

Joco Beekeepers

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the
Johnston County Beekeepers Association



JOHNSTON COUNTY
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

Officers

- President** Barney Biles
- Vice President** Al Hildreth
- Secretary** Adam Pendergrass
- Treasurer** May Markoff
- Program Director** n/a

Directors

- 1st Director** Thunderhawk Chavis
- 2nd Director** Jim Dempster
- 3rd Director** Troy Fair
- Extension Agent** Brandon Parker
- Webmaster/Social Media** Adam Pendergrass

Meeting Information & Agenda

- ✓ The October meeting speaker will be Barney Biles, President JCBA "Ten Things Every Beekeeper Should Know"
- ✓ Start to think about becoming a board member in 2019!
- ✓ Start to think about getting on the swarm list for 2019!
- ✓ Be sure and check out the recent updates to the JCBA website, like the new Beekeeping Glossary
- ✓ Free door prizes
- ✓ Right around the corner JCBA membership ([link](#))
- ✓ Right around the corner NCSBA membership ([link](#))

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BEE Basics before each meeting!

This is a new program started in January 2018 and still running. "BEE Basics" is a general talk held before each meeting. At 6:30 - 6:55. The purpose is to gain basic info for NEW Beekeepers & Reminders for experienced Beekeepers.

2019 JCBA Board!

Always wanted to be a JCBA board member? Now is your time! JCBA Nominations Committee for 2019 will be taking nominations the vote to take place at the November 12th meeting.

State Fair Booth!

Go to the Fair and check out our club booth! Everyone who helped: May, Al, Chip, Jacob, Bert, Lisa, Karen & Mark, Steve, Pat, Thunderhawk. A great big heart felt Thank You to Everybody!! If you would like to help in 2019 let's start a volunteer list today!



Have a story? Would you like to be featured in the newsletter?

Please submit your request to Newsletter@jocobee.org

Businesses and Services

Businesses and Services offered by JCBA are listed on our website at [click here](#)

Native Plants for Bees!

Link for native plants good for bees ([click here](#))

Like us on social media  Page 1

This Month's Bee Tips!

From: Nancy Ruppert, Apiary Inspector, NCDA & CS
CALENDAR FOR BEEKEEPING IN CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA

Last month September

- ☑ Continue measures for pest control; if hives exposed to but not sickened by American foulbrood, apply treatment to prevent full-blown disease. Varroa control should be completed by end of month!!
- ☑ May feed thin (1:1 or more diluted) sugar syrup for 2-3 weeks to stimulate queen laying---builds up winter population---but by last week of September, begin feeding thicker (2:1) syrup for winter stores, although thicker syrup may not be necessary if >3 supers of honey left on hive and/or heavy fall nectar flow.
- ☑ Consider Nosema assessment/treatment.
- ☑ Combine colonies later in the month if weak and/or have failing queens.
- ☑ Should have brood in bottom box if not, may need to rearrange things.

This month October

- ☑ Post-treatment assessment for varroa mites (i.e., did your treatment work?).
- ☑ Remove all queen excluders, if present.
- ☑ Combine hives that are weak/have failing queens.
- ☑ Feed thick syrup, if needed, for winter food stores.
- ☑ Limit frequency of inspections after mid-October: bees are sealing cracks with propolis, and waste lots of time/energy if they have to keep replacing it.
- ☑ Add entrance reducers near end of month to keep mice out.
- ☑ Drones being expelled in most hives.
- ☑ Plant (in October and November) herbaceous perennials for future nectar/pollen sources.

Next month November

- ☑ Combine hives that are weak/have failing queens.
- ☑ Ensure adequate ventilation near top of hive.
- ☑ Feed thick syrup, if needed, for winter stores.
- ☑ Provide weights (brick, rock, concrete block, etc.) for tops of hives to limit wind-induced toplessness.
- ☑ Plant trees for future nectar/pollen sources (tulip poplar, maple, sourwood, etc.).
- ☑ Consider closing off screened bottom board to improve heat insulation.
- ☑ Bee caught up before Thanksgiving, so you can enjoy food, family, football, Black Friday, etc.!

Johnston County Mosquito Spraying

Complete! Took place 10/6 – 10/8



How to Protect Your Beehives From Mosquito Spraying Following a Hurricane

The devil is in the details, most of which are under the purview of local officials, but here are some things you can do to try and avoid any potential problems with managed beehives. Register with DriftWatch: The best course of action is to be on the radar (literally) of the agencies who might be spraying so that they don't do so near the apiary. The NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Pesticide Division have been in contact with all counties that are interested in having an aerial application to control mosquitoes. The county public health administrator has to file a request for a public health exemption with the NCDA&CS. As part of this exemption, they are required to give the dates of the application and what is being applied. Once the NCDA&CS receive and approve this request, the NCDA&CS will send an email directly to the beekeepers who have registered on DriftWatch in the treatment zone. If you have not voluntarily registered, they have no way to contact you. Work with local agencies to minimize exposure and non-target effects: the two main factors that make any given pesticide toxic to bees are the level of exposure and the potency of the compound. To minimize exposure to bees, applicators can avoid spraying during foraging hours (e.g.,

