Beekeeper		Honeybees
January 11	Attend meetings Read literature Order packaged bees or nucs	10,000 - 20,000 bees in tight cluster over 4 - 8 combs 68 - 77 degrees at center, 46 - 50 degrees outer edge Colony consumes 20 - 25 oz of food per day Soft humming - check with tube or stethoscope When 50 - 54 degrees outside, cleansing flights
February 10	Check hive with stethoscope Collect dead bees Paint and or repair equipment Start database Plan product lines and labels	Some spring blooms: snowdrops, hazel nuts/1st pollen Brood production begins Queen begins to lay eggs Brood nest w/ eggs forms - palm of the hand size Colony consumes 2 lbs of food per day Outside temp 46 - 50 deg before bees gather water If high 50's, begin cleansing flights

March 4	Watch hive entrance
	Peek into hive by lifting back corner
	Combine weak colonies
	Feed if necessary
	Pollen patties if cool, dry pollen if warm
	Varroa treatment if necessary
		Blooms: catkins, willows, dogwoods - pollen & nectar
		    also: skunk cabbage, box elder, elm,
		    silver & red maples
		Colony consumes 3 - 4 lbs of food daily
		Brood nest covers 3 - 4 combs

April 1	1st hive inspection
	Check at least one comb for foulbrood
	Clean bottom board
	Add varroa screen
	Ether roll or shake test for mites
	Keep feeding syrup & pollen if nec
	Fumidil if nec
	Reverse hive bodies if necessary or
	Swarm control - remove 3 frames of brood,
	    mostly capped, some larvae
		Blooms: dandelions, willows, poplars w/ red pollen,
		    maples, oaks, beeches, sloe plum,
		    currant (serviceberry), cherry tree,
		    apple & pear trees, crowfoot, sugar maple
		    judas tree (red bud), gooseberry
		Old bees dying
		Brood nest occupies 6 - 8 combs
		Brood temperature maintained at 95 degrees
		Major fluctuations in temperature threaten colony

May 2	Look for queen
	Add 1st supers & excluder
	Add 2nd super while bees still in 1st
	Continue swarm control
	Shrink colony or create nuc with queen
	Queen rearing begins
	Mow grass around hive
	Remove drone frame
		Blooms: currant, gooseberry?, grapevine, raspberry,
		    buckeye (horse chestnut), black & honey locusts,
		    tulip, blackberry, white clover, ground ivy
		Colony has reached full strength
		80% of combs in brood nest are filled with brood
		Height of activity - still wanting to swarm
		May remove pollen/honey frames in order to
		    feed in Autumn

June 5	Continue swarm control
	4-6 supers by now
	Put comb super above 1st super
	Weigh frames
	Begin harvest
	Re-arrange brood frames
	Remove drone frame
	2nd stories on nucs started in April or May
	If very hot & bees out front, vent top
	If very aggressive, check for queenlessness
	May raise new queens (mate, mark, clip)
		Blooms: alsike, red, & sweet clovers, mustard,
		    basswood, buttonbush, teasel
		Summer Solstice
		Colony has reached full strength?
		Brood production peaks - especially drone production
		Queen lays fewer eggs
		Colony can gain up to 4 - 5 lbs
		Honeydew: evergreens, deciduous trees, firs, spruces,
		    Maple, oak, pine
		Possible early harvest

	Beekeeper	Honeybees
July 8	Early extraction Quick super removal to prevent robbing 1st honey lighter, good for creaming Supply pollen Prepare products for farmers' market Raise new queens Attend association picnic	Blooms: cucumber, melons, etc., boneset, figwort, ironweed (veronia) , marsh milkweed, catnip After solstice, bees in declining phase Mid-July - danger of swarming has passed Drones are driven away Robbing behavior - especially while harvesting

August 9	Exchange queens
	Varroa check
	    If high, remove supers & treat
	    If Sept flow expected, treat for
	    2 weeks, return supers, treat
	    again after harvest
	Rearrange brood nest if necessary
	Combine weak colonies if nec
	Attend EAS convention
		Blooms: marsh sunflower, goldenrod, buckwheat,
		    spanish needle (beggar tricks), sumac,
		    smartweed, jewelweed (impatiens)
		Start of new bee year
		Spike in production as winter brood hatches

September 6	Last harvest Decide if bees need this super Increased activity could = queenlessness Last hive examination Winter food - Try to deliver all the bees need by the end of September	Colony shrinks as old bees die Bees begin to cluster during cooler nights One colony can be wintered above another
October 3	Last feeding late Oct/early Nov Foulbrood treatment if necessary Varroa treatment if nec Fumidil if nec Check weight by lifting hive corner Clean feeders Clean bottom board Flip inner cover Shim outer cover Pest-proof hive - mouse guard Winterize hive	Late blooms: aster, field mustard

November 7	If not already done:
	    Flip inner cover
	    Shim outer cover
	    Pest-proof hive - mouse guard
	    Winterize hive
		Bees contract into tight cluster
		Check 1 - 2 times monthly without opening hive

December 12	Leave 1 case of 2lb jars for "yard rent" Process wax cappings Make candles Make creamed honey Sell honey - find buyers Review records Read literature	Check 1 - 2 times monthly without opening hive