



## *Catch The Buzz*

**MA  
BA**

*Memphis Area Beekeepers Association* [www.memphisbeekeepers.com](http://www.memphisbeekeepers.com)

P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183

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

**MEETING DATE & TIME:** November 8, 2021 at 7 PM – MABA November 2021 Meeting – **the November MABA meeting is our yearly Honey Show and Competition!** Let's have everyone bring their best honey and hive products to be judged. That is how you win! Review the [2019 MABA Honey Show Rules](#), prepare your products, and enter them to win your entered class, or maybe even the Premier Exhibitor! Best of luck to everyone!

Instead of a speaker we will have an open question and answer session, as well as the elections for our 2022 MABA Board, all while our Honey Show entries are being judged! Like the last meeting, please bring your masks or we will have some available at the door. We will be in Concourse C in the Banquet Room of the Agricenter. See y'all there!

**\*\*\*Important – we ARE meeting at the Agricenter this November 2021 meeting\*\*\***

Plan to attend the **December 13, 2021 MABA Christmas Dinner** and end of season Harvest Celebration! More details forthcoming during the upcoming November meeting!

### **NOVEMBER AND THE BEEKEEPER**

- Feed your light hives as long as the bees are taking the fluid.
- Finish up all winterization of your hives.
- On a cool day when the bees are all inside, weed-eat around your hives.
- Enjoy Thanksgiving!
- Start purchasing next year's bee packages, nucleus hives and queens and equipment.
- Install mouse guards at entrance of hives.
- Finish winter feeding.
- Start to get equipment ordered or begin to build for next year.
- Attend Bee Meetings & bring a friend.
- Make sure equipment is stored properly to stop wax moth damage.
- You can feed syrup when the temperature allows (45-50 degrees).
- Talk to experienced beekeepers for winter preps.
- Pay State and Local Club Dues
- Register your hives with your respective State(s).

### **NOVEMBER AND THE BEES**

- Even less bee activity and cold weather will send them back into cluster.
- On warm days watch for bees to fly out to make cleansing flights and forage for pollen.
- Keep the entrances just small enough for two bees to enter.
- The bees may start to cluster. They may not yet go into a full winter cluster. They may break cluster frequently on warm days and re-cluster at night. But they will begin to cluster for the winter.



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### **Letter from the MABA Newsletter Editor**

As the current editor of the MABA newsletter for the past 4 years, I hope that new and experienced beekeepers have been able to learn and maintain their knowledge of beekeeping locally and nationally through the shared articles and information from our trusted beekeeping collaborators. I look forward to and will provide great support for our NEW MABA Newsletter Editor in the coming months to ensure that the MABA newsletter becomes what it has meant to become – an integral component of MABA that continues to guide our membership in greater understanding of beekeeping practices in our region, around the country, and around the globe! With this introduction, we welcome **Kristi Cook** as the new MABA Newsletter Editor! She will begin with the December or January newsletter edition! Look forward to great content from Kristi in the months and years ahead! Again, it has been my privilege to provide the MABA membership with timely beekeeping information that helps inform their management decisions through the last 4 years. I thank you for the opportunity to serve MABA!

Sincerely,

Eric Caron

Recording Secretary and Webmaster  
**Memphis Area Beekeepers Association**  
[memphisbeekeepers.com](http://memphisbeekeepers.com)

10/22/2021 National Honey Board Report: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf>

**TENNESSEE:** The fall nectar flow across the state has been patchy. Areas with frequent rain are reporting greater nectar flows. Goldenrod and asters have been the main nectar and pollen sources. Covid-19 spikes appeared to have slowed honey sales at farmers markets at times during the past month. We are seeing a surge in fall absconding swarms in weaker colonies.

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

**MISSISSIPPI:** The bees are reported to be in good shape heading into the Fall season. Hives have been treated for mites and are ready for the cold weather coming soon. The bees are still feeding when they can get out of the hives if the rain slows and weather permits. Sales for holiday purchases are starting to come in as well as candy makers making their yearly purchases.



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### BEEKEEPING READING LIST

#### BeeHero's Precision Pollination Platform Wings Its Way to \$19M in New Funding

Confusion among honey consumers in Canada and the United States reached its peak over the last few weeks when the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and a lawsuit filed in Kansas alleged that the honey industry in both countries is rife with fraud. <https://www.bee-culture.com/beehero-funding/>

Move over, precision agriculture — precision *apiculture* is what's on the minds of all future-focused farmers. BeeHero has been growing fast since its debut and seed round last year, and \$19 million in new funding means it can scale beyond its initial markets and find more uses for its one-of-a-kind collection of data collected from thousands of active honeybee hives.

