



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

August 2018

Officers

- President
Robert Neal
- Vice President
Phil Barfield
- 1st year Director
Scott Oakley
- 2nd year Director
Katie Newton
- 3rd year Director
Larry Hupp
- Secretary/Treasurer
Nina Dabbs
- Program Chair
[vacant]

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, August 23 @
7:00pm

Next Meeting:

Thursday, **August 23** @ 7:00pm. **Mr. Lewis Cauble** will be our guest speaker. Lewis is a North Carolina Apiary Inspector for the mountain region. He will talk about Varroa mites and how to deal with them in your hives.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Our meeting next month (**September**) will be a joint meeting with the Alamance County Beekeepers. The meeting will be held at **Altamahaw Ossipee Community Center** on **Thursday, September 20** at 7:00pm. The community center is located at [2806 Old North Carolina 87, Elon, NC 27244](#) in the northwest part of Alamance County, not too far from the Caswell County border. Click on the above address for a Google map. This is an excellent opportunity to meet our neighboring beekeepers and talk bees. Please plan to attend.

Events:

Sept 7-16 – NC Mountain State Fair. The [NC Mountain State Fair](#) will be held from **September 7th to the 16th** at the [WNC Agricultural Center](#) in Fletcher. Side note: Our speaker this month, Lewis Cauble, is the fair superintendent for the honey entries for the mountain honey contest.

Sept 8 - Pollinator Field Day. The [Piedmont Research Station](#) in [Salisbury](#) will host Pollinator Field Day **Sept. 8** from 1 to 5 p.m. This field day is designed to help farmers, beekeepers, urban planners, landscapers and landscape architects, master gardeners, greenhouse growers and others learn more about these valued ag “workers” and how to create habitat for them.

Sept 22 - Hoedown. The Brightleaf Hoedown will be held again this year on Saturday, **September 22**, on the Court Square in downtown Yanceyville. Our club plans to have a booth to promote and educate the public about beekeeping. Your help is needed to show our club presence in our community and to educate the public about beekeeping. 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.

Oct 11-21 – NC State Fair. This year, the [NC State Fair](#) will be held from **October 11th to the 21st** in Raleigh. NCSBA will be buying honey in bulk from beekeepers 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 15 for entries into the **Bees and Honey competition**. Click [HERE](#) for more information and rules on the competition.

Oct 27 – MBP Testing. The NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program will conduct fall testing at the Alamance County Center, 209 N. Graham-Hopedale Road, Burlington, NC 27217 on Saturday, **October 27** from 9:00am to 12:00pm. All levels written and Journeyman practical exams offered at no cost. No written test will be given out after 10:00am. Please contact mbp@ncbeekeepers.org to register.





We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00pm (except November and 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:

- This is the time of year when small hive beetles become a problem in weak hives and nucleus colonies. Your best defense is strong colonies in full day sun. Continue measures to control small hive beetle population (maintain hive strength, reduce excess space, use beetle traps, squish)
- Consider reducing the hive entrance to a medium setting (approximately 3 inches) to protect against robbing.
- Hive population is continuing to decline and Varroa mite population is reaching its peak. For instructions and videos on how to check for mites, go to the [Honey Bee Health Coalition](#) website <click [here](#)>. Monitor your hives for Varroa mites and treat if you have high levels of infestation. If you are using a sticky board to monitor, the treatment threshold is 40 mites in a 24-hour period. If you are using the sugar roll method, 3 to 4 mites per 100 bees is the treatment threshold. The sugar roll method is considered the more accurate of the two monitoring methods. Mite treatments should be completed in August/early September so the hive can produce healthy winter bees.
- Bees will fan over water droplets in the hive to cool down and regulate temperature. Ensure your hives are near water or provide them with water in containers. To prevent drowning, add rocks, sand, moss, or floats to your water container.
- Also, ensure **you** stay hydrated when working in your bee yard or honey house. Take breaks in the shade and drink plenty of water.
- If you haven't been in your bee hives in a while, check the hive weight by lifting slightly in the back. If it is light and lifts easily, consider feeding your bees sugar water either 1:1 or 2:1 concentration. See recipes below.

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 2:1 syrup increases the colony's reserves by about 7 pounds. [Source: [BGSVA](#)]

Mite Management Class [Brushy Mountain Bee Farm](#) is holding a [Mite Management for Colony Survival Class](#) at their Moravian Falls, NC location on Saturday, **August 25** from 10:00am to 2:30pm. Cost is \$40 per person. The day will consist of two parts: First, a classroom session where they will discuss the basics of varroa mites, diseases mites might carry, and specific management approaches. After the classroom, weather permitting, hands-on demonstrations will be conducted.