



## *Catch The Buzz*

MA  
BA

*Memphis Area Beekeepers Association* <http://memphisbeekeepers.com/>

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

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

**LEARN HOW TO RAISE HONEYBEES FROM HOME! February 6th, 2021 – MABA 56th Annual Beekeeping Short Course** – More information at [www.memphisbeekeepers.com](http://www.memphisbeekeepers.com). If you are receiving this newsletter by email then you will receive a Google Meet invitation by Thursday 2/4, so be on the lookout, especially in your Junk, Trash or other folder. If for some reason you cannot find the invitation by 2/5 then please email [webmaster@memphisbeekeepers.com](mailto:webmaster@memphisbeekeepers.com) and we will get you set up.

**\*\*\*Important – we are NOT meeting at the Agricenter\*\*\***

**MEETING DATE & TIME: February 8, 2021 at 7 pm – MABA February 2021 Meeting** – Bob Russell from Red Belly Bee Farm (<https://www.facebook.com/redbellybees/> and <http://www.beeempire.com/products.html>) (Myrtle, MS – just before Albany, MS on US-78) will be presenting remotely through Google Meet. Bob will first present “**How to Install a Nuc**”, and “**How to produce and keep Spare Queens**”! We will be meeting again through Google Meet. Please look for the invitation in your email Inboxes late Saturday, 2/6 (and possibly Junk mail boxes, it happens).

**\*\*\*Important – we are NOT meeting at the Agricenter\*\*\***

### **FEBRUARY**

- February brings increasingly warm weather and signals the end of the quiescent time in the bees' yearly cycle.
- If you need new bees, NOW is the time to order. Locally grown NUCs are your best option.
- It is also time to make sure that your equipment is purchased or repaired and ready for spring.
- Colonies can starve in late winter and early spring just before flowers bloom. If the weather is above 55 degrees, you can open the hive quickly to move honey frames closer to the cluster. Bees can starve even if there is plenty of honey in the hive if the honey is too far away from the cluster.



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### **FEBRUARY AND THE BEES**

- Sunlight is becoming slightly longer and the longer, more warm days trigger the queen to start laying significantly more eggs. Their cluster has worked its way upward into the top brood chamber. On the colder days, they are behaving similarly as in January. We will likely have a few of those days this year.

### **FEBRUARY AND THE BEEKEEPER**

- On a warm day, 50 degrees or more, you can open the top briefly and look in on the hive. Do not remove any frames, as this will chill the brood. Upon inspection you can assess if the colony still has enough stored honey for food. If not, you may want to consider emergency feeding options.
- Emergency feeding is just that...an emergency. Do whatever it takes to get some sugar in the hive. Dry sugar will work but only if the bees have warm enough days to fly out for water. There may not be many days warm enough in early February for dry sugar feedings or hard candy feedings. Sometimes sponges soaked in heavy sugar water and jammed between the frames near the cluster will suffice until the weather warms. Do anything you can think of...after all it is better than letting the hive starve to death.

Of course, if you have frames of honey available, that's the best way to feed them, but most of us have sold all our honey by now.

- You might also consider placing a pollen patty on top of the upper hive body. This will really work well if the end of winter is extremely mild and there are many warm days. Pollen patties stimulate the laying of more eggs. However, if the weather turns cold again, then the bees may not be able to keep this early brood warm and fed. So it is a gamble this early.
- Finally, if you did not order your package bees in January, you must do it now (and hope you're not too late)! And if you did not order your new equipment, hurry! You want all of your hive equipment ready by mid-March
- Make sure you join and attend your local beekeeping club
- Register your hives in the state they are in: TN, AR, MS, MO, etc.
- **READ, STUDY, LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT BEES AND BEEKEEPING**



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### Local Sources for Nucs, Queens:

Name	Phone Number	Bees	Product	Cost	Deposit	Queens
Dena Hodge	(901) 413-1460	Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$170	\$50	Call
Gus Mitchell	(276) 870-0618	Local bees	5 frame nucs	\$165	0	
Harry Fulton	Contact Stuart Hooser stuarthooser@gmail.com or call 901-485-6152	Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$140	0	
Richard Coy	Contact Furniss Harkness at furnissh@aol.com or call (901) 340-5259	Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$145	0	Call
Kristi Cook	(901) 301-3067	Hybrid Russian or Italian bees	5 frame nucs	\$150 to \$165	\$50	Call
Bob Russell	(662) 598-1505	Local bees	5 frame nucs	\$150	0	Call

1/28/2021 [National Honey Board Report](#):

**TENNESSEE:** Tennessee had a mild December, no sources of nectar or pollen to report. Beekeepers are reporting colonies are overwintering well at this point. No reports of big losses in December. Covid-19 continues to negatively impact sales of honey across the state.

