

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



Association Officers

President: Paul Kosmos

president@medinabeekeepers.com

330-239-1379

Vice President: Peggy Garnes

vp@medinabeekeepers.com

330-723-6265

Secretary: Chris Fullerton

secretary@medinabeekeepers.com

330-242-2849

Treasurer: open

Newsletter Editor: Tania Jarosewich

Tania@HinckleyHoney.com

Webmaster: Mike Rossander

webmaster@medinabeekeepers.com

Refreshments Coordinators:

Elle Jisa ejisa@roadrunner.com

Sheila Mauer spmaurer01@gmail.com

Directors:

2021: John Vrtachnik,

jvrtachnik@windstream.net

2022: Larry Watson,

mcbalarry@aol.com

2023: Tim Moore

elkcreekhoney@gmail.com

Medina County Bee Inspector:

Ron Zickefoose

ronz@asap-homes.com

330-466-3642

State of Ohio Inspector:

Barbara Bloetscher

bbloetscher@agri.ohio.gov

614-644-5839

JULY CLUB MEETING

Monday, July 19 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Fair Booth Clean Up and MANDATORY SELLERS' meeting for anybody who wants to sell honey at the fair
Medina County Fairgrounds (AG building)

Come help us prepare the MCBA fair booth for the fair. It does not take long and gives us a chance to talk a little bees while we get things ready.

After two years we don't know what to expect, but it usually goes fast with a good crew!



AUGUST CLUB MEETING

Monday, August 16 Fall Picnic

Details to be announced soon!

TEN MINUTES WITH THE BEES

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President
The Bee Yard in July

July can be pretty busy for a quiet month

Many beekeepers are reporting strong honey flows and have begun to extract their honey. One key is making sure the frame is almost completely capped. If cells are uncapped, the bees are not satisfied that the moisture content is low enough to prevent fermentation. Some members use a honey refractometer if selling honey, just to be sure.



Honey Refractometer

Once capped, an uncapping knife is used to uncap most of the frame. This is why many use only nine frames in their supers once drawn. The bees draw them a bit wider, making it much easier to uncap. Only a few use an electric knife.



Uncapping Knife

An uncapping fork or scraper is used to uncap cells that are too shallow for the knife.



Uncapping Fork/Scraper

Harvesting honey can be hard work if supers are full or stacked high. One tip is to remove frames one at a time, shake or brush the bees off, and place the frames in a 2nd box. You can control the weight and not have to lift full supers.

The reward for the hard work is sweet (pun intended!) Honey right out of the hive is like a tomato fresh from the garden. It's the best.

The final step is to extract the honey. Radial extractors are the easiest and fastest and spin out both sides at once. Tangential units spin one side at a time. Both work well.

As usual, I have to add a short reminder that this is the most important time of the year to check for mites. Your hives are at peak brood production, which can mean peak mite production. Check them now to prevent a critical buildup in August.



Life Chart of Mite Buildup come August

MCBA CLUB NEWS

Medina County Fair

The [Medina County Fair](#) is quickly approaching. Fair dates are August 2 – 8 and the club needs your support.

Help clean the booth: Please come Monday, July 19, at 6:00 to the Agriculture Building at the County Fairgrounds to help clean, fill out the volunteer shift sheet, and enjoy fellowship of others.

Sell honey at the fair: To sell honey at the fair you must attend the MANDATORY seller's meeting during the July 19 fair clean up meeting or make arrangements with the Fair Committee (contact Peggy) to get the information. You must have paid dues by March 1, 2021 and be in good standing with the club. You must also volunteer at the fair for a minimum of number of shifts. Peggy will discuss final commitments for selling, picking up of sample bottles, filling out the volunteer shift sheet, and answer any additional questions during the sellers' meeting. Inventory setup will be on Sunday, August 1st.

Help man the fair booth: The fair is a great opportunity to share honey bee information with the public. Even new beekeepers can share that yellow jackets and not honey bees are normally the stinging culprits, the importance of more bee forage, and how everyone can help honey bees. Please consider spending an afternoon or evening with MCBA at the Fair Booth! Contact [Peggy](#) to volunteer for one or more four-hour shift (10 am-2 pm, 2 pm-6 pm, and 6 pm-10 pm) at the booth during the week. Please lend a hand, talk with your bee peeps, and volunteer some time at the fair. Thank you in advance!

Borrow the Bee Club Extractor

Don't have an extractor? Don't worry! MCBA members can rent the club's extractor and filtering equipment for three days for a deposit of \$20, of which \$10 is refunded upon the return of the cleaned equipment. Call Peggy at 330-723-6265 to reserve your spot today.

MCBA Treasurer Position is Open

If you are interested in serving as treasurer for the club, contact Paul Kosmos(pkosmos@frontier.com).

Friends of the Fair Special Event for Children with Disabilities

A good time was had by all who attended. Numerous stations were set up around the fairgrounds featuring various animals, honey bees, and plants. While the honey bees are always a hit, the miniature pony and goats were very popular this year. It was a lot of fun to see all the smiles on faces!



