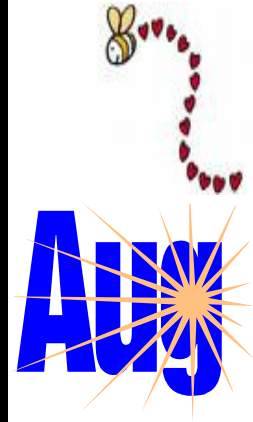


M E C K B E E S



Mecklenburg Beekeepers Association
Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm
2219 Tyvola Road
Marion Diehl Park and Rec Building
Mailing address: 121 Hermitage Rd
Charlotte NC 28207
704-358-8075
Visit our website at
www.meckbees.org



President -
Wayne Hansen

Vice President -
Richard Flanagan

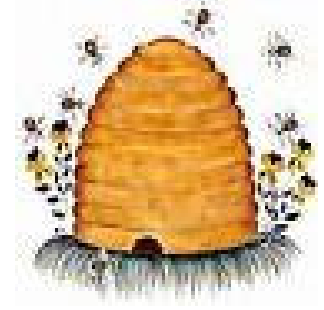
Treasurer -
Libby Mack

Chaplain -
Gene Shannon



This Month's Meeting/Program August 20th

Our very own Jimmy Odom will be our speaker this month. Jimmy will share some information about a bee practice we don't hear about very often: Skep Beekeeping. Jimmy will also discuss some videos he has on skep beekeeping from overseas.



**This months
refreshments are
provided by**

Gina & Lyle Harris

CATCH THE BUZZ

Varroa Trap Seems To Work Alan Harman

A new bait could see Varroa mites literally walking into a trap.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Gainesville, Fla., are testing a bait-and-kill approach using sticky boards and natural chemical attractants called semiochemicals.

For patenting reasons, Teal won't reveal what the specific compounds are, other than to say they're naturally produced by honey bees and highly attractive to Varroa mites.

Varroa mites rely on these semiochemicals to locate - and then feed on - the bloodlike hemolymph of both adult honey bees and their brood. Severe infestations can decimate an affected hive within several months and rob the beekeeper of profits from honey or pollinating services.

Updates and Information

Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for August

Re-Queen all hives with good quality Queens. Take out Apistan Strips; remember to leave them in 45-56 days only.

Speakers for 2009

Aug Jimmy Odom
Skep Beekeeping

Sept Leslie Carlson
Soap making with Beeswax

Oct Don Rosenberg
Organic Gardening

Nov Wayne Hansen
Wax melting

Dec Pot Luck

Honey Bee and Pollinator Research

Penn State researchers are leading the research investigating the disappearance of honey bees.

The loss of honey bees is a multifaceted problem and is reflected in projects ranging from understanding the incidence and prevalence of viruses and the role of pesticides on bee health and behavior to the role mites have on colony decline, including vectoring disease and impairing the bee immune system.



<http://ento.psu.edu/directory/research-issues/honey-bee-and-pollinator-research>



Steps For Assembling A Hive Using The Natural Extensive Beekeeping Technique.
We only use shallow supers (3/4), although a combination of supers of any other sizes can be used.
This way of assembling a hive is the best way to use the traditional beekeeping equipment
to give the bees what they dream; a huge hole where they can build an immense hive.

VERY IMPORTANT:

It is recommended that this hive is not touched until the bees collect the necessary reserves to complete the fourth super. Then each year, need only be open to harvest. Is automatic, no needed beekeeper. You can see it on this site:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqVVIP_PQk



Hi Beekeepers,

I sent this out earlier this week to my farm list and David Tarpy asked whether honey was exempt from sales tax since it was not mentioned in the guidelines (see link below).

I called the Dept. of Revenue and they checked into it and just got back to me. As we suspected, honey is EXEMPT from sales tax since it is an unprocessed product. Whew!

They plan on updating the guidelines and so I will post the revised document on my website once I receive it hopefully next week.

Have a great weekend,
Debbie

Debbie Roos
Agricultural Extension Agent
Chatham County Center
North Carolina Cooperative Extension
919.542.8202
debbie_roos@ncsu.edu<mailto:debbie_roos@ncsu.edu>
www.growingsmallfarms.org<http://www.growingsmallfarms.org/>

From: sustagchatham-owner@lists.ncsu.edu
[mailto:sustagchatham-owner@lists.ncsu.edu] On Behalf Of Debbie Roos
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2009 11:33 PM
To: sustagchatham
Subject: sales tax on farm products

Just in case you haven't see this yet...

The NC Department of Revenue produced a new guide that explains the sales tax obligations for various types of agricultural products. For example, fresh, unprocessed vegetables are exempt from sales tax (if grown and sold by the producer) but meats are subject to a 2% food tax. Processed food products such as jams, pickles, and baked goods are also subject to the food tax.

I linked to the new webpage on the Growing Small Farms website in the marketing section at:
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham/ag/SustAg/marketing.html>

Debbie





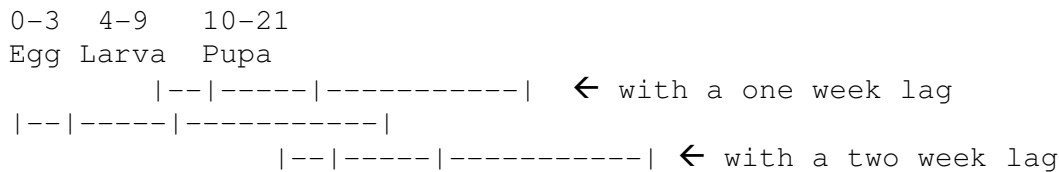
Presidents BZZZZZ !

