

AGRICULTURE

Beekeepers share expertise at workshop

University Farm hosts a half-day session



Mark Owen listens to the quiet buzz coming from a package of bees during the Intro to Beekeeping workshop Saturday, at University Farm in Chico. EVAN TUCHINSKY — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

By Evan Tuchinsky

etuchinsky@chicoer.com

CHICO >> Two-dozen people and hundreds of bees gathered at the University Farm for a beekeeping workshop Saturday morning.

Co-hosted by the Chico State College of Agriculture and the Honeybee Discovery Center, the half-day session covered apiary basics for hobbyists with enough how-to tips to bolster the knowledge of experts. The north state features plenty of both given its status as the Golden Triangle of beekeeping in the United States; Saturday's attendees covered a spectrum of ages — teen to seniors — and experience.

Heavy rain forced a pivot for the demonstration portion. Commercial beekeepers Fredy Valenzuela and Jerry Hightower relocated two hives from an exposed location to a covered courtyard by the greenhouses, where fellow presenter Kevin Ward showed how to transplant a package (i.e., a starter colony) into a new box.

Classroom lessons included a history of bees told by Hightower and science explained by Rob Snyder from UC Davis.

For future events, visit honeybeediscoverycenter.org/events.