



Catch The Buzz

**MA
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Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

Meeting Location: 7777 Walnut Grove Rd # C, Memphis, TN 38120

MEETING DATE & TIME: July 13, 2020 at 7 pm – MABA July 2020 Meeting – **CANCELLED** – Y'all, the Agricenter has cancelled this meeting due to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, AKA the COVID-19-causing coronavirus. We will be in contact with our current members in the days ahead. While we weather the days ahead, stay socially connected yet physically distanced, so that we can all come back together when the storm has passed.

Need to borrow a MABA extractor to harvest your honey? If so, contact Eddie Nunn, email:
thenunnfarm@gmail.com, phone: 901-412-8128

JULY AND THE BEES

- **Summer is here and The Bees are hot.**
- They are bringing in water and any pollen and nectar.
- They may hang out on the front of the hive as a way to cool themselves and the brood chamber.
- The HOT bees may be a bit more aggressive as the honey flow may be tapering off and the bees have less to do.
- Swarming is possible but they are searching for water. They bring it back and fan it over the hive, some bees will transfer it to other bees in the brood chamber.

JULY AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Check the hives, looking for evidence of a queen/eggs and larvae. Pay careful attention to weak hives to make sure strong hives are not robbing—taking the resources out of the weak hive. Again, watch for robbing.
- Try to determine if the honey flow a slowed or not in your area and mark that date on a calendar for future references.
- Add honey supers, do not forget the queen excluder, a good rule is to add them when the bees cover 7 of 10 frames. As the supers fill up, add new supers.
- It is also a good time to harvest honey, once the honey is harvested put the supers back on the hive for the bees to refill or stand them on end and allow the bees to clean them out. If they are not to be used again until next season add para-dichlorobenzene—Moth Crystals and put a solid bottom and a solid top on them after treating them. (The Beekeeper may choose to put the super back on and allow the bees to fill it for the winter).
- Some beekeepers believe this is the time to re-queen.



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6/29/2020 National Honey Board Report: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf>

TENNESSEE: In Tennessee the nectar flow has been sporadic across the state due to excessive rainfall across the state. Sources of pollen and nectar were Tulip Poplar, bush honeysuckle, privet, clover and wildflowers. Beekeepers in TN have been dealing responsibly with the COVID-19 following the protocols set by the Governor.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

MISSISSIPPI: Beekeepers are busy getting the honey ready for marketing later. Plenty of rain during the month, but the bees are reported to be in very good shape and feeding well when they can get out and about from the hives. Sales are about average but still considered slow at this time. Prices remain steady.

BEEKEEPING READING LIST

1) **Veterinarians and Beekeepers: An Arranged Marriage**, by *Kaitlyn Mattson*, from <https://www.beekeeping.com/catch-the-buzz-veterinarians-and-beekeepers/>

Veterinarians work to build relationships with beekeepers after federal rule on antimicrobial use.

Veterinarians are still working to gain the trust of beekeepers in the wake of a federal rule that went into effect in 2017 bringing veterinarians and beekeepers together.

Dr. Terry Ryan Kane, a bee veterinarian in Michigan and secretary for the Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium, said the bee community did not anticipate the rule, which restricts beekeepers from using certain antimicrobials in honeybees without a veterinary feed directive or prescription from a veterinarian.

“Most livestock producers have a relationship with a veterinarian,” Dr. Ryan Kane said. “That was not true for the beekeeping community. We are establishing relationships now. ... Someday it will be routine for veterinarians to be involved in the bee industry, but we are not there yet.”

Historically in the U.S., beekeepers and veterinarians have had very little interaction, and beekeepers were able to administer over-the-counter antimicrobials themselves.

Dr. Ryan Kane compared the current situation with how veterinarians became involved with fisheries nearly 40 years ago. She said, “Back in the ’80s, we went through this with fisheries, when aquaculture was starting to grab hold in the U.S.” [Dr. Kane], a backyard beekeeper herself, knows some veterinarians who just happen to also be beekeepers for fun.