August 2009 – “Even if it’s Wrong”

July is almost gone now, and I’m still thinking about winter. I’ve found that bees that are being fed don’t like to have the hive opened and powdered sugar dumped on them. Some hives like it less than others.

Other than that, the bees are doing well, but I want some more comb built while their numbers are up and the weather is warm. I’ve also got to think about treating. That will require a calendar and some planning. Varroa mites haven’t gone away yet; I still find hive beetles to “pet;” and I keep hearing that nosema is next.

There are a lot of ways to treat for mites – without using any chemicals. The main natural ingredient in treating for mites is a break in the brood cycle. I finally caught a queen and caged her today, and plan to leave her there for two weeks. That may sound a little long, but if there are eggs in that hive today, then in 9 days they will be capped and in the pupa phase for another 12 days. If I only wait a week to let her go, then the next cycle of brood would overlap with the current cycle for 5 days, which would give the varroa a better chance to make a run at being ready to overwinter with the bees. Here’s a little chart. The line in the middle represents the eggs this queen laid this morning before I took her out for an exhibit.



There are a lot of “what if’s” in this scenario. But the other option to break the brood cycle is to requeen. Some people do that as well, and I will too. But first I had to go to another source to find that the varroa might live two to eight months, depending on the season, but for only five days without bees and brood (see Sources below). I can’t get rid of the bees to get rid of the problem, but I can get rid of the brood temporarily.

Some of the “what if’s” are What if the bees don’t take her back? Will they have time to build up enough bees to go into winter? What if the queen dies while caged? What if they turn one of those eggs into a new queen? And the list goes on. That’s ok – I have a good friend that I don’t see much any more, but when we worked together we’d get together every morning for a quick coffee. He always signaled it was time to get to work by saying “Well, let’s go do something, even if it’s wrong.” Guess I’ll find out what’s wrong with this plan this year.

By the way, there is an intentional misspelling in this article this month. If you find it, send a note to meckbees@yahoo.com with the misspelled word in the subject line. I’ll pick a winner at random about a week after the newsletter is emailed.

See you around the bee yard!
Wayne

Sources: http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/PDFs/Varroa_Mites_PMP1.pdf



<http://www.skamberg.com/honey.htm>

July 2009

Raw honey prices are still very firm and may actually increase with the onset of the U.S. crop should buying activity be heavy. Although there is still no surplus, overall world raw honey supply is pretty good right now, but there is not a lot of favorably priced honey, with China being the exception.

U.S.A. - The California crop is shorter than last year's poor crop, with darker honey. The Southern honey crop is shorter than last year's crop, and prices have been strong. Conditions in the Upper Midwest (which produces most of the honey in the U.S.) is looking pretty good, but still needs more warm weather to produce a good honey crop. The crop will be later than last year which usually equates to a smaller crop. Overall, we expect a good U.S. crop, but probably smaller than the 2008 crop.

Canada - The weather has been very cool and wet in Canada. It looks like their crop will be short. Canadian honey prices usually parallel U.S. prices and may even be higher this year if the crop is very short.

South America - This year's very poor crop in Argentina is virtually sold. Brazil, which produces almost year round, still has honey, but as Europe competes more and more for that honey, those prices continue to increase.

India - Last year's crop is virtually sold out, waiting for the new crop. Demand will be high, and prices will be strong, but should be lower than U.S., Canada, or South American honey.

Viet Nam - Usually a good source for favorably priced legitimate light amber honey, they had a very poor crop and what is available is now higher priced.

China - Last year's crop was very poor, and much of that honey was sold through 3rd countries or sold as honey syrup to avoid duties. Europe is buying more Chinese honey. Still highly suspect for contamination and adulteration, Chinese honey will be less expensive than other countries legitimate honey.

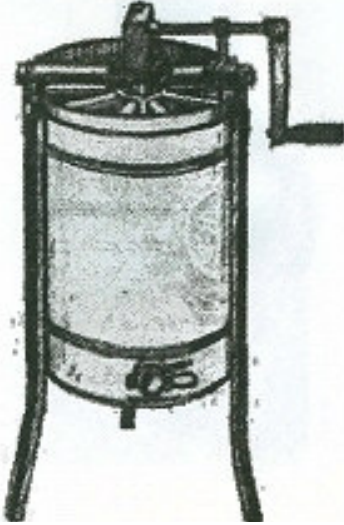
Ukraine - Getting more honey into the market. Much of this honey is being bought by Europe and some of this honey is highly suspect as being circumvented Chinese honey.

Mongolia - Like the Ukraine, they are getting more honey into the market, and much of this honey is highly suspect as being circumvented from China.

--
Juanse Barros J.
APIZUR S.A.
Carrera 695
Gorbea - CHILE



So, Where are we exactly?



It's Harvest Time!

We have the following equipment available for extracting honey:

- Extractor (manual)
- Uncapping tank (use your own excluder)
- Bucket with valve
- Electric uncapping knife

The charge is \$2 per day to borrow the extractor.

You will want to use your own filters and food-grade plastic buckets.

To obtain the equipment:

- Call Jimmy Odom to arrange a time to pick it up.
Phone: (704) 408-2726
Address: 17026 McKee Rd Charlotte NC 28278
- When you pick up the equipment, take an envelope and card to mail in your payment
- Return the equipment **promptly, clean and dry**
- Mail your payment in the envelope provided

With the growth of the club, there is heavy demand for the extractor in the summer months. There will be a waiting list, so be prepared for a short wait, and when you get the equipment, please return it promptly so the next person on the list can get it. Please don't pass it on to someone else who isn't on the list. Thanks!