**ARKANSAS:** During the month of December temperatures were about normal across most of the state. Precipitation during December was below normal across most of the state. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had normal to moderate drought conditions for December. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The bees have stayed in the hives pretty much for the last month as cold weather continues to stick around. Beekeepers are hoping for a break in the weather so they can check on the hives and add supplemental food if needed. Bees are in pretty good condition heading into the new year. Wildflower \$1.68 lb in the barrel.

### BEEKEEPING READING LIST

**Dogs to Detect AFB,** <https://www.bee-culture.com/catch-the-buzz-dogs-in-nz-trained-to-sniff-out-afb/>

TRAINED dogs to sniff out the highly infectious bacterial disease American Foulbrood (AFB) in beehives could save New Zealand's beekeeping industry several million dollars a year.



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The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will contribute \$50,000 through Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFF Futures) towards the one-year, \$95,000 project. The project aims to develop a scientific methodology for training detection dogs to reliably detect AFB, by creating a ‘scent picture’ of the disease.

It’s led by DownUnder Honey, in partnership with Pete Gifford from K9 Search Medical Detection Training Centre and Massey University researchers. “A big part of the project is trying to come up with a pure form of the disease that can be grown in the lab, with no possibility of other scents in the mix,” said Jason Prior, owner of DownUnder Honey. “This will be introduced to the dogs through a clinically sterile environment.”

Mr Prior said it was not the first-time dogs have been used to detect AFB but previous methods have led to inconclusive results in the field. “When bees have AFB they often have other diseases. Previously dogs were trained on infected colonies without isolating the target scent. This project aims to overcome this issue, and produce more reliable detection dogs,” he said. “The new training will focus on detecting actual AFB spores and other relevant AFB bacteria that have come directly from a laboratory.”

Overseas, AFB has been managed through use of antibiotics but the disease has developed resistance over time. New Zealand has always treated the disease through destruction of hives and hive equipment, which has a significant cost to industry.

New Zealand’s apiculture industry currently pays over \$2 million in annual levies for beehive inspections. “There’s almost a million beehives registered in New Zealand but we’re only physically inspecting around 4000 hives a year,” Mr Prior said.

“Unless we get some new tools like dogs to rapidly find the disease it gets more and more expensive to find that last five percent of the disease out there.”

The industry’s ultimate goal has been to eradicate AFB, which would be a world first. “Dogs can inspect an apiary of 20 hives within two minutes, whereas an inspector could take at least 90 minutes. Dogs can also be used to inspect stored equipment, allowing other sources of infection to be identified and destroyed.”

MPI director of investment programmes Steve Penno said the project could be a gamechanger for New Zealand’s apiculture industry. “Being able to detect the disease early would reduce lost production and the need to destroy hives. The detector dogs could be commercially available to farmers as a service.”

The project has also been supported by the Southern North Island Beekeeping Group and the Honey Industry Trust, which have contributed funding and will help with fieldwork.

**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
<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	\$8.22
<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	\$5.13
<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

March 8, 2021 at 7 pm – **MABA March 2021 Meeting** – Speaker and subject is TBD! We will be meeting again through Google Meet. Please look for the invitation in your email Inboxes (and possibly Junk mail boxes, it happens).



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# MABA

### HONEY-BASED RECIPES

#### HONEY OF A CHILI: Makes 8 servings

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
1 package (15 oz.) - firm tofu 1 T - vegetable oil 1 cup - chopped onion 3/4 cup - chopped green bell pepper 2 cloves - garlic, finely chopped 2 T - chili powder 1 tsp. - ground cumin 1 tsp. - salt 1/2 tsp. - dried oregano 1/2 tsp. - crushed red pepper flakes 1 can (28 oz.) - diced tomatoes, undrained 1 can (15-1/2 oz.) - red kidney beans, undrained 1 can (8 oz.) - tomato sauce 1/4 cup - honey 2 T - red wine vinegar	Using a cheese grater, shred tofu and freeze in zippered bag or airtight container. Thaw tofu; place in a strainer and press out excess liquid.  In large saucepan or dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat until hot; cook and stir onion, green pepper and garlic 3 to 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender and begin to brown.  Stir in chili powder, cumin, salt, oregano and crushed red pepper.  Stir in tofu: cook and stir 1 minute.  Stir in diced tomatoes, kidney beans, tomato sauce, honey and vinegar.  Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

<https://honey.com/recipe/a-honey-of-a-chili>

**\* For everyone receiving this newsletter by USPS snail mail, if you now have email and computer access and would like to attend the MABA meetings through Google Meet then please email [webmaster@memphisbeekeepers.com](mailto:webmaster@memphisbeekeepers.com) to have you added to the email distribution list for the newsletter.**