The Tennessee Beemaster Program is a school for beekeepers. The goal is to improve the knowledge of TN beekeepers about beekeeping, and the program is dedicated to all beekeepers in Tennessee. It started as a pilot on 1991 for 55 people from 3 counties and was expanded in 1992-93 to include testing before and after the course, 10 classroom topics and 1 field day with hands-on training. An info packet provides 24 publications and outlines for classes. Currently more than 2,400 participants, representing 80 TN counties have completed the Hobbyist Level.
This is an entry level program and requires no previous training to enroll or no mandatory “years of beekeeping.” Completing this level requires passing a simple written test which is necessary to objectively assess the skills acquired. Participants will learn basic knowledge and skills necessary for a beginning beekeeper and to keep their bees alive.

Topics that will be covered at Hobbyist Level:

1. Sources of beekeeping information for the “beginner.”
2. The colony—basic bee biology and behavior.
3. The bee hive—construction, equipment & tools.
5. Seasonal management.
7. Bee pest—detection, prevention & control.
10. Good neighbor relationships.