

The Art and Science of Queen and Drone Rearing Short Course Instructor: **Date:** June 19–21, 2025 **Location:** Purdue Bee Lab

Course Details This two-day course is designed for individuals eager to master the art and science of queen rearing using the larval transfer technique (grafting). It concludes on the first day of The Beekeepers of Indiana Summer Field Day. Each class is limited to 25 participants and fills quickly, so reserve your spot soon!

Cost: \$200

Included with Registration:

- Queen Rearing Manual
- Demonstrational Video of Queen Rearing Techniques

Participants are required to bring their own veil and protective suit.

To Register: Please contact us for additional information or to secure your place in the course.

What You Will Learn

- Introduction to Queen Rearing Systems
- Biology of Queens & Drones
- Advanced Beekeeping Techniques
- Selecting Winter-Hardy, Mite-Resistant Bees
- Commercial Queen Production
- Preparing Finishing Colony (Queenright vs. Queenless)
- Setting Up the Swarm Box
- Cloak Board System (Tentative)
- Grafting (Hands-On Practice)
- Alternative Methods for Queen Rearing
- Procedure from Egg to Queen
- Queen Mating Practices
- Marking Queens
- Applying Learned Skills

Agenda

Thursday, June 19

- 8:00 a.m. – Registration
- 9:00 a.m. – Lecture: Reproductive Biology & Queen Rearing Techniques
- 10:00 a.m. – Panel Discussion on Queen Rearing
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch (Provided)
- 1:00 p.m. – Colony Manipulations: Set Up Starter and Finisher Colony
- 2:00 p.m. – Prepare Swarm Box (Closed Flight System)

- 4:00 p.m. – Adjourn

Friday, June 20

- 8:30 a.m. – Hive Manipulations & Grafting Practice (Classroom Setting)
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch (Provided)
- 1:15 p.m. – Place Grafted Cups in Finishing Colony & Swarm Box
- 4:00 p.m. – Adjourn

Saturday, June 21 *(Optional)*

- 9:00 a.m. – Check Grafted Cells for Acceptance; Transfer to Finishing Colony
- 10:30 a.m. – Join The ISBA Summer Meeting After Queen Cell Check
- 4:00 p.m. – Adjourn

Prerequisite

- Minimum of one year of beekeeping experience required

Instructors

- **Krispn Given**, Apiculture Specialist, Department of Entomology, Purdue University
- **Dale McMahan**, Indiana Master Beekeeper, Apis Engineering
- **David Shenfield**, Indiana Commercial Beekeeper & Bee Breeder, Clover Blossom Honey