

# Welcome & Scheme Introduction



## Background and Aims

For several years now a shortfall in native queens has been evident and now, with the increased popularity of beekeeping, it is more than ever. It is also very easy for beginners, and some experienced beekeepers to be swayed by the myths surrounding foreign bees.

For these reasons we have started this project which will go a long way towards increasing the availability, quality and diversity of our Native Irish Honey Bee ( Amm )

At the same time the publicity around the project, which is already spreading in the beekeeping world, will go a long way to promote our native bees and away from imported bees.



## Overview

- The scheme will run over two plus years and enable us to bring on groups of beekeepers with the necessary skills to breed queen bees, become self sufficient in queen rearing and supply others in the local area with quality queens.
- Participation in year two will rely on the group achieving certain goals and give feedback to those managing the scheme in year one.
- In year three the groups will be required to assist with the start up of new groups by supplying a Nuc of bees to them headed by a quality queen.
- Mentoring and tuition will be provided by experienced queen bee rearers mainly using online resources



## Objectives

- Each group member will become proficient in queen rearing.
- Group members will be able to continue queen rearing after the end of the scheme.
- Excess queens will be raised in year one for **donation** to local beekeepers, raising the quality of their bees in the area.
- Queens will continue to be raised in year two for sale to local beekeepers
- Knowledge gained will be passed on to others in the future.
- After Year 2, groups will be able in part to assist new groups joining the scheme
- The genetic stock of the native Irish honeybee will be improved all over the island of Ireland
- More queens will be available for sale nationwide in the coming years.



## Future Outcomes

- Sustainable beekeeping for all members.
- Increased availability of good quality Amm queens and nucs.
- Potential cost free bees/profitable beekeeping.
- Life skills acquired by the members which can be passed on to others within and outside the initial groups, both in general beekeeping and queen rearing
- Donate home produced nucs to new groups in 2022/3 which will reduce the financial burden in starting new groups (sustainability)
- Provide nucs and queens to your associations and others both inside and outside of this NIHBS schemes
- In short: more Amm bees available over wider areas, sustainability in beekeeping and more economic and potentially more profitable beekeeping.



# NIHBS Queen Rearing Groups Scheme 2020



Native Irish Honey Bee Society



[www.nihbs.org](http://www.nihbs.org)



@nihbs

# NIHBS Queen Rearing Groups Scheme 2020

Thank you for your attention



Native Irish Honey Bee Society



[www.nihbs.org](http://www.nihbs.org)



@nihbs