



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

April 2017

Officers

- President
Robert Neal
- Vice President
Maureen Jarrell
- Secretary/Treasurer
Nina Dabbs
- Program Chair
Phil Barfield

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, April 27 @
7:00pm

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Thursday, April 27, 2017 @ 7:00pm. Our topic will be "**Hunters and gatherers – Food and water sources for your bees**" presented by Phil Barfield.

Past Meeting:

At our March meeting, **Mr. Todd Walker**, NCSBA Master Beekeeper and our Regional Director, was our guest speaker and spoke to us about preparing for the nectar flow.

News:

NC Legislature. House bill [HB 756](#), proposes establishing a Beehive Grant Fund to help certified beekeepers add new beehives. Grants would be up to \$200 per hive, and grantees could receive up to \$2,400 per year. If funds run out before the end of the fiscal year, approved projects would be funded in the next fiscal cycle. An application fee may be established to help cover the cost of administration.

To protect the health of North Carolina's honey bees, House bill [HB 363](#), The Pollinator Protection Act, proposes to allow the use of neonicotinoid pesticides only by farmers, licensed applicators and veterinarians. The chemical would be banned for unlicensed home, garden and landscape applications, which constitutes about 25 percent of their use.

Bee survey. Warm up your keyboard, grab a cup of coffee and take the [Bee Informed Partnership](#) National Colony Loss and Management Surveys! The Colony Loss Survey has evolved from their winter loss survey conducted 11 years ago. Now they monitor summer losses as well. The National Management Survey is conducted annually in conjunction with the Colony Loss Survey. The two surveys are aimed at looking for relationships between colony losses and colony management (including disease treatment strategies, supplemental feeding, etc.) and/or other factors that may influence colony health (such as colony location, honey production, and forage type). You can find the two surveys by following this link [\[click here\]](#). The surveys are now live and will close on **April 30th**.

Recall of EpiPen. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is alerting consumers to Meridian Medical Technologies' [voluntary recall](#) of 13 lots of Mylan's EpiPen and EpiPen Jr (epinephrine injection) Auto-Injector products used for emergency treatment of severe allergic reactions. This recall is due to the potential that these devices may contain a defective part that may result in the devices' failure to activate. If you have an EpiPen, check it against the [recalled lots](#).

USDA Bee Lab service temporarily suspended. Due to a staffing crisis, the USDA-ARS Bee Disease Diagnostic service in Beltsville, MD is temporarily suspended, effective immediately. The lab offered a free service to analyze bee losses for diseases. Current efforts are being made to finalize the hiring of Mr. Samuel Abban as a USDA employee so that this program can continue. In the meantime, the Bee Informed Partnership offers a paid service for analyzing colony loss samples. See <https://beeinformed.org/programs/emergency-response-kits-2/>.





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

Beekeeping course:

Our CCBA beginning beekeeping course is now complete. We held our field day at the Caswell Arboretum on March 25. All 24 of our students graduated with 10 taking and passing the NCSBA Certified Beekeeper written exam. Congratulations!! We plan to hold a beginning beekeepers course again next year starting in January 2018.

In the bee yard:

- It's swarming season. Monitor colonies for swarm cells. Swarm cells are long vertical peanut shaped cells and are normally located on the bottom of brood frames. If you find queen cells, you can use them to make a split and prevent swarming.
- Set out bait hives to attract swarms.
- New splits, fresh caught swarms, light hives, and light nucs may need to be fed, especially if weather inhibits foraging or if they need to make comb. Make sugar syrup in a 1:1 by weight ratio (5 lbs. sugar to 10 cups water) at this time of year.
- Nectar (honey) flow is now on. Your supers should be on your strong, full size colonies. Do not use any medications (Fumagilin-B, Terramycin, Apistan, or anything else) while honey supers for human consumption are on your hives [exception: Mite Away Quick Strips™ (formic acid) is reported that it can be used in the hive while honey supers are on].
- A queen excluder may be used above the brood box and under the 1st super if desired (beekeepers preference).
- Ensure your entrance reducers and mouse guards have been removed on your strong colonies. Weak colonies, nucs, and packages may still need a reduced entrance for the bees to protect the hive and prevent robbing.
- Monitor nucs and single body hives closely for overcrowding until able to either transfer to a full size hive or add another box.

NCSBA Summer Meeting:

The [North Carolina State Beekeepers Association](#) (NCSBA) is celebrating their 100th anniversary at the summer meeting in Winston-Salem, July 13-15, 2017. Online registration is now open. Featured speakers are Jon Zawislak, apiculture specialist for the University of Arkansas; Dr. James Wilson, apiculturist at Virginia Tech; Katy C. Evans, 2015 recipient of the EAS Foundation for Honey Bee Research Award; and Dr. David Tarpy, Professor and Extension Apiculturist at NCSU.

Magnetic abdomens:

A team of physicists and biologists in Canada found that magnetizing the abdomen of a live honey bee disrupts its ability to navigate using local magnetic fields. This suggests that the earth's magnetic fields play a role in orientation and navigational behavior in honey bees. [source: [Bee Culture](#)]

OSU webinars. The Ohio State University (OSU) Bee Lab holds online webinars on various bee topics typically on the third Wednesday of the month. See <https://u.osu.edu/beelab/courses/>. All webinars are free, and no registration is required. For past recorded webinars, go to <https://u.osu.edu/beelab/webinar-recordings/>.