



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

October 2017

Officers

- President
Robert Neal
- Vice President
Maureen Jarrell
- 1st Director
Katie Newton
- 2nd Director
Larry Hupp
- 3rd Director
Bethanie Hannah
- Secretary/Treasurer
Nina Dabbs
- Program Chair
Phil Barfield

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, Oct 26 @
7:00pm

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Thursday, October 26, 2017 @ 7:00pm. Our program for the meeting will be open discussion of **beekeeping experiences, tips, tricks, and gadgets**. Share your thoughts on what works and doesn't work in today's beekeeping.

We will also discuss next year's program topics and workshops. What would you like to see, hear, and learn?

It's that time of year when we nominate and elect officers, directors, and program chair. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the meeting. Up for election are:

- President
- Vice-president
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 1st year Director
- Program Chair

Past Meeting:

In our September meeting, Robert Neal discussed fall management and preparing for winter.

News:

Neonicotinoids found in honey. A [global sampling](#) of honey finds 75% to be contaminated with neonicotinoid pesticides. Of note, the concentrations detected are below the amount authorized by the European Union for human consumption. The situation is more bleak for pollinators, however. Widespread application of neonicotinoids has been identified as a key factor responsible for the global decline in pollinators, particularly bees. The official statement from the [National Honey Board](#) on the issue:

We understand the concerns people have about honey and pesticides. Honey is one of nature's purest products, made by bees with no additives or preservatives of any kind, and it is totally safe to eat. Though beekeepers do not use neonicotinoid insecticides, honey bees can come into contact with them when foraging for food. The concentrations found in honey were well below thresholds that would pose any risk to humans. However, our industry is concerned that neonicotinoids could be a contributing factor to poor pollinator health, which is why the National Honey Board allocates five percent of its revenue each year to bee health research and has done so since 2008, representing funding of over \$3 million to-date. We also recently partnered with Project Apis m. and together we have pledged an additional \$10 million investment by 2020. [sources: [ABJ Extra](#), [Bee Culture](#)]

Events:

VSBA 2017 Fall Meeting. The Virginia State Beekeepers Association will hold their Fall meeting on November 4th at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, just south of Harrisonburg. See the VSBA website at www.virginiabeekeepers.org for more information.





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:

- Your hives should be almost ready for winter.
- Confirm each colony has sufficient winter stores of approximately 40 to 60 lbs. of honey. If light, feed 2:1 (5 cups of sugar to 5 cups of water).
- Ensure proper ventilation by propping open the telescoping cover slightly to allow moisture vapor to escape the colony. Dripping condensation inside the hive during cool weather can dampen and kill bees.
- Remove queen excluders between the bees and any honey stores. Bees may move up into the honey over the winter leaving the queen trapped below the excluder. Honey stores should be located above the bees.
- After the first frost, consider reducing the hive entrance to the smallest setting (about $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide) to help the bees guard a smaller opening against robbing.
- Determine what equipment you will need next year. Order and receive before spring so not to be disappointed by sold-out suppliers.
- Place your order with bee suppliers early if you are considering increasing your number of hives in the spring with nucleus (nuc) colonies.

Aster:

Honey bees have been attracted to an abundance of aster during this fall flow. The gathered nectar produces a smell in and out of the hive that is likened to old smelly socks and has been a cause of alarm by new beekeepers mistaking it for American foulbrood. Once the aster honey is cured in the hive, the odor will go away.

2017 Beehive Grant

The North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund plans to provide money in 2018 to selected NCSBA Certified Beekeepers who purchase new hive materials.

- \$200/hive up to \$2,400 total awarded to each grantee from February 1 to June 30, 2018 in 2018 until the fund is depleted.
- Go to <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/north-carolina-beehive-grant-fund> for details.
- To be considered for the grant money, you must apply beginning in October.
- The website application is available between October 16th, 2017 and December 15th. Their website is <http://www.ncadfp.org/index.htm>.

Beekeeping course:

CCBA will be holding a beginning beekeeping course on Wednesday evenings from 6:30PM to 8:30PM starting January 10, 2018 and conclude about mid-March. The course will include a field day where we will inspect a beehive. The cost is \$75.00 and includes instruction, book, binder, and handouts. For couples who share a book and materials, the cost is reduced to \$45.00 for the second person. Registration forms will be available beginning in November. If interested in taking the course and haven't already signed up, please e-mail ccba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org and request to be placed on our list. For more information, please visit our [website](#).