Beekeepers are broken into three categories: backyarders, who keep only a few hives; sideliners, who have between 50 and 100 hives; and commercial beekeepers, who operate with over 300 hives. Commercial beekeepers make up a small portion of the overall industry but control the largest portion of bee colonies in the



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U.S. There were 2.67 million bee colonies in January 2019, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The beekeeping industry is worth about \$17 billion a year, according to the National Honey Board.

Dr. Tracy Farone, a veterinarian who is a professor of biology at Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania, and a board member of the Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium, said veterinarians were brought into the beekeeping world because of the diseases bees face and the potential for antimicrobial resistance.

“I understand why beekeepers want to do what they’ve always been doing, but they’re facing more and more bee health problems. It would be good to get veterinarians on board.” Dr. Farone said. “We can contribute here. We can provide so much more than a prescription or VFD to the industry. If we can blend veterinary medical expertise within the beekeeping industry, it’s not just an arranged marriage, but a marriage where we can help each other.”

Read or heard of good, science-based beekeeping articles? Please let us know, we will get them into the MABA newsletter. webmaster@memphisbeekeepers.com

UNIT HONEY PRICES BY MONTH

Retail-Average Retail Price per Pound across all reporting regions - Data from

<https://www.honey.com/honey-industry/statistics/retail-honey-price> used with permission. Based upon average price across all reporting regions. Assumes various sizes sold at the same rate.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2020	\$8.03	\$7.88	\$7.95	\$7.90	\$8.09	N/A	\$7.93					
2019	\$7.28	\$7.54	\$7.86	\$7.66	\$7.66	\$7.72	\$7.68	\$7.62	\$7.89	\$7.71	\$7.85	\$8.08
2018	\$7.57	\$7.22	\$7.34	\$7.28	\$7.03	\$7.23	\$7.37	\$7.41	\$7.17	\$7.34	\$7.51	\$7.46

Average Wholesale Case Price Per Pound across All Reporting Regions. Data from

<https://www.honey.com/honey-industry/statistics/wholesale-honey-price> used with permission. Based upon average price across all reporting regions. Assumes various sizes sold at the same rate.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2020	\$4.89	\$5.12	\$4.91	\$5.01	\$5.05	N/A	\$5.03					
2019	\$4.16	\$4.32	\$4.33	\$4.41	\$4.41	\$3.55	\$4.51	\$4.42	\$4.46	\$4.52	\$4.62	\$4.64
2018	\$5.30	\$5.18	\$5.22	\$5.31	\$5.21	\$5.31	\$5.12	\$5.42	\$5.24	\$5.26	\$5.42	\$5.44

To subscribe to the National Honey board newsletter visit: <https://www.honey.com/signup>



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MABA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plan now for National Honey Bee Day 2020, which is Saturday August 15, 2020

August 10, 2020 – MABA August 2020 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD. This meeting is **CANCELLED**, unless the August newsletter indicates we can meet at the Agricenter like normal. Bee well and bee safe!

September 14, 2020 – MABA September 2020 Meeting – Mike Studer, Tennessee State Apiarist, will present the state of beekeeping in TN and how to keep our bees healthy and thriving. You will want to attend this meeting!

September 15-16, 2020 – TN Apiary Inspector Course with Mike Studer, Tennessee State Apiarist. **Please let Charles know if you are interested in this class!**

To learn more about beekeeping in Tennessee visit the **Tennessee Beekeepers Association** website at: <http://www.tnbeekeepers.org/>

October 12, 2020 – MABA July 2020 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD. See y'all there!

HONEY-BASED RECIPES

HONEY RASPBERRY SWEET TEA - Makes 4 servings

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
2 cups - freshly brewed tea 2 cups - cranberry-raspberry juice 1/4 cup - honey	In large, heat-proof pitcher, whisk together all ingredients until thoroughly combined and honey is dissolved. Chill until ready to serve. To serve, pour over ice