



Catch The Buzz

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Memphis Area Beekeepers Association <http://memphisbeekeepers.com/>
P.O. Box 38028, Germantown, TN 38183
Meeting Location: 7777 Walnut Grove Rd # C, Memphis, TN 38120

A Letter from the President

Welcome to wild weather fluctuation March! If your bees aren't confused then hopefully you are not either!

MABA is planning Apiary work days in our soon-to-be-upgraded MABA Apiary. Details are forthcoming in the weeks and months ahead. Want to help put together some bee equipment? Let Gregg know!

As I mentioned in the February meeting, MABA is looking for as many mentors possible for the new beekeepers that have recently joined. Please contact me if you are interested in serving as a mentor. Mentors will be contacting their mentees as soon as all the details are finalized. Also, if you need to sign up for the Swarm List, please know that sign up for that will happen soon.

MABA has an exciting opportunity for an individual to serve as the Newsletter Editor to support the ongoing needs of our monthly newsletter. The newsletter is one of several communication tools we use to share upcoming events, beekeeping knowledge, and MABA happenings. If you have interest in serving as the MABA Newsletter Editor please contact me or Gard Woodard (webmaster@memphisbeekeepers.com).

MABA seeks to educate the public about the benefits of beekeeping, for individuals and for the environment. With that aim, I am making committee member appointments to lead discussions on how we can better reach the Memphis Area with our education and learning opportunities. At the same time, we also need to learn how we can best serve our own members' needs. If you have an interest in participating in our Community Education or Membership Engagement committees, please let me know. The committees have already started and a few more volunteers are needed to engage in the discussions.

See y'all soon!

Eric Caron

memphisbeekeeper@gmail.com

President

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association memphisbeekeepers.com



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March's Monthly Meeting

Covid Notice: We ask everyone to please bring your masks to the meeting as we did last month. Should you forget your mask or not have one, no worries! We will have plenty available at the door.

March 14, 2022

“The Big Picture on Tennessee Beekeeping.”

Speaker: Mike Studer
Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Location: Agricenter, Banquet Room
Concourse C



Mike Studer, the Tennessee State Apiarist since 2007, will present the state of beekeeping in TN and how to keep our bees healthy and thriving. **Please join us to hear about what we can do to move into spring beekeeping with Mike's talk on beekeeping in Tennessee.** You will want to attend this meeting! See y'all there!

Additional info: Be sure to order your nucs ASAP as many providers sell out weeks before spring gets here. For a full description of each provider, scroll to the end of the newsletter. For a concise list of providers, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events

April 11, 2022

MABA monthly meeting

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Location: Agricenter, Banquet Room, Concourse C
Info: David Glover, will present *“Free bees – Where to Find Them, and How to Catch Them”*

May 9, 2022

MABA monthly meeting

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Location: Agricenter, Banquet Room, Concourse C
Info: Billy Joe Adair, will present *“How To Install Your Nuc & How to Expand”*



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March 15-16, 2022

Tennessee State Inspectors Certification Course

Time: 6:00-10:00 pm
Location: Agricenter, Concourse C
Info: State Apiarist Mike Studer will conduct the class. Seating is limited to 15-20 *experienced* beekeepers only due to the difficulty of the examination at the end of the course. Participants should click this link to review [Beekeeping in Tennessee](#), especially the disease and pest portion prior to class.
Contact: Stuart Hooser at (901) 485-6152 or stuart.hooser@gmail.com

April 28-30, 2022

Kent Williams Beekeeping School.

Time: 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Location: 580 State Route 386 North Wingo, KY 42088
Info: Eastern Apicultural Society
Contact: Chuck Collins at (270)519-4772 or visit the LBBA FB page



(EAS) Certified Master Beekeeper Kent Williams and members of Lake Barkley Beekeepers Association (LBBA) will present classes each day on basic hive inspections, equipment, splits, advanced queen rearing, and more.

Several MABA members visited Kent's bee school in 2021 and many will be returning in 2022—it's that good!



