



## *Catch The Buzz*

**MA  
BA**

*Memphis Area Beekeepers Association* [www.memphisbeekeepers.com](http://www.memphisbeekeepers.com)

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

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

**MEETING DATE & TIME: November 9, 2020 at 7 pm** – MABA November 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.

### **NOVEMBER AND THE BEEKEEPER**

- Feed your light hives as long as the bees are taking the fluid.
- Finish up all winterization of your hives.
- On a cool day when the bees are all inside, weed-eat around your hives.
- Enjoy Thanksgiving!
- Start purchasing next year's bee packages, nucleus hives and queens and equipment.
- Install mouse guards at entrance of hives.
- Finish winter feeding.
- Start to get equipment ordered or begin to build for next year.
- Attend Bee Meetings & bring a friend.
- Make sure equipment is stored properly to stop wax moth damage.
- You can feed syrup when the temperature allows (45-50 degrees).
- Talk to experience beekeepers for winter preps.
- Pay State and Local Club Dues
- Register your hives with the State

### **NOVEMBER AND THE BEES**

- Even less bee activity and cold weather will send them back into cluster.
- On warm days watch for bees to fly out to make cleansing flights and forage for pollen.
- Keep the entrances just small enough for two bees to enter.
- The bees may start to cluster. They may not yet go into a full winter cluster. They may break cluster frequently on warm days and recluster at night. But they will begin to cluster for the winter.

**10/23/2020 National Honey Board Report:** <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

**TENNESSEE:** The fall nectar flow in most areas has been one of the best we have seen in 10 years. Most beekeepers are reporting that their colonies are packing supers with fall goldenrod and aster honey. Most say they will not need to feed this fall. Colonies are strong and actively producing a lot of brood for winter bees. COVID-19 has severely impacted the beekeeper's ability to sell honey this year with all of the restrictions on farmer's markets and other outlets where they normally sell to the public. Beekeepers are complaining they are barely covering their expenses for set up and travel at markets. Beekeepers that would bring in \$1000.0 at a particular market are only bringing in \$50.00 to \$100.00 because people are not coming to the market.



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**ARKANSAS:** During the month of September temperatures were slightly below normal across most of the state. Precipitation during September was above normal across most of the state due to the tropical storms hitting Louisiana. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had mostly normal soil moisture for September. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The bees are in pretty good shape and all the hives have been treated and everything is about shutdown and ready for winter. The bees are feeding off wildflowers and Goldenrod when they can get out and about. Sales are slow but candy makers and retail gift sales are starting to pick up for the holidays.

### **BEEKEEPING READING LIST**

#### **Targeting A Single Gene Responsible For Grooming Behavior In The IN Mite-Biter Strain**

<https://www.beekeeping.com/mite-biter-gene/>

Honey bee researchers at Purdue university and the University Guelph School of Environmental Sciences have isolated a gene associated with grooming behavior! With virus vectoring Varroa mites in about 90% of U.S. honey bee colonies most beekeepers, especially commercial, rely on some form [of] chemical compound or miticide like amitraz to eradicate them. The importance of keeping honey bee populations alive through selective breeding is significant because one-third of our food depends on them! Among the vast numbers of pollinators, the Western honey bee is the most important pollinator globally.

This recent publication demonstrates that IN mite-biting bees have decreased Winter mortality compared to some commercially available stocks many commercial and hobbyist rely on. The mitebiters colonies survived three times higher than the Italians in this study conducted at Purdue University. Beekeepers can help reduce the population of Varroa with the mite-biter bee that researchers are breeding to resist them. But even more significant was that Nerexin-1 gene expression correlated with the proportion of mutilated mites from the mite-biting bees mandibles! Some say bee breeding is like breeding sheep to resist wolves but sheep cannot kill wolves – bees can certainly kill mites.

“The aim of this study was to assess the efficacy of selecting for increased mutilation of *V. destructor* mites as a tool to breed *V. destructor* resistant bees and the possible involvement of AmNrx-1 in mite biting behavior. We expanded the evaluation of the Indiana mite biter stock by comparing it with an Italian commercial genotype for *V. destructor* mutilations, mite population growth, and Winter survival. We also correlated mite population growth and the proportion of mutilated mites with the expression of AmNrx-1 in bees, to assess the value of this gene as a potential marker of *V. destructor* resistance.”

Link to the Apidologie publication: <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s13592-019-00710-y.pdf>

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



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# MABA

### 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
<b>2020</b>	\$8.03	\$7.88	\$7.95	\$7.90	\$8.09	N/A	\$7.93	\$7.83	\$7.95	\$7.61	\$7.76	
<b>2019</b>	\$7.28	\$7.54	\$7.86	\$7.66	\$7.66	\$7.72	\$7.68	\$7.62	\$7.89	\$7.71	\$7.85	\$8.08
<b>2018</b>	\$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
<b>2020</b>	\$4.89	\$5.12	\$4.91	\$5.01	\$5.05	N/A	\$5.03	\$4.96	\$5.00	\$4.89	\$4.88	
<b>2019</b>	\$4.16	\$4.32	\$4.33	\$4.41	\$4.41	\$3.55	\$4.51	\$4.42	\$4.46	\$4.52	\$4.62	\$4.64
<b>2018</b>	\$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>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 30, 2021 – **MABA 56th Annual Beekeeping Short Course** – We welcome everyone to attend the MABA 56th Annual Beekeeping Short Course! Prepare yourselves for a fun and fact-filled day to learn more about bees and beekeeping! More details ahead!

Enjoy the cool weather, now that fall has finally arrived!



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### HONEY-BASED RECIPES

#### 1. HONEY CHIPOTLE ROAST ACORN SQUASH: Makes 4 servings

<b>INGREDIENTS</b>	<b>DIRECTIONS</b>
<p>2 small - acorn squash 2 - chipotle peppers in adobo 2 T - honey 2 - limes, juiced 1 generous pinch - salt 2 T - olive oil 1/8 cup - loosely packed fresh cilantro, chopped</p>	<p>Heat your oven to 350°F.</p> <p>Cut the acorn squash in half, stem to root. Scoop out the seeds and pulp. Cut the squash into 1/2-inch slices and arrange it in a single layer on a baking sheet.</p> <p>Mince the chipotle pepper very finely and place it in a small bowl. Add the honey, lime juice, and salt; mix in the olive oil. Brush half of the honey-chipotle glaze onto the squash.</p> <p>Bake for 35-45 minutes, or until the squash is tender and the underside is golden brown. Drizzle the roast squash with the remaining glaze and sprinkle with cilantro.</p> <p><b>TIP</b></p> <p>Any extra chipotles in adobo can be frozen for use another time.</p>