



Catch The Buzz

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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: October 12, 2020 at 7 pm – MABA September 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.

Is it time to harvest your honey but other projects got in the way and need an extractor?

If so, contact Eddie Nunn, email: thenunnfarm@gmail.com, phone: 901-412-8128

OCTOBER AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Although the work load is lessening, the work you do this month is critical.
- Check that your hives have enough honey stores to survive the winter; you need 60-100lbs of honey for your colony to survive. Check your hive by carefully lifting from the bottom back of the landing board; if the hive feels heavy and you can barely move it, you should be fine. If the hive moves easily and feels light, start emergency feeding so that the bees can store the food for winter use.
- Remember that winter feed is different from spring feed in that it is a 2:1 ratio (sugar/water).
- Feed until the first hard frost when the bees form a cluster or until they stop taking the feed, whichever comes first
- Take steps to prevent mice from getting into your hives, mouse guards or entrance reducers should do the trick.
- Add a windbreak to protect your hives if they are located in an area where winter winds are prevalent.
- Ensure that the bees do have some ventilation at the top of the hive for the release of the moisture produced throughout the winter - if the moisture does not leave the hive, it will collect on the inside of the cover/inner cover where it will condense, chill and drip on the cluster causing sudden drops in temperature and will cause the bees to struggle.
- Another affect of poor ventilation is mildewing and molding on the frames which can sour the honey and give the bees nosema (dysentery) which can destroy a hive quickly.
- Again: Check the hive's honey stores, watch out for robbing. Configure the hive for winter, with attention to ventilation and moisture control. Install mouse guard at entrance of hive. Finish winter feeding. Attend bee club meetings.



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OCTOBER AND THE BEES.

- The bees are busy gathering the last bits of nectar and pollen they can find. There are a few late blooming flowers that provide both of these (asters, rabbit brush, etc.) to help the hive prepare for the coming winter.
- They are also busy gathering propolis to seal the hive against drafts which can harm the colony while in cluster formation, drafts/cracks allow cold air to blow into the hive and can chill and kill the outer cluster bees and reduce the overall population which keeps the queen and colony warm.
- The workers are now starting to kick out almost all of the drones to help reserve the honey stores for those bees that will actually help the colony survive. A few drones may be retained throughout the winter for reasons not completely understood so if you see them flying on warm days don't be concerned (unless you see lots of them, then you could have a drone laying queen or an egg laying worker).

9/25/2020 National Honey Board Report: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf>

TENNESSEE: Nectar and pollen sources during the month of August were scarce. Some beekeepers extracted all of their honey in June and July had to feed their bees in August. Late August saw asters and goldenrod beginning to bloom to start the fall nectar and pollen flow

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

MISSISSIPPI: Beekeepers are treating the hives and making sure they stay on top of things to prevent extra losses while waiting for the Goldenrod to bloom. They are expecting a better than normal Fall crop coming up in the next few weeks.

BEEKEEPING READING LIST

Scent-conditioned honey bees boost crop yields <https://www.bee-culture.com/catch-the-buzz-scent-conditioned-honey-bees/>

Researchers in Argentina have discovered that scent training honey bees has increased yields in their sunflower crops.

Working on the same principle of scent training a dog to enable it to track down a target, scientists at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina have discovered that honey bees can be similarly motivated.



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Scent training honey bees directly in the hive has been demonstrated to make them more efficient at pollinating a desired crop. The findings show that honey bees given food scented with odours that mimicked sunflowers facilitated significantly increased crops of sunflowers.

“We show that it’s possible to condition honey bees to a rewarded odour inside the colony, and this experience modifies the bees’ odour-guided behaviours later,” said Walter Farina of Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

“The most surprising and relevant result is that the foraging preferences for the target crop are so prolonged and intensive that it promoted significant increases in the crop yields.”

Farina’s team had previously demonstrated that honey bees could establish stable and long-term memory related to food scents inside the nest and that those in-hive memories could influence the bees’ choices about which plants to visit.

To raise bees with a memory that would support later foraging on sunflowers, the researchers first developed a simple synthetic odourant mixture that the bees associated with the natural floral scent of sunflowers. Next, they fed the hives with scented food. They found that those early experiences and memories of the scent of sunflower influenced the bees’ later foraging preferences, as inferred by decoding their waggle dances.

The bees’ training led them to visit sunflowers more often. Those trained bees also brought more sunflower pollen back to the hive. This increased visitation and foraging on sunflowers, boosting the flowers’ production of seeds by 29 to 57 percent.

“Through this procedure, it is possible to bias honeybee foraging activity and increase yields significantly,” Farina confirmed. “In other words, pollination services might be improved in pollinator-dependent crops by using simple mimic odours as part of a precision pollination strategy.”

According to the report, the researchers say they are now studying other pollinator-dependent crops, including almonds, pears and apples. Their goal is to develop an array of new odour mimics to improve pollination efficiency and productivity in numerous important agricultural crops.

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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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	\$7.83	\$7.95	\$7.61		
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	\$4.96	\$5.00	\$4.89		
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>

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 9, 2020 – MABA November 2020 Meeting. This meeting is **CANCELLED**, unless the November newsletter indicates we can meet at the Agricenter like normal. Bee well and bee safe!

December 14, 2020 – MABA December 2020 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD. See y'all there!

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

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



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HONEY-BASED RECIPES

1. HONEY CREAM PUMPKIN PIE: Makes 6 to 8 servings

INGREDIENTS

1 - frozen, unbaked 9" deep dish pie shell

For Honey Cream:

3 T - cream cheese, room temperature

2 T - honey

1 tsp. - vanilla

pinch of salt

For Pumpkin Layer:

1 (15 oz.) can - pumpkin puree

3 - eggs

3/4 cup - brown sugar

1 T - cornstarch

2 tsp. - pumpkin pie spice

1/2 tsp. - salt

1/8 tsp. - ground black pepper

1 cup - half & half

For Whipped Cream:

1 pint - fresh whipping cream

3 T - honey

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Pre-bake the pie shell for 10 minutes, let cool.

Whisk together all the Honey Cream ingredients, set aside.

Whisk together the pumpkin puree, eggs, brown sugar, cornstarch, pumpkin pie spice, salt and pepper until incorporated. Next, add the half & half until well combined.

Pour the pumpkin mixture into the pie shell, spoon the honey cream in dollops around the pie and carefully swirl in with the tip of a knife.

Bake the pie for 15 minutes at 425°F then reduce the heat to 350°F, bake for another 40-50 minutes or until a knife comes out clean and the center is set. Let cool.

Whip the whipping cream until it makes soft peaks and then slowly add in the honey until combined, serve with the pumpkin pie.

TIP

If you don't have pumpkin pie spice, substitute 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1/2 tsp. ground ginger and 1/4 tsp. ground cloves.