GREETINGS FROM THE MCBA BEE YARD!

Dwain Novak – Bee Yard Steward

Needless to say, it has been a long and challenging time for our bee yard. The vision all along has been to have a viable working bee yard to support field days for learning demonstrations for our members as well as to preserve our honey bees for future generations to enjoy.

I'd like to take a moment and reflect in time on the various bee yards that were put in place to alleviate the need to use club members' own bee yards for learning experiences. There are many inconveniences in holding on-site meetings, not the least of which is the number of participants.

The first club bee yard was on Smith Road across from the fairgrounds in A.I. Root's field. Mowing was a problem due to inaccessibility to the yard and parking was limited due to field conditions. Unfortunately, our next bee yard location at Feeding Medina Gardens had other unexpected challenges making it unfeasible for the goals of the club.

But low and behold the perseverance of our elected officers and their extensive networking has led us to the yard location that we now get to enjoy. The newly installed club yard is located on the County Parks and Recreations property on Route 162 & Deer Lane Road, just across from the County Home. A paved parking lot is available just WEST of the field at the location of the Parks & Recreation Visitors Center. There is also an overflow lot just behind the building to accommodate us if needed. We now have two hives at this location, no thanks to the rainy weather last week.



Dwain and Peggy Installing the Bees

The property has pollinator gardens planted by the county. This in itself presents us with a favorable location that allows the Medina Beekeepers Club and the county to promote good stewardship. We will still keep one hive at the Feeding Medina Garden site to support our common cause to help pollinate their garden to help those in need.

Just to make everyone aware there will be field days held here shortly. I am working with the Board to set up a schedule at this time.

HONEY LABELS

The [Ohio Department of Agriculture](#) has a printable [honey fact sheet](#) on its website. The document is included on the next pages for your convenience. Please look carefully at the example of the basic labeling components for honey as you prepare to sell your honey at the fair or other outlets. In previous years, inspectors were on site at the county fair, making sure that honey labels adhered to state regulations.

"Honey" is defined in Chapter 3715 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) to mean, "The nectar and saccharine exudation of plants that has been gathered, modified, and stored in a honeycomb by honey bees."

Honey

What is Honey?

“Honey” is defined in Chapter 3715 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) to mean, “The nectar and saccharine exudation of plants that has been gathered, modified, and stored in a honeycomb by honey bees.”

Does a Honey producer/beekeeper need to acquire a license/registration to process and package their products?

A beekeeper that jars honey, when a minimum of 75% of the honey is from their own hives, is exempt from licensing, registration and mandatory inspection (3717.021 ORC). Upon request, a producer can receive a voluntary inspection, contact: Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Food Safety; 1-800-282-1955, Ext 4366.

Processors who do not comply with the small honey processor regulations are subject to registration and inspection by the Division of Food Safety, as a food processing establishment.

Is Honey a cottage food?

Honey is *not* considered to be a cottage food. Honey is considered a different entity, as is maple syrup and sorghum.

Flavored honey made by a beekeeper exempt under 3717.021ORC *is* a cottage food and must comply with the Cottage Food regulations. Cottage Food Production Operations are exempt from inspection and licensing by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Cottage Food Products may only be sold in Ohio.

If a complaint is made, the honey kitchen may be inspected by Food Safety Officials.

What are the requirements for the labeling of Honey jars or containers?

Regardless of whether or not honey is sold from home, a market or elsewhere, it must have a label (including honey products gifted or traded).

1. Statement of Identity - the common or usual name of the food product;
2. Net Quantity of Contents - If sold ON SITE the label must declare the net weight in the U.S. Customary System (ounces), but does not have to have the weight in metric (grams). If sold OFF SITE it must have both (ounces *and* grams).
3. Ingredient List - honey is a single ingredient food; an Ingredient List is *not* required;
4. Statement of Responsibility - the name and address of the business.

The label should be glued or “secured”, however if the jars/containers are an unusual shape and sold for a special occasion, and the label cannot be affixed, it can be attached as a card.

Note: If nutrient content claims (i.e. low fat, salt free, etc.) or health claims (i.e. may reduce heart disease) are made, the product must bear all required nutritional information in the form of the Nutrition Facts panel. All labeling components are to comply with 21 CFR Part 101, food labeling. The FDA Food Labeling Guide is an excellent resource of the proper labeling of food products. The web-address for the FDA Food Labeling Guide is:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm2006828.htm>

Additional labeling information on honey can be found in the FDA’s Guidance for Industry: Proper Labeling of Honey and Honey Products:

<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/ucm389501.htm>

Flavored honey from exempt producers must be labeled according to the labeling requirements for Cottage Foods:

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3715.023>

What are the Tolerance Levels for miticides and antibiotics?

The detection of antibiotics in any amount in any sample of honey or beeswax shall render the honey or beeswax as adulterated. *Coumaphos* shall not exceed 100 parts per billion in any sample of honey; 100 parts per million in any sample of beeswax.

What are the requirements for new and reused jar/container sanitation?

