

News Article
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Grow Your Own Honeybees

Over the last several months the Coosa Extension Office has been hosting a series of workshops called “Grow Your Own” to provide information to people who may be interested in producing more of their own food at home. This used to be a way of life in our country but now with a Wal-Mart in almost every town, people are forgetting how to produce their own food. Some are choosing to go back to these traditions because they have found it enjoyable and a great way to save some money and also have a fresh and safe food supply. If the economy gets worse, we may all need this information.

So far we have hosted classes, on backyard poultry, home vegetables, home orchards, raising goats and sheep, and raising a beef steer for the freezer. The remaining three classes in the mini-series will include: beekeeping, catfish and home food preservation. Those who are interested may attend all or any one of the classes that meets their needs. There is a registration fee of \$5 per class.

This month we are hosting a class entitled “Introduction to Honey Bees and Beekeeping”. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Damon Wallace who is an active member of the Alabama Beekeepers Association and is also a Master Beekeeper. The class will be held on Monday, February 16, 2009 at the 4-H Club House in Hanover (in front of Central Middle School). The class will run from 6:00 till 8:00 p.m.

My grandfather used to raise bees and collect the honey. It is a fascinating hobby and has many health benefits. Unfortunately, beekeeping may become a dying art unless this knowledge is passed down to the next generation. Honey bees are very important for the pollination of so many different plants but in the last few years we have seen a decline in native hives. Several pests and diseases have taken a toll on these beneficial insects. In short, we need more people to learn the art of bee keeping.

Anyone who has an interest is invited to attend. Please pre-register by calling the Coosa County Extension Office at 256-377-4713