



Catch The Buzz

MA
BA

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38138

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

MEETING DATE & TIME: May 10, 2021 at 7 pm – **MABA May 2021 Meeting** – **Dr. Jeffrey Harris**, Mississippi State University Associate Extension/Research Professor, will be presenting remotely through Google Meet. Dr. Harris will present the current state of beekeeping in MS and his research efforts against Varroa destructor. We will be meeting again through Google Meet. Please look for the invitation in your email (and possibly Junk mail boxes, it happens). Be prepared for a practical, fact-filled presentation for beekeepers of all experience levels. You'll be sorry if you miss this meeting! See y'all there!

[Please check the Swarm List](#), updated before sending this newsletter. Listed swarm list members must be current MABA members. **Only those highlighted are current members.**

Please renew your yearly membership if you want to remain on the swarm list and continue receiving the monthly newsletter.

Stay tuned for MABA field days, we will post these on the [MABA website](#), as well as on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

MAY AND THE BEES

- The hive is working at top speed, the Queen is laying and the bees are bringing in nectar and pollen. Give them room, give them space to store a honey crop. They'll be happy you did!

MAY AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Keep up with the working bees by adding empty boxes – underestimating how much equipment you need could cost you a honey crop and could enhance the swarming impulse. Make sure to keep an empty box on top during this time of year. Swarming continues as new bees continue to overcrowd colonies.
- Watch for Swarms, add empty Supers, attend Bee Meetings and update "Bloom Calendar" this will help the beekeeper remember when the major honey flow occurs.

Equipment, equipment, equipment! Manage to prevent swarming by adding equipment.



Catch The Buzz

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38138

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

MA
BA

4/27/2021 [National Honey Board Report](#):

TENNESSEE: No report issued.

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

MISSISSIPPI: Rebuilding and working nucs is the main focus after some beekeepers have reported losses as high as fifty percent over the winter. Nucs are being fed and the bees are mainly on Sugar syrup until they can get out daily and forage. Blackberries, White Dutch Clover, Henbit and other wildflowers are coming in and the bees are ready for them. Sales and prices are holding about steady.

BEEKEEPING READING LIST

Camelina Holds Promise for Biofuel and Bees <https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-thee-buzz-camelina-biofuels-and-bees/>

Once considered a weed, camelina is finding favor in some parts of the country as a soil-protecting winter cover crop. Oil from the seed of this yellow-flowered, herbaceous member of the mustard family can also be made into first-rate cooking oil and high-quality biodiesel, offering a renewable alternative to using imported petroleum for that fuel. (See "ARS Researchers Flying Higher with New Jet Fuels," *Agricultural Research*, September 2012).

Over the past decade or so, Agricultural Research Service scientists at several locations across the country have conducted multi-faceted studies aimed at making novel oilseed crops like camelina more profitable for farmers to grow, easier for industry to process, and better performing as finished biofuels or other products.

At ARS's Soil Management Research Unit in Morris, Minnesota, a chief focus has been evaluating and integrating the use of camelina, canola, pennycress, and other oilseeds into the production systems of traditional midwestern crops, notably corn and soybeans. This past spring, the scientists published some of their research findings, which include potential gains for farmers and improved health for insect pollinators, like bees.

In one study, published in the April issue of *Agronomy Journal*, ARS plant physiologist Russ Gesch and ARS soil scientist Jane Johnson examined the seasonal water use of double cropping and relay cropping, which is a strategy that overlaps the growth of winter camelina and soybean. Among their findings:

- Under natural rainfall conditions, relay cropping (in which the soybean crop is seeded between rows of growing camelina plants) used less water than double-cropping (whereby soybean seed is sown right after a camelina harvest, around mid to late June).



Catch The Buzz

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38138

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

MA
BA

- Relay cropping camelina-soybean also used only slightly more water than a full-season soybean-only control treatment.
- Relay-cropped camelina resulted in higher soybean yields than sequential double cropping.
- Relay-cropped soybean yields ranged from 58 percent to 83 percent of yields for the full-season soybean; however, the camelina seed yields more than compensated for any loss in soybean yield. Furthermore, the total oil yield for the relay system (camelina oil plus soy oil) was 50 percent greater than a full-season soybean crop.
- Net economic returns of relay cropping were found to be competitive with those of full-season soybean, while adding the benefits of a cover crop.
- Before it is harvested for its oil, camelina cover crops may offer a way to “mop up” excess soil moisture that goes unused before soybeans are planted, especially in rain-fed farming areas of the Midwest. In the absence of cover crops, excess moisture during fall and early spring often leads to leaching and runoff of nitrogen into ground and surface waters, where it becomes a pollutant, explains Gesch.
- The study demonstrates a sustainable way to grow crops for both food and fuel on the same parcel of land, potentially offering farmers a dual source of income in a single season.

