



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

MEETING DATE & TIME: January 11, 2021 at 7 pm – Stuart Hooser will present “**How To Care For Your Bees In Winter...So That You Have Bees in the Spring and Make Honey!**”

This will be the first MABA monthly meeting to be conducted **remotely!** All current MABA members will receive an email invitation to attend the January MABA meeting through Google Meet.

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

We will also discuss the upcoming MABA 56th Annual Beekeeping Course, to be held remotely February 6, 2021 from 7:45 AM to 3 PM through Google Meet. We can't wait to see you!

JANUARY AND THE BEES

- The bees are in a tight cluster staying warm and consuming very little food early in the month. This year may be different, with warmer than normal daytime temperatures.
- On days when the wind is calm and the temperature rises near 50 degrees, you'll probably see a few bees flying out taking a cleansing flight. Since bees do not go to the bathroom inside their hive, they fly out on warm days and this is called a cleansing flight.
- Winter bees live a little longer than summer bees, but remember, bees live short lives. Many of your bees will die during the winter, just from old age. When bees die during the winter, they fall to the bottom of the hive. In the summer, dead bees are immediately carried outside the hive by their sisters. But, in the winter, when the hive is clustered, the dead bees accumulate on the bottom board. On warm days, other bees might drag out their dead sisters. If snow covers the ground, you will notice more dead bees around your hives. This is normal. Don't panic! It is a sign of a strong hive when they drag out dead bees. But, if you don't see anything, don't panic either. It just means they will probably do this later on.

JANUARY AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Monitor your hives. Monitor their food stores closely with this warm weather.
- Get your equipment ready
- Plan and conduct an inventory to make sure you have what you need for the Spring Season.



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- **URGENT!! ORDER YOUR BEES (see below) AND EQUIPMENT IN JANUARY** - Many bee suppliers will completely sell out of package bees by the end of January. Call and place your bee order as soon as you can during the first week of January. Those who will be ordering your bees from package producers, the package producers will typically be prepared to take your orders for package bees and nucs beginning late fall and may be completely booked by the end of January. Call early!
- Make sure you join and attend your local beekeeping club
- Register your hives with the state
- Read up on beekeeping
- Clean up your smoker and hive tool
- This is the time for constructing, painting, and repairing equipment
- Most of the new catalogs from the beekeeping supply companies will be available in January
- Your goal should be to have the bees and the equipment ready for making honey by mid-April. Old, dark comb should be removed from frames in storage. Do not install the foundation yet — that should be done just before the frames go into the hives
- **READ, STUDY, LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT BEES AND BEEKEEPING**

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	0	Call
Bob Russell	(662) 598-1505	Local bees	5 frame nucs	\$150	0	Call



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12/23/2020 [National Honey Board Report:](#)

TENNESSEE: In Tennessee there are still some small wildflowers producing nectar and pollen across the State, not enough to call it a nectar flow but it is supplying fresh nectar and pollen to the colonies. Although honey production across the state appears to have been better than average this year covid19 restrictions have caused many beekeepers to have little to no income from honey sales. Most beekeepers across the state sell the bulk of their honey at farmers markets, festivals, fairs and other venues. Cancellation of these venues has been financially hard on the beekeepers. The number of people coming out to farmers markets has been extremely low resulting in little to no honey sales. Several beekeepers that rely on honey sales at these venues for a living have reported that many times they do not sell enough products to pay for their setup and travel to the venue. On a positive note, beekeepers across the state are reporting that their colonies are in better shape going into the winter than they have been for many years. Hopefully this will result in stronger colonies next spring with fewer overwintering loses. We have had a few cases of bears destroying colonies this fall.

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

MISSISSIPPI: Everything is pretty much shut down until winter passes. Hives have been checked, treated and the bees are reported to be in pretty good shape. The cooler weather has the bees pretty much staying close by or stuck in the hives and beekeepers are hoping they have plenty of food in reserve. Sales are about steady and prices remain the same.

BEEKEEPING READING LIST

THE LATEST BUZZ ON USDA POLLINATOR EFFORTS by: Scott Hutchins and Elizabeth Hill

Pollinators are a vital part of the agricultural production landscape and USDA plays a critical role in monitoring pollinator health and ensuring they thrive. Our efforts are extensive, but focus primarily on factors that influence pollinator health, crop production, and conservation. Ultimately, USDA exists to ensure Americans have access to a variety of fruits, nuts, and vegetables needed to support a healthy diet.

Efforts to support pollinator efforts can be seen across an array of Department of Agriculture programs. In all, 14 USDA offices and agencies contribute substantially to pollinator initiatives. It's easy to imagine that synchronizing actions across so many offices and agencies in a Department employing more than 100,000 people can be challenging.



