



Catch The Buzz

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com
P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183
Meeting Location: 7777 Walnut Grove Rd # C, Memphis, TN 38120

MA
BA

MEETING DATE & TIME: June 11, 2018 at 7 pm – Johnny Thompson (Broke-T Honey, and Mississippi Beekeepers Association) will present the current state of Varroa sensitive hygienic (VSH) bees. You will not want to miss this!

JUNE AND THE BEES

- Colonies that did not swarm will be filled with bees and the bees will be foraging for nectar and pollen as they fill HONEY SUPERS.
- Give the bees space by adding Honey Supers. The main honey flow should be happening this month.
- The queen's rate of egg laying may drop a bit this month.

JUNE AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Inspect the hive weekly to make certain the hive is healthy and the queen is present.
- Add honey supers as needed.
- Keep up swarm inspections
- Attend bee club meetings and workshops.
- Time Spent: Estimate 4-5 hours.
- Equipment, bees will need honey supers, that is where they store the honey that the beekeeper can harvest when it is capped.

5/24/2018 National Honey Board Report: <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ams/FVMHONEY.pdf>

TENNESSEE: The colonies in Tennessee that made it through the winter and the cold snaps this spring are doing well. The nectar flow is coming on strong. If the weather stays warm and it doesn't rain every other day, Tennessee should have a pretty good supply of honey this year. Nuc and Queen production in Tennessee are about 6 weeks behind schedule due to the spring weather conditions but should be ramping up soon.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

MISSISSIPPI: The beekeepers are busy working with the hives and checking the bees. Plenty of rain caused the season to get off on a late start and beekeepers are scrambling to keep up with restocking the hives and filling orders for others to rebuild. Not as many losses reported as in other areas, but some reported and managing the hives is the main concern to prevent any losses for spring.



Catch The Buzz

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

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

MA
BA

BEEKEEPING READING LIST

During the 2017-2018 Winter an Estimated 30.7% of Managed Colonies in The United States Were Lost!

The Bee Informed Partnership (<http://beeinformed.org>) recently conducted the twelfth annual survey of managed honey bee colony losses in the United States. This year, 4,794 beekeepers collectively managing 175,923 colonies in October 2017 provided validated survey responses. This represents 6.6% of the estimated 2.67 million managed honey-producing colonies in the nation (USDA, 2018).

During the 2017-2018 winter (1 October 2017 – 1 April 2018), an estimated 30.7% of managed colonies in the United States were lost (Fig. 1). This represents an increase of 9.5 percentage points over that of the previous year, and an increase of 2.8 percentage points over that of the 10-year average total winter colony loss rate of 27.9%.

Similar to previous years, backyard beekeepers lost more colonies in winter (46.3%) compared to those lost by sideline (38.0%) and commercial (26.4%) beekeepers. Backyard, sideline, and commercial beekeepers are defined as those managing 50 or fewer colonies, 51 – 500 colonies, and 501 or more colonies, respectively.

Interestingly, the self-reported 'level of acceptable winter colony loss' increased from 18.7% last year to 20.6% this year. Sixty-nine percent of responding beekeepers lost more of their colonies than deemed to be acceptable.

During the summer 2017 season (1 April 2017– 1 October 2017), an estimated 17.1% of managed colonies were lost in the U.S. This level is on par with summer colony loss estimates of 18.2% that were reported the previous year, and lower than the 20.9% average experienced by beekeepers since 2010-2011, when summer losses were first recorded by the Bee Informed Partnership.

For the entire survey period (1 April 2017 – 1 April 2018), beekeepers in the U.S. lost an estimated 40.1% of their managed honey bee colonies. This is 2.7 percentage points greater than the average annual rate of loss experienced by beekeepers since 2010-2011.

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



Catch The Buzz

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

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

MA BA

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
2018	\$7.57	\$7.22	\$7.34	\$7.28	\$7.03							
2017	\$7.35	\$6.99	\$6.85	\$7.04	\$7.06	\$7.25	\$7.05	\$7.26	\$7.27	\$7.37	\$7.18	\$7.25
2016	\$6.74	\$6.91	\$6.79	\$6.79	\$6.72	\$7.12	\$7.01	\$6.88	\$6.88	\$7.12	\$7.04	\$7.39

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
2018	\$5.30	\$5.18	\$5.22	\$5.31	\$5.21							
2017	\$5.25	\$5.32	\$5.38	\$5.27	\$5.13	\$5.46	\$5.39	\$5.35	\$5.44	\$5.27	\$5.19	\$5.31
2016	\$5.04	\$5.15	\$5.04	\$5.20	\$4.97	\$5.19	\$5.09	\$5.01	\$5.10	\$5.31	\$5.27	\$5.39

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

Plan now for National Honey Bee Day 2018, which is Saturday August 18, 2018

The **2018 Heartland Apicultural Society** meeting is July 11-13, 2018 at [Washington University in St. Louis, MO](http://www.washington.edu). This will be a top notch event with the best presenters for all beekeeper levels. [Register online now at heartlandbees.org](http://heartlandbees.org)

The **2018 Tennessee Beekeepers Association Fall Conference** will be held October 12 and 13th at the [Hyder Burks Pavilion at Tennessee Tech](http://www.tnbeekeepers.org) in Cookeville. More details coming, but plan for a couple of fun- and fact-filled days!

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



Catch The Buzz

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com
P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183
Meeting Location: 7777 Walnut Grove Rd # C, Memphis, TN 38120

MA
BA

HONEY-BASED RECIPES

1. BLUEBERRY COFFEECAKE - YIELD: Makes 8 servings

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
<p>2 cups - blueberries, fresh or frozen 1 T - all-purpose flour 1/2 cup - honey 2 T - fresh lemon juice 1 1/2 cups - all-purpose flour 2 tsp. - baking powder 1/2 tsp. - salt 1/2 cup - honey 2 - eggs 1/4 cup - milk 2 T - fresh lemon juice 1 tsp. - freshly grated lemon peel 1 tsp. - vanilla extract 6 T - butter, melted 1/2 tsp. - baking soda</p>	<p>Coat the bottom of greased 9-inch round cake pan with a thin layer of cornmeal and layer blueberries; distribute evenly. Sprinkle with flour; drizzle with honey and lemon juice. Set aside.</p> <p>In a small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; set aside.</p> <p>In a medium bowl, combine honey, eggs, milk, lemon juice, lemon peel and vanilla; beat with folk until well mixed. Add flour mixture; mix well. Stir in melted butter; mix well.</p> <p>Pour batter over blueberries in pan; spread to cover evenly. Bake at 350°F for 30 to 35 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean.</p> <p>Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes.</p> <p>Invert cake onto large plate; cool.</p>

SEE YOU AT THE JUNE MABA MEETING, VISIT WITH YOUR MENTOR.

It's getting hot out there, drink plenty of water when you are working your bees!