



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

September 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, September 20
@ 7:00pm at **Altamahaw
Ossipee Community
Center**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, **September 20** @ 7:00pm. Our meeting this month is a joint meeting with the Alamance County Beekeepers. The meeting is being held at **Altamahaw Ossipee Community Center**. The community center is located at [2806 Old North Carolina 87, Elon, NC 27244](https://www.google.com/maps/place/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 or see attached map for directions. This is an excellent opportunity to meet our neighboring beekeepers and talk bees. Please plan to attend.

We will have a "**Honey Tasting Competition**" at the meeting. If you have harvested honey from your hives and would like to participate, please bring your honey in an unmarked 8 oz. (1/2 lb) bear.

Will Hicks, our NC State Apiary Inspector for Caswell County, will present "*Getting Ready for Winter.*"

NOMINATIONS: We will hold annual elections next month at our October 25th meeting for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director (one position), and Program Chair. If you would like to serve in one of these positions or nominate someone, please send an email to coba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org. Ensure the person you are nominating agrees to serve.

Events:

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 will have a booth to promote and educate the public about beekeeping. We will be selling honey, face painting, and talking bees. Come by to have your face painted and say hi. All members are welcome to hangout at the booth. Rain date will be Sunday, Sept 23.

Ends Sept 22 - Mite-A-Thon. The Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize Varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a one-week window (ends Sept 22). See <http://pollinator.org/miteathon>. See next page for additional resources from their website.

Oct 11-21 – NC State Fair. This year, the [NC State Fair](https://www.ncstatefair.com/) 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.

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:

- Consider reducing the hive entrance to a medium setting (approximately 3 inches) to protect against robbing. As the temperatures begin to drop next month, consider reducing down further to the smallest setting to prevent mouse intrusion.
- Mite treatments should be completed by September so the hive can produce healthy winter bees. Check the mite levels in your hives 2 weeks after treatments to see if the treatments were effective. For instructions and videos on how to check for mites, go to the [Honey Bee Health Coalition](#) website <click [here](#)>. 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.
- Check one month after the conclusion of mite treatments to ensure your colony is queen right (you see brood – eggs, larvae, pupae).
- If you have a weak colony or a failing queen, consider removing the queen and combining the hive with a strong colony.
- If you have double deep or double/triple medium hive bodies and the brood is at the top, rearrange frames or hive bodies by mid-October so the brood is on the bottom and food stores are on the top. Bees will tend to cluster around the brood when temperatures drop and the cluster will move up during the winter.
- If your hive is light on stored honey, feed your bees sugar water either 1:1 concentration this month to stimulate queen laying and 2:1 concentration next month to build up food stores for the winter.

BeeCheck:

BeeCheck allows hive owners to map the locations of beehives. Pesticide applicators can access databases before treating a field to identify sensitive sites that are close to the spray areas. Beekeepers can access and sign up for BeeCheck at <https://beecheck.org/>. The website offers detailed instructions on how to sign up and use the mapping tools. Beekeepers map their hives using pins and half-acre circles and can choose which details of hive information are displayed on the map. It is not a substitute for any state regulatory requirements.

Resources:

Additional resources from the Mite-A-Thon website [courtesy of Sandy Pruitt]:

www.keepbeesalive.org - Visit the Keep Bees Alive campaign, a nation-wide initiative to address some of the major causes of honey bee death.

[Planning for Varroa](#) - from Meghan Milbrath, Ph.D. of the Michigan Pollinator Initiative and Michigan State University.

Powdered Sugar Roll Test instructional videos from the University of Minnesota Bee Squad- [shake bees off of the frame method](#) or [collecting directly from the frame method](#)

To learn more about what losing a colony to varroa in the winter looks like, please read this [Bee Informed Partnership blog post](#) by Michigan State University Pollinator Initiative Director, Meghan Milbrath, Ph.D.