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We know the stakes are high from an economic perspective alone, with USDA estimates for annual production of honey bee products valued at \$700 million. More than 100 U.S. crops, with an annual production value of \$18 billion depend at least in part on pollinators – not including the 40 crops that rely on pollinators for seed production. Given the breadth and critical importance of pollinator-related activities happening at USDA, Congress recognized the need for enhanced honey bee and pollinator activity coordination, as outlined in the 2018 Farm Bill. During the Trump administration, USDA created a coordinator position within USDA’s Office of the Chief Scientist to work across USDA to help ensure that research, extension, education, and economic activities related to pollinators are done in a focused and harmonious way. USDA’s pollinator coordinator aims to integrate the input and needs across USDA offices to aid in establishing annual pollinator strategic goals and research priorities.

So, what does this all mean? For starters, USDA has never had cross-cutting coordination working across every office and agency with the pollinator portfolio. The impact from simply creating opportunities for pollinator-centric employees to come together has had major payoff in and of itself. Offices that typically work solely on pollinator policy now have a way to easily connect with research-oriented offices, and vice versa – information that is of interest to multiple offices is being shared more quickly and easily. This may not seem intuitive, but with 14 offices, multiple sister federal agencies, and dozens of outside stakeholder groups with an interest in pollinators, having a hub to connect, coordinate, and share information quickly and easily across each of these nodes is critical to successfully addressing pollinator health. That means valuable information makes it to our customers and stakeholders more quickly.

But taking things to the next level – that is, developing these new relationships to work cohesively as a unified team in establishing Department-wide pollinator strategies – has been an extraordinary effort and success. To date, we have over 60 federal employees that are working together on strategic planning. They share a collective vision and common goals to help the greater public good. We have also made concerted efforts to engage and garner contributions and ideas from more than 100 external stakeholders in the managed honey bee, research and crop production realms. USDA is using this information to help shape its priorities for 2021 and onward. We plan to disseminate information on approximately 15 research priorities in the coming months. These priorities will be shared with funders of pollinator research, researchers, and the general public – including beekeepers such as yourselves.

More details to come, but to keep abreast of ongoing efforts and other pollinator initiatives taking shape at USDA, visit our new pollinator landing page: <https://www.usda.gov/pollinators>.

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	\$7.76	
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	\$4.88	
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

February 6th, 2021 – MABA 56th Annual Beekeeping Short Course –

LEARN HOW TO RAISE HONEYBEES FROM HOME!

We welcome everyone to attend an educational seminar on beekeeping Saturday, February 6th. Various aspects of beginning beekeeping will be studied, including bee-hive equipment, hive management, bee-disease control, sources of nectar and pollen, how to install packaged bees, and other beekeeping topics.



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As it is now becoming the norm, and required by local health officials, this will be the first MABA short course to be conducted remotely by experienced Memphis area beekeepers who are members of local and state beekeeping associations. Collectively these presenters have many years of beekeeping experience and will provide a first-class opportunity for you to get started in beekeeping.

New members without any prior beekeeping experience attending the course will have a chance to win a beginners beekeeping kit, including a complete bee hive, bees, bee veil, smoker, bee gloves, etc. **Two hive kits** will be awarded. You could be a winner! Winners will be announced at the end of the Short Course.

All current members of the Memphis Area Beekeepers will receive an email invitation to attend the Short Course in Google Meet. If you are not a current member, we recommend interested individuals go to the Memphis Area Beekeepers Association website (www.memphisbeekeepers.com) to fill out the NEW online New member or renewal member registration. It is as simple as creating an account and paying the \$15 yearly dues—this gets you into the 2021 Short Course!

Alternatively, a physical registration form is available on the Memphis Area Beekeepers Association website (www.memphisbeekeepers.com). Fill it out and send it in ASAP—we will need to have received it before the Short Course. Checks should be made out to **Memphis Area Beekeepers Association**.

If you have further questions, please contact Memphis Area Beekeepers Association President, Mr. Charles Force at this telephone number: **(901) 831-1207**; or, go to the Memphis Area Beekeepers' Association website: www.memphisbeekeepers.com

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, however the subject is TBD for now! 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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HONEY-BASED RECIPES

CURRIED HONEY SWEET POTATO SOUP: Makes 8 cups. Serves 4 to 6.

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
1 T - olive oil 1- onion, diced 4 medium-sized cloves – garlic, peeled 6 cups (48 oz.) - chicken or vegetable stock 1 lb. - sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks 2 medium - russet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks 2 tsp. - salt 1/4 cup - honey, divided 1 medium - red bell pepper, seeded and diced 2 - 3 tsp. - curry powder 1/2 tsp. - pepper 1/2 tsp. - ground ginger 1/4 cup - chopped fresh cilantro, optional	Heat oil over medium-high heat in a soup pot. Add onion and sauté until translucent, 2 to 3 minutes. Add garlic and sauté 1 minute. Add stock, potatoes and salt. Cover and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes. Puree mixture in batches, put soup back over low heat and add honey, bell pepper, curry powder, pepper and ginger. Bring to a simmer, taste and adjust seasonings. Serve soup with croutons or crostini and sprinkled with chopped cilantro, if desired. Serves 4 to 6.

<https://honey.com/recipe/curried-honey-sweet-potato-soup>