

Queen Rearing Techniques Short Course

March 28-29, 2015



Instructors:

Elina L. Niño, Bernardo Niño and Billy Synk

Short Course Description:

We are very excited to be hosting our inaugural Queen Rearing Techniques Short Course at the Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility at UC Davis. The course will include lectures, hands-on exercises and a tour of our beautiful Häagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven. This course is perfect for those who have some beekeeping experience and would like to move on to the next step of rearing their own queens or maybe even trying their luck at bee breeding.

Multiple topics will be covered:

- Honey bee queen biology
- Basics of selective honey bee breeding programs
- Various queen rearing techniques
- Testing for hygienic behavior
- Assessing Varroa mite levels

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about and **practice** multiple methods for queen rearing. We will go through a step-by-step process for queen rearing via grafting including setting up cell builders and mating nucs. At the end of the course participants will be able to check their grafting success and local participants can take queen cells, resulting from their grafting exercises, back to their apiaries. The participants will also learn techniques for assessing Varroa loads in colonies and for evaluating hygienic behavior.

Logistics:

The course size is limited to 14 participants that have basic beekeeping experience. Please bring your bee suit/veil! The \$200 registration fee covers the cost of course materials (including a set of grafting equipment: grafting frame with bars, plastic queen cups and a grafting tool), breakfast, lunch and refreshments on the days of the short course. Participants are responsible for obtaining their own lodging. Short course will be held at the Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility on UC Davis campus. For directions visit: <http://elinoebelab.ucdavis.edu/qrtsc.html>

**For more information on registering for the short course contact
Bernardo Niño: elinoebelab@gmail.com.**