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News from the MABA Apiary



Punxsutawney Phil's Groundhog Day spring arrival prediction seems to have come true. Our bees were seen taking cleansing flights on warm days that reached as high as 70 degrees, immediately clustering tight when temperatures dipped below freezing the next day. Bees are seen bringing in pollen triggering queens to start laying to start the buildup of the brood nest. These weather conditions are a typical Mid-South February. Our bees are consuming their food stores at an increased rate. Judging by lifting the backs of all our hives, their light weights signal a need to feed. All hive feeders were filled to the top with sugar syrup. Supplemental feeding will continue through March at least until the Spring bloom starts. I expect our new hive equipment to arrive soon. A frame building and painting workshop announcement soon to come.

Thanks, and good beekeeping, Gregg Tingle

MARCH AND THE BEES

- March, a warm month in the Shelby County Area, the lengthening days and new pollen and nectar sources stimulate brood rearing. As days lengthen and temps increase, the cluster expands and drones are produced. With an increase in brood rearing and increase in adult bees, **the nest area of the colony becomes crowded**. More bees are evident at the entrance of the nest. Give the queen room by removing some honey-bound frames or adding an extra box. The queen needs the space to build up for the nectar flow.
- The bees also gather water to regulate temperature and to liquefy thick or granulated honey in the preparation of brood food. Remember, **the colony expands rapidly in March**, with an increase in both young and field-worker bees. This is the critical time for starvation. The worker bees are beginning to forage and drones begin to appear. As the days grow longer, the Queen increases her rate of egg production and colonies wishing to swarm may start to raise swarm cells and colonies with failing queens may start supersedure cells. These will hatch in 16 days.



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- Weather permitting, a few early swarms could occur in March. Manage for swarming by moving the box on top down to the bottom board if the bees are in two boxes or manipulate the frames by removing brood frames from the center and adding empty drawn comb or new wax foundation to the brood chamber. Food stores are being consumed at a rapid rate. Natural Pollen is coming in rapidly but cold, windy weather can affect nectar sources so a close watch on food stores is critical.
- Regardless of its condition, crowded or not the colony will try to expand by building new combs if food and room are available. These new combs are used for the storage of honey, whereas the older combs are used for pollen storage and brood rearing.

MARCH AND THE BEEKEEPER

- Get your equipment ready.
- Inspect your hive(s)! when the temperature is 50 degrees or higher, look in the hive and pull out a few frames.
- Remove the entrance reducer and clean the bottom board as it may be filled with dead, winter bees.
- Assess how many of your colonies have died out over the winter.
- Clean out these boxes and freeze the comb if you can. This will prevent the spread of wax moths
- Feed your bees or they will starve until they can bring in enough nectar and pollen. Feed sugar syrup mixture, sugar or patties. Remove the patties by Mid-March to prevent infestations of hive beetles.
- Check honey stores prepare to Re-queen failing Queens, order queens, remove all medicines as specified on the labels.
- Manage for swarming
- Attend Bee Meetings



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National Honey Board Report Beekeeper Reports, and Unit Prices

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf>

ARKANSAS: During the month of January temperatures were above normal across most of the state. Precipitation during January was about normal across most of the state. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, Arkansas had normal soil moisture across the Northern part of the state and abnormally dry to severe drought conditions across the central and southern part of the state for January. Beekeepers continue to work on cleaning and repairing existing supers, frames and pallets. The varroa mite loads commercial beekeepers currently see in their colonies vary from a few to normal levels for this time of year. They stated that the varroa mites never really disappear. The key seems to be treating on a regular basis to keep them in check. No supply chain issues reported with movement very slow this time of year. Too few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

MISSISSIPPI: Rain and a cold month kept the bees in the hives. Beekeepers are hopeful that the extra cold weather will not keep the bees in the hives too long and they can get out and about some days to stay healthy and not spoil the living conditions. Commercial sales are slow, and retail has dropped off since the holidays.

TENNESSEE: January in Tennessee was cold and wet. There were not many days warm enough for bees to fly for nectar or pollen. Tennessee has seen some odd mass bee deaths where entire apiaries abscond on days when the temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, covering the ground in front of the colonies with dead bees for around 50 feet. All that is remaining in the colony is the queen and 20 or 30 workers, a small cluster of brood, frames full of honey and fresh pollen. One apiary inspected the last week of January had 81 strong colonies two week prior and upon inspection only one colony was alive. The others had all absconded during the cold weather the previous week and died in flight. There are a few small wildflower nectar and pollen sources blooming on warm days. Most local honey sales points that had closures during covid have reopened. Supply chain issues continue to be an issue, with beekeepers complaining about increased costs, shortages of woodenware, shortages of honey containers and shortage of treatments for varroa mites.



