Cooperative Extension Info Line Question of the Week

### Bee Keeping



Q: I'd like to keep bees. Can you help me get started?



A: Beekeeping brings honey to your table, potential income, and the chance to help maintain our state's natural habitats. Bees play an essential role as pollinators of farm and garden crops and in our natural ecosystems. Beekeeping is difficult to learn on your own. To get a good start, you may want to find an experienced, successful local beekeeper willing to help you. The New Hampshire Beekeepers' Association (<http://www.nhbeekeepers.org/>) is a good place to begin. The association was established to promote the education of beekeepers and to inform the general public about honey and honey bees. Their Web site provides contact information for local beekeeper clubs, a list of statewide beekeeper events, links to state beekeeping laws and regulations, and links to online sources of beekeeping information.

Of the 7 local beekeeper clubs, 5 are offering multi-session bee schools this winter and spring. Taught by commercial and hobby beekeepers the schools cover the lifecycle of the honeybee; tools, equipment and hive assembly; day-to-day care for your bees; and products of the hive. To talk to a beekeeper visit the NH Beekeepers Association exhibit at the NH Farm & Forest Exposition in Manchester (February 8th and 9th at the Radisson Hotel).

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension Education Center's Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu)

