



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

March 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, Mar 22 @
7:00pm



Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 22, 2018 @ 7:00pm. Our topic for the meeting will be **Splits and swarms.**

News:

Added Sugars. In 2016, the FDA issued a nutrition labeling [rule](#) that will lead consumers to believe that honey is adulterated when in fact pure, natural honey contains no added sugars whatsoever. The FDA is now seeking comments on adding a symbol “†” in the Nutrition Facts label immediately after the added sugars percent to allow manufacturers to clarify and counter the misinterpretation that additional sugars have been added to honey. [source: [Bee Culture](#), [FDA](#)]

Almond Pollination. The Almond bloom period is happening now (mid February to early March). An estimated 1.9 million hives are needed to pollinate California's crop this year. That's about 3/4 of the hives in the U.S. The area has experienced fluctuating temperatures over the past two months including a cold snap which damaged thousands of acres of crops across the valley. How much damage has won't be known until harvest time comes, August to October. California produces about 80 percent of the world's almonds on close to 1 million acres. [source: [The Union Democrat](#)]

Bayer Feed-a-bee Program. Less than one year after launching the Feed a Bee 50-state forage grant program, the Bayer Bee Care Program recently revealed the list of 20 new organizations that have received funding for forage initiatives around the country, bringing the total number of projects funded to more to 112 in 39 states and Washington, D.C. The organizations will receive awards ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000. Bayer has a goal of distributing \$500,000 for projects focused on establishing or restoring pollinator forage in every state by the end of 2018. So far, 215 organizations and private individuals have applied for the grants. The program is currently accepting applications for grants until March 15 for the next round of award reviews. [source: [PR Newswire](#), [FeedABee](#)]

Events:

Pollinator Day is coming in May! Join the Chatham County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension and the Chatham County Beekeepers' Association for our 10th Annual Pollinator Day Celebration on Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm on The Lawn at Chatham Mills in Pittsboro, NC.

The purpose of Pollinator Day is to raise public awareness of the importance of the bees and other pollinators that are needed to produce 80 percent of our flowering plants and one third of our human food crops.

All Pollinator Day activities are free and open to the public. This event will be held rain or shine. More details [here](#).

Address for the event: 480 Hillsboro St. Pittsboro, NC 27312.





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:

- Between now and the beginning of the nectar flow is when many honey bee colonies starve. Queens are laying lots of eggs this time of year. The rapidly growing population of brood and bees can quickly consume their existing stores and outpace food coming into the hive. If you find your hive is light, consider feeding 1:1 sugar syrup. 1:1 is by volume – 1 cup of sugar to 1 cup of water.
- Continue to ensure proper ventilation, provide wind blocks, and conduct external visual inspections.
- Inspect your honey supers and frames for damage. Be prepared to install them on your hive(s) just when the nectar flow starts (indicated by the formation of new, clean white wax seen near the top of the hive body frames).
- Be on the lookout for drones in your hive or at the entrance. Once drones start to appear, this is one indicator that swarming season is about to begin. Consider installing a bait hive with comb and a lure to catch swarms.

CCBA Swarm Call List

In the next few weeks, we will be in swarm season. To help connect the public to a beekeeper, CCBA has a 2018 swarm call list on our website. If you are interested in being on the list, please fill out the online CCBA Swarm Removal Form at <http://caswellcountybeekeepers.org/swarmlist/>. If you do sign up, please keep in mind that catching a swarm is time sensitive and quick action is needed.

How it works: When a person discovers a swarm on his/her property that needs to be removed, he/she will go to our [website](#) and call a beekeeper on the list. The list is sorted by location (where you live) to help point the person to the closest beekeeper. If that beekeeper isn't available, another one can be chosen.

Assist/Observe: For those interested in assisting or observing a beekeeper to catch a swarm, but do not want to be on the call list, please fill out the online CCBA Swarm Assist/Observe Form at <http://caswellcountybeekeepers.org/swarmassist/>. Your contact information will be provided to all of the beekeepers on the call list and they will be encouraged to invite you or request your assistance (if conditions permit).

Advertising our list will show the public that there are beekeepers willing to catch swarms and hopefully prevent unneeded exterminations. Catching a swarm is also a great opportunity for the beekeeper to talk with the owner and accomplish one of our club's main objectives – "provide to the general public information which relates to honey bees and beekeeping."

Video recording our CCBA meetings?

At our meeting in February, the question was put to our members – "***Is there interest in video recording our CCBA meetings?***" We would like to hear from members on this issue. Please respond to ccba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org and let us know your thoughts.

CCBA beekeeping course

Our beginning beekeeping course is going strong. In March, students will learn about products of the hive and seasonal management and then go into hives during our field day.