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Beekeeping Reading List

EXPLORING OUR CLOVER FIXATION

By Becky Masterman & Bridget Mendel



We're obsessed with clover. Because clover fixes a lot of things, including nitrogen. And before we go a second further, let's address the element in the room: what is nitrogen, why is everyone always talking about it, and why does it need to be fixed?

Nitrogen is a super abundant gas. (Sorry, we lack advanced degrees in chemistry so are going to leave it at that, after which things get metaphysical). But we can say for sure that nitrogen is everywhere. More specifically, it makes up about 78% of the earth's atmosphere. For plants, nitrogen is totally essential. It's key for plants to make proteins! It's key for plants to make chlorophyll which they need for their life-affirming hobby, photosynthesis!

Sadly, plants can't just grab nitrogen out of thin air. To make a very complex process (that you should google) simple, ambient nitrogen needs to be "fixed" into chemical forms that are useful to plants. Farmers may add fertilizers, composts or manures to their soils to get nitrogen into the soil in a way that's palatable to plants. But pulses and beans and rhizomatic roots! The legumes we fondly call La Familia de Frijoles have the ability to fix nitrogen in soils (though actually it's certain bacteria with which legumes have a symbiotic relationship that do the fixing. Big shout out to biology for making everything complicated).

So, nitrogen fixation is super important for all plants and the farmers that grow them. And for growers, planting pulses as cover crops or between rows provides a few other fixes: legumes can help retain moisture in the soil, reduce runoff and erosion, compete with weeds, and provide nutrition for grazing animals should there be any. And now for the biggest fix of all: dinner for bees. In fact, the word "clover" is probably connected to the Germanic word "klaiwaz," meaning "sticky sap," an ode to the abundant honey made from clover's sweet blossoms.



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There are many plants that share the common name of clover and they all belong to the taxonomic Family Fabaceae (everything from those lucky four-leafers you looked for at recess having not been picked for any kickball teams, to those green split peas the soup of which had to eat before you left the dinner table). True clovers are in the genus *Trifolium*, which includes species native and non-native to North America (Taylor 1990). Some of the native clovers, (*T. trichocalyx* and *T. anoemum*) are listed on the Federal Endangered Species List as their associated indigenous landscapes are disappearing (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-tax-group?statusCategory=Listed&groupName=All%20Plants>).

As you would expect, the clover plants from which honey bees gather the most nectar and pollen fall into the non-native *Trifolium* clovers (shoutout to roving humans for making everything complicated!). The true clovers on every honey bees' Top five include Dutch white clover (*T. repens*), Alsike clover (*T. hybridum*), crimson clover (*T. incarnatum*), and red clover (*T. pratense*). These clovers are used as cover crops for soil health, and bees appreciate it. Also beloved is Kura clover (*T. ambiguum*), a rhizome rooted plant that is used as an agricultural living mulch, forage, hay and nectar source with some plots surviving over 20 years.

Another genus in the Fabaceae Family that we call clover is *Melilotus* (you can practically hear the honey dripping off the name), home to the yellow (*M. officinalis*) and white (*M. alba*) sweet clovers both of which have been identified as potential threats to native plant communities (Van Riper et al. 2009). Conservationists are rightly concerned that these tall (reaching five feet), sweet clovers block sun from shorter native plants and increase soil nitrogen to unfavorable levels for natives. Planting sweet clover specifically for our bees is a great idea if we have the land and a management plan, but sincere care must be taken to keep sweet clovers well away from conservation efforts, and to manage their spread. What can we say? One gal's weed is another gal's best honey crop. A University of Maryland study asking about the value of native and non-native plants in pollinator plots with seed mixes included sweet clover and three *Trifolium* species in their seed mixes and demonstrated that clover plants were visited frequently by a diverse group of bees during their expansive flowering seasons. Despite the value of the non-native plants for bees, the authors warn of the potential for these plants to disrupt native bee and plant communities (Seitz et al. 2020).

