



FEBRUARY 2012
 NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

Remember...

Meeting Thursday, February 16th at 6:00 at the Ag Building. Covered dish dinner before meeting which starts at 7:00 PM

Turn in your renewal to Janice for your local and state membership. Membership form is in the newsletter.

What's flowering:

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) 1-Feb to 12-Mar

This month's meeting...

Will be at the Ag Building at 6:00 PM on Thursday, February 16, 2012. The speaker is Jeff Lee, Lee's Bees Inc., Mebane, North Carolina.

Jeff will discuss "Commercial Beekeeping and Pollination Services for Almond Groves in California"

Announcement from Scott Jewell: Once again I will pick up pollen patties for anyone interested. Please e-mail me A2ZConvention@gmail.com or call me at 336-213-7373 and let me know how many you need. They are \$2.50 per patty and I will have them at the February Alamance County Beekeepers Meeting!



Alamance County Beekeepers Programs for 2012

Date	Speaker(s)	Topic
Jan. 19 th	Dr. David Tarpy, Associate Professor and Extension Apiculturist, NC State	Webinar: "Coming out of winter" Ag. Building, 7:00 PM
Feb. 16 th	Jeff Lee, Lee's Bees Inc. Mebane, NC	Commercial Beekeeping and Pollination Services for Almond Groves in California
March 15 th	Adolphus Leonard, Bee Inspector for Eastern NC	Building Colonies: Splits/NUC/Swarm
April 19 th	Mike Ross and Don Moore	Swarm Capture Techniques
May 19 th	Lewis Cauble	Spring Field Day in a Bee Yard (Directions, Place & Time TBA)
June 14 th	Dr. David Tarpy, Associate Professor and Extension Apiculturist, NC State	Webinar, 6:30 PM (Start at 7:00 PM)
July 19 th	TBA	Preparing Bees for Winter
Aug. 18 th	Don Moore's and many friends	Annual Ice Cream Social
Sept. 20 th	TBA	
Oct. 18 th	Tony Abbruzzi & Geoff Leister	New Beekeepers Experiences
Nov. 15 th	Don Moore	Woodenware Assembly: Frames, hive bodies, bottom boards, etc.
Dec.	No Meeting	

Alamance County Beekeepers



Timely Info on **Feeding Honey Bees Pollen**

Substitutes by Dr. Eric C. Mussen, Extension Apiculturist, UC Davis Department of Entomology.

“Honey bees derive their protein, vitamins, minerals and some carbohydrates from pollens. Since no single pollen source provides all their nutritional needs, honey bees must have a number of pollens available to them to remain healthy and to produce the royal jelly required to feed the queen and rear brood. When colony inspections reveal little or no pollen in the combs, or the anticipated weather is going to prohibit pollen foraging for more than a couple days, it is time to feed some pollen substitute. It also would be best to feed sugar syrup at the same time.

The substance that most similarly mimics pollens in nutrition, and can be purchased at a reasonable cost, is brewer’s yeast. Yeast can be fed to the bees dry, but they use it much better when it is fed as patties with a consistency similar to peanut butter. For beekeepers operating only a few colonies, the yeast is often mixed with fifty percent sucrose syrup. The patties are encased in waxed paper or in plastic bags to try to maintain the moisture. If patties get hard, the bees won’t eat them. Beekeepers, who feed their colonies high fructose corn syrup, use that syrup to formulate patties that maintain their moisture well because of the attraction of moisture to fructose.

Other nutrients are sometimes added to pollen substitutes. When about ten percent pollen is added, we call the mixture "pollen supplement." Beekeepers tend to add casein, lactalbumin or soy flour to their mixtures. Watch out for lactose and over two percent salt (sodium chloride) with the casein and lactalbumin. Try to get “debittered” soy flour that is expeller processed (retains some lipids) and "toasted" (knocks out enzymes that interfere with honey bee digestion). Also check the soy data sheet to determine if the soy is a “high sucrose” variety or contains mostly stachyose. Stachyose is toxic to honey bees. The addition of a "feed yeast" (like *Torula*) to the mixture enhances the nutritional value of the substitute, but it increases the cost quite a bit, too.

Pollen substitutes will not generate brood production the way that sources of incoming pollens will. However, pollen substitute will prevent a total shut down of brood rearing if the weather turns bad for a long time. Pollen substitute will produce "fatter" winter bees in areas (like the west) where pollen supplies are short in the late summer and fall. Fatter bees, with more stored nutrients, winter better and rear more brood the next spring than non-fed bees.

Bees do not find pollen substitutes particularly attractive. It must be placed directly in contact with the bees, as close to the brood as possible. As long as the bees are bringing in a trickle of natural pollen, pollen substitute will be consumed. If no pollen is being brought in, the substitute will be ignored and will spoil over time. Commercially formulated pollen substitutes are on the market, or headed toward the market, that are described as so attractive to honey bees that they will be consumed any time they are offered. Those claims will have to be investigated.”

Recipe of the Month

Honey-Curry Vegetable Dip

Makes 1 cup

- * 1 cup low-fat mayonnaise
- * 1/4 cup honey
- * 1 Tablespoon curry powder
- * 1 Tablespoon white wine vinegar

*Assorted fresh vegetables (celery, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli). Combin mayonnaise, honey, curry and vinegar; mix well. Refrigerate about 1 hour to allow flavors to blend. Serve with vegetables.



Questions & Suggestion Box

This is going to be a new feature for the newsletter. If you have a question that you would like covered in a meeting or suggestions for meetings, this box will be in each newsletter. You will then be able to turn it in to one of the officers for discussion.