The company empowers hives with IoT tech, making it possible to track the movements and health of their bees practically in real time and catch things like mite infestations before they go too far. The result is huge improvements to crop yields, healthier hives and fewer trips in the tractor. The ordinary method of placing hives and then driving out to check on them every few weeks is slow and inefficient; a hive may have collapsed during that time, or is pollinating ineffectively, condemning acres of fields to an unproductive season.

“The way pollination is handled today is challenging,” BeeHero CEO and co-founder Omer Davidi said. “There’s a shortage of hives; you get a box, you don’t know what’s inside, you just hope for the best. This is not an effective way to strategize your pollination. You need to understand the stressors, the variety of inputs and outputs... but to do this with older, less data intensive industries is hard.”

Despite the challenges of essentially launching during the initial panicked months of the pandemic, Davidi said that their traction was remarkable once they figured out how to make that connection with farmers, many of

whom are slowly but surely adopting modern solutions. They’re skeptical of the benefits and understandably suspect startup founders offering quick solutions (via video calls and virtual demos, no less) of being charlatans.

“Originally, I said, guys, we have to tell everyone we’ve increased sunflowers or cashews by a hundred percent! But you have to be careful. They’ve been doing this the same way for generations. When you come out of nowhere saying ‘I’ve figured it all out,’ you lose credibility immediately,” he explained. “So, we had to under-promise and over-deliver, and it pushed us to build a lower-touch onboarding process. Then once they see the results, they want to do it year after year.”

The work has paid off, however, and BeeHero is now working with several of the top almond growers in California, which dominates the production of that crop globally. By the end of the year, it expects to manage 100,000 hives and be the biggest pollination provider in the U.S. (they’re currently the fourth largest).

The \$15 million A round comes from ADM Capital, Rabo Food and Agri Innovation Fund, iAngels, FirstTime, J-Ventures, UpWest, Entrée Capital, Good Company, the Arison Group and Gaingels. The company has also won \$4 million in grants from the European Commission, the BIRD Foundation and the Israel Innovation Authority.



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The primary goal of the raise is to expand beyond the U.S. and almonds. The plan is to expand first to berries, avocados and apples, then to crops like sunflower and soybeans. Even greenhouse crops like tomatoes might be possible. Australia and Europe are both on the list, but it depends on partnerships and other factors, though at least the money's there.

Davidi is hoping that the growing bee activity database will prove an invaluable resource in other ways, though he was realistic about the stage they're in.

"As a data scientist, I can tell you: we know nothing," he admitted. But "we" means the industry in general, and BeeHero is building by far the largest collection of bee-adjacent data out there. Knowing how hives and pollination react to different weather patterns, crops and planting styles, pesticides, invasive species (they're watching for murder hornets) and a dozen other factors would be tremendously valuable and the company's work is only beginning.

"For instance, we're only just learning this, but bees know about rainfall 30 minutes before it happens," Davidi said. Why? How? They have guesses, but whatever the case, it could be a useful data point for farmers — and probably for apiculture generally.

Research partnerships with the World Bee Project and Japan's Ministry of Culture, among others in the academic sphere and beyond, show that there is untapped potential in this trove of data. With pollination so important to maintaining the world's food supply and bees subject to an increasing number of threats, we'll take any insights we can get.

**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 – No update from the NHB since 2/2021.

**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>2021</b>	\$8.40	\$8.18										
<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

**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>2021</b>	\$5.89	\$5.30										
<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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

December 13, 2021 – MABA December 2021 Meeting - **Make plans for the 2021 MABA Christmas Dinner and Harvest Celebration**, which will be held during the December MABA meeting time. More details forthcoming!

If that was not enough, the results and prize money for the 2021 MABA Honey Show will be presented to the lucky winners during the December Harvest Celebration. See y'all there!

To learn more about beekeeping in Tennessee visit the **Tennessee Beekeepers Association** website at: <http://www.tnbeekeepers.org>. **MABA needs a few more members to become TBA members to allow us to have 3 voting Directors at TBA Directors meetings. Please consider joining the TBA!**

**Enjoy the cool weather, now that Fall has finally arrived (watch out for this coming week)!**



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### HONEY-BASED RECIPES

#### 1. HONEY EGGNOG: Makes 4 servings

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
3/4 cup - whole milk 1 T - egg, lightly beaten 1 T + 1 tsp. - honey pinch - ground cinnamon pinch - ground nutmeg pinch - salt 1/4 tsp. - vanilla extract 1 1/2 oz. - rum flavoring 2 T - whipped topping	In small saucepan, combine milk, egg, honey, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt; mix well. Bring to a gentle boil over medium heat, stirring constantly for about 5 minutes.  Remove from heat; stir in vanilla and rum flavoring.  Chill at least 1 hour.  Serve with whipped topping, as desired.