While clovers can seem like a triple win benefiting everyone from soil microbes to bees to bovines, it's... complicated... to get it right. "Bloom and let bloom" may be our collective motto, but clover planted under or near crops that get sprayed (like vineyards or fruit trees) is best mown before the spray, even if blooming, so bees aren't tempted to forage there (McDougall et al. 2021). As beekeepers, it's essential to talk to the mowers that be about letting their intentional and unintentional clovers bloom, knowing that livestock or crop considerations may get priority.

We are totally fixated on clover, and not least because it tends to do well in many contexts and does not require much talent to grow. We also love the intoxicating scent of it, the giddiness of knowing our bees are feasting, filling up supers. So definitely plant some clover this spring, but pledge to manage it well. Here's to a year of tall hives and big, big jars of honey.

<https://www.beeeculture.com/exploring-our-clover-fixation/>



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Honey Based Recipes

Cream Cheese Cookies

[CLICK HERE](#) for link to recipe

YIELD: Makes 9 servings

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup butter, softened (1 stick)

8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature

1/2 cup honey

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 teaspoon almond extract

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1 3/4 cup cake flour *if you don't have cake flour; add 2 tbsp of cornstarch to the same amount of regular flour*

DIRECTIONS

Line baking sheet with parchment paper. You can use aluminum foil, if you don't have parchment paper. Cream together butter and cream cheese with electric mixer.

Add honey and beat for one minute. Add egg and beat to combine. Add extracts and beat until combined. Add in baking powder and cake flour (in three sections), mixing to combine.

Once incorporated, refrigerate dough for at least an hour. Preheat oven to 375°F. Dough will be sticky so use flour on your hands to roll out 1-2 inch balls. You can use the bottom of a cup/glass dipped in flour to gently flatten the balls, if you'd like. Don't flatten too much or the cookies won't puff up.

Bake for 9-11 minutes. Important: Pull them out when you see the underside edges turning golden. These cookies are the perfect "simple" cookie, and aren't overly sweet. Feel free to add powdered sugar, your choice of frosting or glaze to them, for extra sweetness.

Recipe courtesy of **Shana Archibald**



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Honeybee Nucleus (NUC) Providers Memphis Area Beekeepers Association (MABA) 2022

NUC Provider: Mr. Billy Joe Adair, owner of *Adair Honey Farm*; Cellular Telephone: (901) 268-0528; Electronic Mail: billyjoeadair@bellsouth.net. Mr. Adair has 200 NUCs of Russian honeybees for sale and prefers orders be made directly to him through email, Facebook private messaging, or texting to his cellular telephone. NUC orders are being received now with a price for individual NUCs of \$165.00 each with a possible (to-be-negotiated) discount for purchases of 10 or more NUCs. NUC orders will run until all 200 NUCs are gone. Projected pick-up date is the 1st Saturday in May 2022 with this pick-up location: Billy Joe Adair, 75 Adair Way, Moscow, Tennessee 38057. There is no deposit required on advance orders and cash payment on pick-up is required. There will be no queens for sale this year by Mr. Adair. Website: www.adairhoney.com; Facebook: Billy Joe Adair.

NUC Provider: Mrs. Kristi Cook, owner of *Tender Hearts Honeybees*; Cellular Telephone: (901) 301-3067; Electronic Mail: kristi@tenderheartshoneybees.com. Mrs. Cook has 200 NUCs of both Italian hybrid and Russian hybrid honeybees for sale and prefers orders be made directly to her through her website, email, Facebook private messaging, or texting to her cellular telephone. NUC orders are being received now with a price for individual NUCS of \$165.00 each and will run until all NUCs are sold. Queens will be available at a yet-to-be determined time this spring/summer with a price to be published at that time. Mrs. Cook requires a deposit for a guaranteed NUC of \$50.00 which can be made on her secure website with the balance in cash or card due upon pick up. Payment of the full amount of the NUC order can also be made on her website. Every attempt will be made to have NUCs ready the first or second week in May and maybe earlier, weather and bees depending. Customers will be contacted two weeks prior to delivery with pick-up locations at the Memphis Agri-center or Bono, Arkansas (precise addresses on her website). Website: tenderheartshoneybees.com; Facebook: @tenderheartshoneybees.



