



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

August 2016

Officers

- President
Larry Hupp
- Vice President
Michael Mayes
- Secretary/Treasurer
Cindi Jones
- Program Chair
Martha Hupp
- Refreshments Chair
Patrice McCollum

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, August 25 @
7:00pm

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Thursday, August 25 @ 7:00pm. **Mr. Patrick Ferrer** from Dadant & Sons in Chatham, VA will be our speaker. He will discuss Varroa mite control and bring related products.

Past Meeting:

Mr. Robert Neal presented "*The Honey Flow is Over—What to Do Next*" and discussed checking food stores, re-queening, and mites.

We formed a planning committee for our booth at the upcoming Bright Leaf Hoedown and discussed the bee school planned for early next year.

News:

This year's California almond crop is forecasted to surpass 2 billion pounds and the forecast for the 2016-2017 crop is 2.05 billion pounds. About 1.6 million colonies of honey bees are placed in California Almond orchards at the beginning of the bloom period to pollinate the crop between February and March each year. [Source: [Almond Board of California](#)]

Events:

Artist Elsabe Dixon's "Living Hive" [exhibit](#) is currently on display at the [Danville Museum of Fine Art and History](#). Her sculpture is divided into 12 sections that were distributed to beekeepers along U.S. 29 to insert into hives for bees to build comb over the surfaces. The "Living Hive" will be on exhibit through October 9th at 975 Main Street in Danville, VA.

August 20 was National Honey Bee Day and the month of September is National Honey Month.

The [Brightleaf Hoedown](#) will be held again this year on Saturday, September 17, on the Court Square in downtown Yanceyville. Our club will have a booth to promote and educate the public about beekeeping. Your help is needed to show our club presence in our community and inform the public. If you can volunteer some of your time (1 to 2 hours) to help plan, coordinate, setup, participate, and takedown our booth, please sign up at the next club meeting this Thursday. Members can sell their honey at the event.

This year, the [NC State Fair](#) will be held from October 13th to the 23rd in Raleigh. NCSBA will be buying honey in bulk from beekeepers for \$4.25 per pound to be bottled and sold during the fair. If interested, contact NCSBA president Rick Coor at president@ncbeekeepers.org for more information. Also, the deadline is September 16 for entries into the **Bees and Honey competition**. Click [HERE](#) for more information and rules on the competition.





We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00pm (except December) in the basement of the Agriculture Building next to the Historic Courthouse in downtown Yanceyville, NC

If you or someone you know would like to receive the monthly newsletter via e-mail, or you have questions, comments, suggestions, photographs etc. that you would like to see published, please send an email to ccba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org

In the bee yard:

- Monitor mite counts: Mite populations will rise and usually peak in August and September. If you choose to treat, consider treating with herb based products such as Apiguard and ApiLife VAR rather than harsh chemicals (Apistan, Checkmite) that contaminate wax and have lasting effects on bee health. Treatments are temperature dependent, so please check the weather forecast and read the instructions and label before applying. Do not treat while honey supers for human consumption are in place.
- Lespedeza and goldenrod are blooming now and aster is beginning to bloom. This may produce a Fall flow “bump” of nectar however it is still best to check food stores in your hives. If needed, consider feeding 2:1 sugar syrup.

October 27 meeting with Nancy Ruppert:

Nancy Ruppert, NC Apiary Inspector, will present “**Beekeeping in Late Winter/Early Spring**” at our October 27 club meeting. Nancy is a very knowledgeable, experienced beekeeper and a great speaker. She is able to talk to each level of beekeeper. **Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.** We will also be inviting surrounding beekeeping associations and will meet at Piedmont Community College in Yanceyville.

NCDA&CS helping create habitat for pollinators:

The [North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services \(NCDA&CS\)](#) has started planting small plots of wildflowers at their 18 Research Stations across the state to give birds, bees and other pollinators places to reside. For photos, see <https://spark.adobe.com/page/vCrYjLmACRwu8/>.

Sugar syrup recipes for feeding honey bees:

By mixing sugar to water at different ratios, beekeepers can encourage certain behaviors.

1:1 One Part Sugar to One Part Water - one cup of sugar to one cup of water - is used in Spring & Summer to encourage comb building and promote brood rearing.

2:1 Two Parts Sugar to One Part Water - 2 cups of sugar to one cup of water - is used in the Fall to increase food stores in preparation for Winter.

Since a 5 lb bag of sugar contains approximately 10 cups of sugar an easy recipe for 2:1 Fall feeding is 5 lbs sugar to 5 cups water

To mix: Bring water to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in sugar. Continue stirring until all crystals dissolve. Allow to cool before feeding bees. Each gallon of syrup increases the colony’s reserves by about 7 pounds. [Source: Keith Tignor, Virginia State Apiarist]

Honey – weight and measure:

Honey is typically labeled by weight (pounds or ounces), rather than volume (fluid ounces). A common jar for honey is the classic “Queenline” jar which holds 1 pound. A pound of honey is 16 ounces in weight, but is only 12 fluid ounces (1½ cups) in volume. A pint jar is approximately 1½ pounds of honey and a quart jar is approximately 3 pounds of honey. A gallon of honey weighs approximately 12 lbs

[Source: [The National Honey Board](#)]