



# Caswell County Beekeepers Association

July 2017

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Nina Dabbs
- Program Chair  
Phil Barfield

## NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 27 @  
7:00pm

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Thursday, July 27, 2017 @ 7:00pm. **Mr. Will Hicks**, our state apiary inspector, will be our guest speaker. His topic will be "**Mighty mite – IPM for varroa control**".

## Past Meeting:

Elizabeth Barfield, local beekeeper and club member, presented "**Ouch! – Bee Stings**" at our June meeting. The basis of her talk was Dr. Marterre's article "[Bee Stings – Immunology, Allergy, and Treatment](#)"

## Events:

**Hoedown.** The [Brightleaf Hoedown](#) will be held again this year on Saturday, **September 16**, on the Court Square in downtown Yanceyville. [Chemtek](#) is sponsoring our booth. We formed a committee (Martha Hupp, Larry Hupp, Maureen Jarrell, Kathleen Newton, Robert Neal, and Phil Barfield) and have begun planning. Your help is also needed to show our club presence in our community and inform the public. If you can volunteer your time (1 to 2 hours) to help setup, participate, and takedown our booth on Sept 16, please sign up at the next club meetings in July and August. Members can sell their honey at the event.

**T-shirts.** CCBA club t-shirts are being ordered with [Maddyzack Designs](#) in Danville. The shirts will be available for purchase and pickup at our Aug 24 meeting. Thanks to private sponsorship, the first t-shirt for members will be free. Additional shirts are expected to be \$5 each. T-shirts not picked up (or arranged to be held) will be made available for sale at the Brightleaf Hoedown.

**State Fair.** This year, the [NC State Fair](#) will be held from October 12th to the 22nd in Raleigh. The deadline is September 15 for entries into the **Bees and Honey competition**. Click [HERE](#) for more information and rules on the competition.

## News:

**Nutrition labels.** The Food and Drug Administration plans to delay the deadline for a rule requiring food companies to use the new nutrition facts label. The new label leads consumers to believe that honey is adulterated with added sugar when in fact pure, natural honey contains no added sugars whatsoever. [source: [Bee Culture](#)]

**Varroa management.** The Honey Bee Health Coalition brings together beekeepers, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, growers, conservation groups, manufacturers and consumer brands, and other key partners to improve the health of honey bees in general and specifically around production agriculture. The Coalition's [Varroa Management Guide](#) [now in sixth edition] and [demonstration videos](#) explains practical, effective methods that beekeepers can use to measure Varroa mite infestations in their hives and select appropriate control methods. [source: [HBHC](#)]





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](mailto:ccba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org)

### In the bee yard:

- Monitor mite count in your hives. Mite populations will rise and usually peak in August and September. Methods to check for mites are a sugar shake, an alcohol wash, or using a sticky board. The sugar shake is preferred by most because it doesn't kill bees and provides a reasonably accurate assessment. The alcohol wash is the most accurate because it will dislodge most of the mites from the bees and will allow you to obtain a good bee and mite count; however, it will sacrifice all the bees in your sample. The sticky board gives you an indication if you have mites, but may not help you determine if you have a problem. The sugar shake and alcohol wash monitoring methods are explained and demonstrated in the Honey Bee Health Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management (downloadable pdf) and videos at <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>.
- If you choose to treat to control Varroa mites, consider treating with "soft" products such as Apiguard and ApiLife VAR rather than harsh chemicals (Apistan, Checkmite) that contaminate wax. Other options are Mite-Away Quick Strips (formic acid), oxalic acid, HopGuard® II (hops beta acids). Treatments are temperature dependent, so please check the weather forecast and read the instructions and label before applying. Treatments are explained and demonstrated in the Honey Bee Health Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management (downloadable pdf) and videos (see the same website link in the above paragraph). Do not treat while honey supers for human consumption are in place [exception: Mite-Away Quick Strips can be used while honey supers are on].
- Know if your bees have access to a nearby water source (creek, pond) or provide them with water in containers set out near your hives. To prevent drowning, add rocks, sand, moss, or floats to your water container.
- Ensure your hives have ventilation by checking to see if your inner cover hole is clear, clear brush and tall grass from under the hive (if using screened bottom boards), and prop up your top cover slightly on one end (if using inner covers with a hole).
- With hotter temperatures and drier conditions, food sources are becoming scarce (dearth) and the tendency of robbing has increased. Robbing is difficult to control after it has started, so prevention is best. Avoid going into your hives unless you have a good reason to. When working your hive during a dearth, minimize the time you spend with your hives open. Cover your supers and hive bodies if you remove them (extra top and inner covers are helpful). Place any frames you remove in an empty hive body and cover. Consider reducing the hive entrance to a medium setting (approximately 3 inches) to help your bees protect against robbing.
- If you have extracted honey from your hives and have not inspected for a while, check the weight of your hives. If you tilt your hive slightly from the back and find it easy to lift, you may need to feed. If light, inspect for adequate food stores and feed if necessary. Consider reducing the hive entrance to a medium setting (approximately 3 inches) to prevent robbing during feeding.

**NCSU Waggle** North Carolina State University Apiculture Program has published their July 2017 edition of *The Waggle*. Click [\[HERE\]](#) to download. The newsletter provides a historical perspective of their past 103 years.