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NUC Provider: Mr. Richard Coy, owner of *Coy's Honey Farm*. Mr. Coy has 100 NUCs of Russian bees for sale at \$145.00 per NUC and 30 queens (depends upon weather and availability) for sale at \$28.00 per queen. Mr. Coy requests that orders be made through Memphis Area Bee Club member Mr. Greg Tingle at this cellular telephone number: (901) 413-1704; and this electronic mail address: greggingle@gmail.com. Mr. Tingle will receive orders for Mr. Coy now until the deadline established by Mr. Coy of March 1st. Payment will be in cash only at pick-up with no deposit required. Time and place of pick-up is to be announced by Mr. Coy and relayed to Mr. Tingle to convey to purchasers one week in advance of pick-up. Projected NUC pick-up availability is mid-April. Website: coyshoneyfarm.net; Facebook: Coy's Honey Farm.

NUC Provider: Mr. Andrew Finch; Cellular Telephone: (850) 333-2490; Electronic Mail: andrewfinch86@icloud.com. Mr. Finch has 1000 NUCs of general honeybees for sale at \$150.00 per NUC and an indeterminate number of queens at \$30.00 each. Orders may be made now directly to Mr. Finch who will receive orders via his telephone or email until all NUCs are gone. No deposit is required. Projected pick-up date is April 16 - 23 with cash only as payment upon pick-up and pick-up location at 414 Gaston Road, Booneville, Mississippi 38829.

NUC Provider: Mr. Harry Fulton, owner of *Bigbee Valley Bees*. Mr. Fulton has 100 NUCs of Russian honeybees for sale at \$150.00 per NUC. Queens may be available later on in the season with a price to be determined at that time. NUC orders are being accepted now and will continue to be accepted until all 100 are sold. Mr. Fulton requests that orders be made through Memphis Area Beekeepers Association club member Stuart Hooser at this cellular telephone number: (901) 485-6152; and this electronic mail address: stuart.hooser@gmail.com. Payment must be in cash or money order at pick-up with no deposit required. Pick-up location will be Memphis Agri-center with the date of pick-up to be most likely between April 15 to May 1. Time and date of pick-up will be communicated either by Mr. Fulton or Mr. Hooser to individual purchasers' email addresses one week in advance of delivery.



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NUC Provider: Gary Heintz; Cellular Telephone: (731) 441-1911. Mr. Heintz has 100 NUCs of general non-chemically treated bees for \$225.00 per NUC with no deposit required. Mr. Heintz will not have any queens for sale this year. He is taking NUC orders now and will take orders until all of the 100 NUCs have been sold. Orders for Mr. Heintz's NUCs can be placed with a personal telephone call. As telephone reception is weak in Mr. Heintz's location, should he not answer a telephone call, a text with a request for a return call is generally successful. Once bees are ready, Mr. Heintz will have them inspected and then call the purchaser for pick up at this address: 3120 Highway 192 South, Holladay, Tennessee 38341. Payment is cash only with no deposit required.

NUC Provider: Ms. Joy Layton; Cellular Telephone: (901) 319-7244; Electronic Mail: joylayton2012@gmail.com. Ms. Layton has 15 Russian hybrid NUCs for sale at \$165.00 - \$175.00 each with price depending on whether the NUC box is plastic or cardboard (plastic is \$175.00 and cardboard is \$165.00). No queens will be available from Ms. Layton this year. Orders can be placed with Ms. Layton by calling her cell or contacting her by email. Terms of payment are to be worked out with each individual purchaser with no deposit required. Pick-up is to be at Ms. Layton's Olive Branch, Mississippi home with date, address, and time given one week prior by personal agreed-upon contact. For an additional fee depending on distance, Ms. Layton will deliver to personal addresses.

