



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

August 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, Aug 24 @
7:00pm

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Thursday, August 24, 2017 @ 7:00pm. Our topic will be "**The armored intruder – small hive beetles**".

Past Meeting:

Mr. Will Hicks, our state apiary inspector, was our guest speaker. He spoke about integrated pest management (IPM) for varroa mite control.

T-shirts: CCBA club t-shirts have **arrived!**

The shirts will be available for purchase and pickup at our **Aug 24 meeting** this Thursday. Thanks to private sponsorship, the first t-shirt for members will be **free**. Additional shirts are **\$5** each for sizes up to large and **\$6** for extra-large (XL) size and above. T-shirts not picked up at our meeting this Thursday (or arranged to be held) will be made available for sale at the Brightleaf Hoedown.



Events:

Hoedown. The [Brightleaf Hoedown](#) will be held again this year on Saturday, **September 23**, 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 meeting this Thursday. Members can sell their honey at the event.

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.

2017 North American Mite-A-Thon. Mite-A-Thon is a national effort from Saturday, Sept 9th, to Saturday, Sept 16th, to collect mite infestation data and to visualize varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America. All beekeepers will be asked to participate, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Their varroa monitoring data will be uploaded to www.mitecheck.com. [source: [Pollinator Partnership](#)]

News:

Spark Away. A retired engineer in Jackson County, NC has developed a safe, effective and humane animal deterrent for his garden and beehives called Spark Away. The device detects a warm body or motion and then triggers a lightning simulator. The sound and light frightens animals and keeps them away. He claims the device is a deterrent to bears, deer, raccoons, fox, and coyote. [source: [Bee Culture, Spark Away](#)]





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:

- 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 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.
- Lespedeza and goldenrod are blooming now and aster is beginning to bloom. This may produce a Fall flow “bump” of nectar however it is still best to check food stores in your hives. If needed, consider feeding 2:1 sugar syrup.

Sugar syrup recipes for feeding honey bees:

By mixing sugar to water at different ratios, beekeepers can encourage certain behaviors.

1:1 One Part Sugar to One Part Water - one cup of sugar to one cup of water - is used in Spring & Summer to encourage comb building and promote brood rearing.

2:1 Two Parts Sugar to One Part Water - 2 cups of sugar to one cup of water - is used in the Fall to increase food stores in preparation for Winter.

Since a 5 lb bag of sugar contains approximately 10 cups of sugar an easy recipe for 2:1 Fall feeding is 5 lbs sugar to 5 cups water

To mix: Bring water to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in sugar. Continue stirring until all crystals dissolve. Allow to cool before feeding bees. Each gallon of syrup increases the colony's reserves by about 7 pounds. [Source: [BGSVA](#)]

Honey labels:

Products which are sold or represented to be honey should be labeled as follows:

- (1) The common or usual name honey must appear on the label. A floral source such as sourwood, clover, etc., may be only part of the name provided the product contains a significant amount of pollen from that flower.
- (2) The name, address and zip code of the manufacturer, packer or distributor must also appear on the label.
- (3) A declaration of net contents must appear in the lower thirty percent of the label panel expressed as weight both in pounds/ounces and in metric weight (grams). [source: [NCSBA](#), [National Honey Board](#)]