

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) pays an annual grant to the Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations (FIBKA @ www.irishbeekeeping.ie) towards its operating costs. The objective of the aid is to help FIBKA in promoting the craft of beekeeping to the highest standard among its members, as well as informing the general public of the role of bees in our environment.

FIBKA provides the following services to its members:

- Organises beginners' courses in beekeeping at local level;
- Organises beekeeping proficiency examinations;
- Holds Bee Health Seminars periodically at countrywide venues, and.
- Publishes a monthly journal '*An Beachaire*' (*The Irish Beekeeper*).

FIBKA's annual Summer Course is internationally renowned and covers a wide programme of lectures, workshops and practical apiary sessions. The Irish National Honey Show is run each year in conjunction with the annual Summer Course and attracts a large entry.

This aid is provided in accordance with Article 15(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1857/2006 on the provision of technical support in the agriculture sector.