spray at night or late evening). Since mosquitos mostly fly at night, this is also the most effective option to knock-down mosquito populations. To minimize the toxicity of the pesticide, officials can try to select pesticides that have a lower toxicity to non-target insects like bees. One of the more popular products that is used in these situations is naled, which is highly toxic to bees. You can be proactive by working with agencies in helping to make sure you know what product is being sprayed, when it is being applied, and how is it being delivered. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Moving the hives: while physically relocating your hives is the next best option, it is not always possible or practical. It requires the beekeeper to place a screen on the front of each hive at night (when all of the foragers are back in the hive), then securing all of the hive boxes together to avoid them accidentally opening during shipping. Move them to another location out of the areas being sprayed (see above), then remove the screens for the bees to resume foraging the next morning. You can then move the bees back to their original location once all spraying is over. Cover the bees: this is clearly a last resort and not altogether effective. The idea is to cover the hives (e.g., with wet burlap) to prevent them from being exposed with the pesticide and preventing the bees from foraging. This approach is usually not possible for large apiaries and can cause bees to overheat or suffocate. While fairly impractical and can be worse than doing nothing, it may be the only option available to beekeepers who cannot be proactive by taking the steps above. Following any spraying incident, it is important to check your hives to inspect for potential effects. (1) Identify the number of dead bees in front of or inside the hive. Having a handful of dead bees is normal this time of year since the populations are declining in preparation for the winter, but several inches of dead bees littering the bottom board is usually diagnostic of an acute pesticide exposure. (2) Monitor your colonies for varroa mites using a sugar shake. Mite levels are at their highest this time of year, and they can themselves cause significant population decline. Without taking some sort of action to control their numbers, colonies often succumb through the winter. (3) Observe the foraging bees for unusual behaviors, such as morbidity, inability to fly, or unable to right themselves. These can be sublethal effects of certain pesticides, but they can also be caused by several bee viruses (that are transmitted by the varroa mites). (4) Flooded areas can cause pupating Small Hive Beetle (SHB) to come to the surface, but does not kill them. SHB favor sandy soils, like those in in the Coastal Plain of NC (where most of the flooding is concentrated), so their populations may be quite high. As opportunistic hive pests, those pupae will infest abandoned equipment once they emerge and become adults, so be particularly careful to remove any dead-outs or unused equipment to prevent SHB outbreaks. (5) Unite colonies with weak populations with others containing strong populations. Since acute pesticide exposures affect adult bees and not the brood, the brood from the depopulated colonies can help boost the strength of other

stronger hives that will have a better chance at making it through the winter. Do not unite weak colonies with other weak colonies, since together they only make a larger weak colony rather than one strong colony. Mosquito abatement is an important public health issue to mitigate serious disease and illness. Usually what is good at killing a mosquito is also good at killing honey bees. It is possible to both control the mosquito population while minimizing their effects on bees, but it requires some significant action on part of the beekeeper to coordinate with each other and local officials.

Read more at:

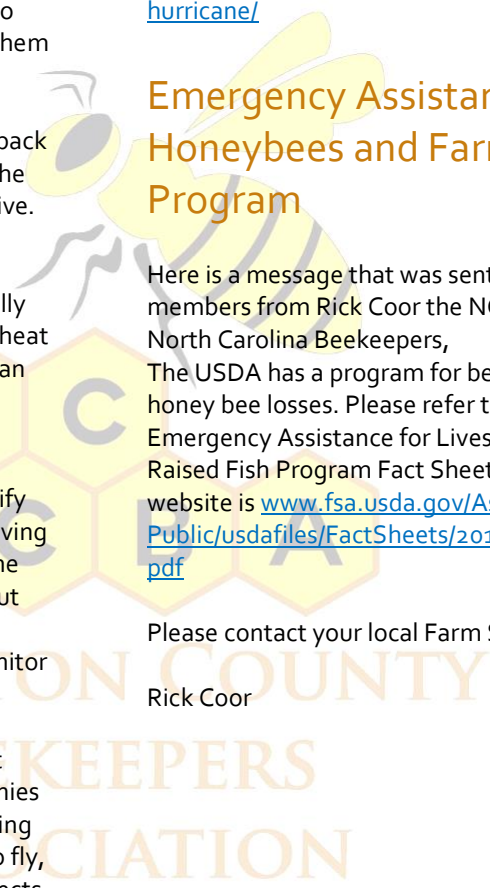
<https://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/2018/09/how-to-protect-your-beehives-from-mosquito-spraying-following-a-hurricane/>

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program

Here is a message that was sent to all chapter clubs for all members from Rick Coor the NCSBA President; North Carolina Beekeepers, The USDA has a program for beekeepers that have certain honey bee losses. Please refer to the Farm Service Agency's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program Fact Sheet for more information. The website is www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2018/elap_fact_sheet_april2018.pdf

Please contact your local Farm Service Agency for assistance.

Rick Coor



Word Scramble

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EOHNBCYMO

IYPAAR

TRTAOEINCX

RDBNGIAE

LALMS IEVH EBLETE

EEEPBRKEE

OPLNOTSILAR

BEAESCEP

NEEUQ

NDORE

WKERRO

RSUEN

OAVRRA SMTEI

STRISWPDHEA

AIPS

EDRYABE

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ANMGRWSI

SIBTEUE

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