NUC Provider: Mr. Gus Mitchell, owner of *Cranes Nest River Apiaries*; Cellular Telephone: (276) 870-0618; Electronic Mail: guswaynemitchell@yahoo.com. Mr. Mitchell has 100 NUCs of Russian type bees for sale at \$175.00 per NUC. He will not have any individual queens for sale this year. Mr. Mitchell will begin receiving NUC orders at the January Memphis Area Beekeepers Association (MABA) meeting and continue selling until all 100 NUCs are gone. NUC orders may be made by calling Mr. Mitchell's cellular telephone or sending a message to his email address. Payment is to be cash on pick-up without deposit. Mr. Mitchell projects NUCs to be ready at the end of May to the 1st of June 2022. One week prior to pick-up, the location, date, and time of the pick-up will be communicated by Mr. Mitchell to purchasers. Facebook: @cranesnesthoney.



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NUC Provider: Mr. Louis Padgett; Cellular Telephone: (901) 246-8540; Electronic Mail: lpthirty2@gmail.com. Mr. Padgett has 40 NUCs of open-mated Russian bees for sale at \$160.00 per NUC. No queens will be available from Mr. Padgett this year. Mr. Padgett will receive orders now via telephone calls or texts to his cellular telephone and through email messages. Orders will be received until all 40 NUCs are sold. Mr. Padgett expects NUCs to be ready the first week of May and will be distributed to purchasers in the order in which they were purchased. Date, time, and location of pick-up will be announced by Mr. Padgett to individual purchasers approximately one week prior to pick-up with cash only required upon pick-up. No deposit is required.

NUC Provider: Mr. Bob Russell, owner of *Red Belly Bee Farm*; Cellular Telephone: (662) 598-1505; Electronic Mail: redbellybees@gmail.com. Mr. Russell has between 100 and 150 NUCs of general honeybees for sale at \$150.00 per NUC and will begin accepting orders on January 1st. Orders will continue until all of his available NUCs have been sold. He will not have queens for sale this year. Mr. Russell will receive orders through calling his cellular telephone or placing an order through his email. Date, time, and place of pick-up will be communicated by Mr. Russell to individual purchasers one week prior to pick-up and will depend on the number of orders received. Website: <http://www.beeempire.com>; Facebook: Red Belly Bee Farm.



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Name	Contact information	Bees	Product	Cost	Deposit	Queens	Comments
Billy Joe Adair	(901) 268-0528 billyjoeadair@bellsouth.net www.adairhoney.com Facebook: Billy Joe Adair	Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$165	Not Required	No	
Gus Mitchell	(276) 870-0618 guswaynemitchell@yahoo.com Facebook: @cranesnesthoney	Local bees	5 frame nucs	\$175	Not Required	No	
Harry Fulton	Contact Stuart Hooser to order.	Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$150	Not Required	TBD	Contact Stuart Hooser at stuart.hooser@gmail.com or (901) 485-6152
Richard Coy	Contact Greg Tingle to order. coyshoneyfarm.net Facebook: Coy's Honey Farm	Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$145	Not Required	Yes, Queens \$28 each	Contact Greg Tingle at greggingle@gmail.com or (901) 413-1704
Kristi Cook	(901) 301-3067 kristi@tenderheartshoneybees.com https://tenderheartshoneybees.com/ Facebook: @tender-heartshoneybees	Both Russian Hybrids and Italian Hybrids bees	5 frame nucs	\$165	\$50	No	
Bob Russell	(662) 598-1505 redbellybees@gmail.com http://www.beeempire.com Facebook: Red Belly Bee Farm	Local bees	5 frame nucs	\$150	Not Required	No	Return empty nuc box for \$20 refund
Jerry Heintz	(731) 441-1911 Call or Text	non-chemically treated bees	5 frame nucs	\$225	Not Required	No	
Joy Layton	(901) 319-7244 joylayton2012@gmail.com	Russian hybrid	5 frame nucs	\$165 - \$175	Not specified	No	cardboard nuc: \$165.00 plastic nuc: \$175.00
Louis Padgett	(901) 246-8540 lpthirty2@gmail.com	open-mated Russian bees	5 frame nucs	\$160	Not Required	No	
Andrew Finch	(850) 333-2490 andrewfinch86@icloud.com	general honeybees	5 frame nucs	\$150	Not Required	Yes, Queens \$30 each	