In a related study, published in the June 2015 issue of *Industrial Crops and Products*, postdoctoral researchers Carrie Eberle and Matt Thom, together with ARS agronomist Frank Forcella and their collaborators, showed that the flowering periods of camelina, canola, and pennycress can provide honey bees and other insects with a critical, early-spring source of nectar and pollen that’s usually unavailable then—especially in Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota, where about one-third of the nation’s managed bee colonies are kept from May through October.

“Fields of winter camelina and winter canola produce about 100 pounds per acre of nectar sugar over the course of a 2- to 3-week flowering season. That quantity produced in such a short time is enough to support the annual energy requirements of a typical bee hive, which is 100-200 pounds of sugar per year,” notes Forcella.

Other results of the 2012-2014 study are as follows:

- Insect counts showed that the three oilseeds also attracted other pollinators, including wild bee species, butterflies, beetles, and hoverflies, whose larval stage feeds voraciously on aphids.
- Insects visited flowering canola up to 15 times more often than pennycress and camelina, perhaps because of higher nectar levels in each individual flower, which are much larger than those of camelina and pennycress.
- Canola failed to bloom during one of the study years, which is a reflection of its being less cold-hardy than the other two oilseeds.



Catch The Buzz

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38138

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

MABA

- Camelina earned the highest marks overall, thanks to a combination of excellent cold tolerance, high seed yield, good ground cover, and high nectar production (89 pounds per acre).

“Continued efforts to improve yield and crop characteristics will help establish these crops (especially camelina and pennycress) as legitimate cash cover crops for the Northern Corn Belt,” Eberle and her coauthors write in their journal paper. “And as the demand to produce biofuels continues to increase, we may also expect to see an increase in their seed values,” benefiting farmers and bees alike.—By [Jan Suszkiw](#), Agricultural Research Service Information Staff.

“Camelina Holds Promise for Biofuel and Bees” was published in the [November 2015](#) issue of *AgResearch* Magazine.

<https://agresearchmag.ars.usda.gov/2015/nov/oilseed/>

Have time to read more? Read this: [Dogs Can Smell Honey Bee Disease](#)

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

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
2021	\$8.40	\$8.18										
2020	\$8.03	\$7.88	\$7.95	\$7.90	\$8.09	N/A	\$7.93	\$7.83	\$7.95	\$7.61	\$7.76	\$8.22
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

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
2021	\$5.89	\$5.30										
2020	\$4.89	\$5.12	\$4.91	\$5.01	\$5.05	N/A	\$5.03	\$4.96	\$5.00	\$4.89	\$4.88	\$5.13
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



Catch The Buzz

**MA
BA**

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association www.memphisbeekeepers.com

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38138

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

MABA MEETING DATE & TIME: June 14, 2021 at 7 pm – **MABA June 2021 Meeting – Speaker and subject TBD!** See y'all there!

2021 Germantown Festival

Think about Volunteering to teach and sell honey at the upcoming **Germantown Festival is September 11-12, 2021**. We'll need help unloading, selling, demonstrating, and teaching the public about beekeeping, we hope to see you there! **We will have a member volunteer sign up in a month or two.**

At Home Beekeeping Webinar presented by <https://www.aces.edu/>

Stay home and learn about bees the last Tuesday of each month, from 1830 to 1930 CST.

May 25: Working with mosquito control to protect bees, with Kristen Healy (LSU)

June 29: Reading a honey bee frame, with Kate Ihle (USDA)

You can access the meetings at <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838> or through <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

Watch the most recent March 2021 presentation, by Dr. Tsuruda at

<https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/videos/258665875942272>

NC State Beekeeping Webinars

The [NC State Apiculture Program](#) has many recorded beekeeping videos to suit any needs

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 38138

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

MA
BA

HONEY-BASED RECIPES - <https://www.honey.com/signup>

1. STRAWBERRY ROSE SHRUB SYRUP: Makes 4 cups

INGREDIENTS

4 cups - strawberries, hulled and cut in half

2 cups - honey

1 cup - sugar

2 cups - cider vinegar

2 T - edible lavender

4 - 1" strips - lemon zest

1/4 cup - rose water

DIRECTIONS

Combine the strawberries, honey, sugar, vinegar, lavender, and lemon zest in a non-reactive saucepan and gently mash the strawberries a bit with the back of a wooden spoon. Bring mixture to a boil for 2 minutes and then lower to a simmer for another 10 minutes, remove from heat and let the fruit steep for an hour.

Strain the mixture with a sieve and stir in the rose water. Decant into an airtight jar or bottle and seal. Refrigerate and enjoy with seltzer or as a base for cocktails for up to a week.

TIP

Non-reactive cookware includes ones that are glass, stainless steel, non-stick or enamel. Using reactive cookware such as copper, aluminum and cast iron with acidic ingredients like vinegar can create a metallic taste in the finished dish.

<https://honey.com/recipe/strawberry-rose-shrub-syrup>