If jars for honey are to be reused, they must be washed and sanitized. Closures shall not be reused. All packaging shall be free from rust on food contact surfaces and not contain any substances or be made from any material which could damage either the color or flavor of the honey.

EXAMPLE LABEL OF BASIC LABELING COMPONENTS

Labels must comply with all applicable state and federal regulations. Labeling regulations for a honey processor are the same as those applied to other food processors. All information on the label must be truthful and not misleading. The label example below is just one way to present the required information.

Ingredient List – Most food products are required to have an Ingredient List declaring all ingredients by common or usual name in descending order of predominance by weight. Honey is a single ingredient food; an Ingredient List is not required.

Ref: CFR 21, Part 101.4
Ref: ORC 3715.023

Statement of Responsibility

– Shall include the:
Business Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip Code

All information in the *Statement of Responsibility* shall be continuous. If the business name is listed in the local telephone directory, the street address may be omitted. If the business name is listed in the local telephone directory, a Post Office Box may be used in place of the street address.

Telephone numbers, web-site addresses, and e-mail addresses are permitted, but not required. This type of extra information shall not be placed between the *Ingredient List* and the *Statement of Responsibility*.

Ref: CFR 21, Part 101.5
Ref: ORC 3715.023

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

ORC – Ohio Revised Code

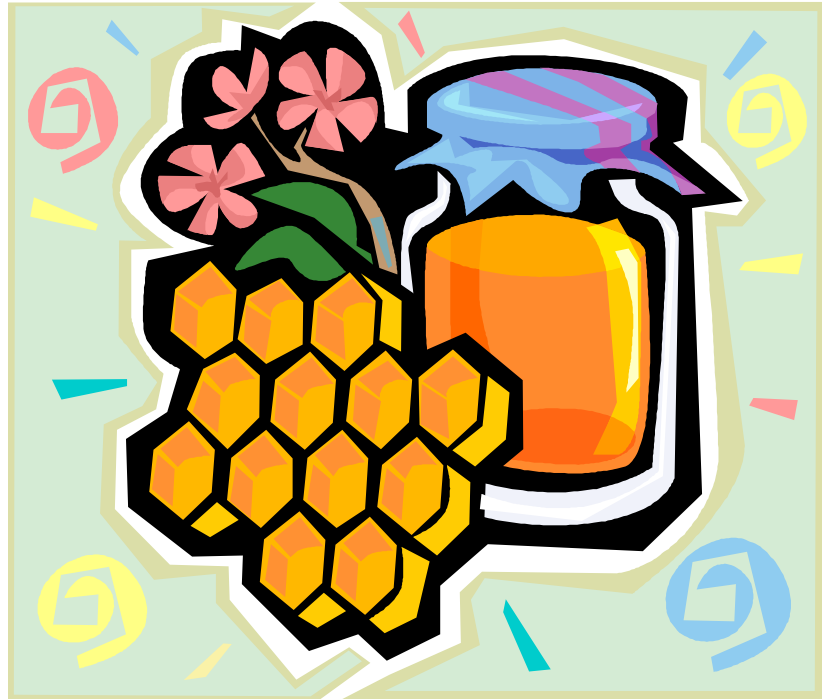
FPLA – Fair Packaging and Labeling Act

The principal display panel (PDP) is that portion of the package label that is most likely to be seen by the consumer at the time of purchase.

Statement of Identity – The *Statement of Identity* is the name of the food. The name shall be the common or usual name of the food, and shall accurately identify or describe the basic nature of the food or its characterizing properties or ingredients. Foods that have a Standard of Identity must conform to all requirements of the standard. The common or usual name may also include the floral source of the honey, such as “Clover Honey,” on the label.

Ref: CFR 21, Part 101.3; ORC 3715.023

HONEY



OHIO BEE HONEY, 8995 E. MAIN STREET, REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068

NET WT 8 OZ (227 g)

Net Quantity of Contents – The term “NET WEIGHT” - or an appropriate abbreviation - shall be used when stating the *Net Quantity of Contents* in terms of weight. The *Net Quantity of Contents* shall be declared in both the U.S. Customary System and the SI (metric system). The second declaration shall be stated parenthetically.

The quantity of contents shall be placed on the principal display panel. It shall be within the bottom 30 percent of the area of the label panel in lines that are generally parallel to the bottom of the package as it is designed to be displayed.

Ref: CFR 21, Part 101.7; FPLA, Title 15 – Chapter 39, 1453(a) (2)
Ref: ORC 3715.023

MITE-A-THON

Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize *Varroa* infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a two-week window. The more beekeepers participate, the richer the distribution of sampling sites and the more accurate the data for our region. Please consider participating in the summer testing period, which runs August 14th - 29th, 2021.



To participate, measure the number of mites per 100 bees using a standardized protocol with either the alcohol wash or powdered sugar roll methods. Go to the website (www.mitecheck.com) or use the MiteCheck app (available on Google Play and the Apple App Store) to enter hive location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of Varroa mites counted from each hive. The published information will not identify individual participants.

Read the [report of the 2020 Mite-A-Thon here](#).

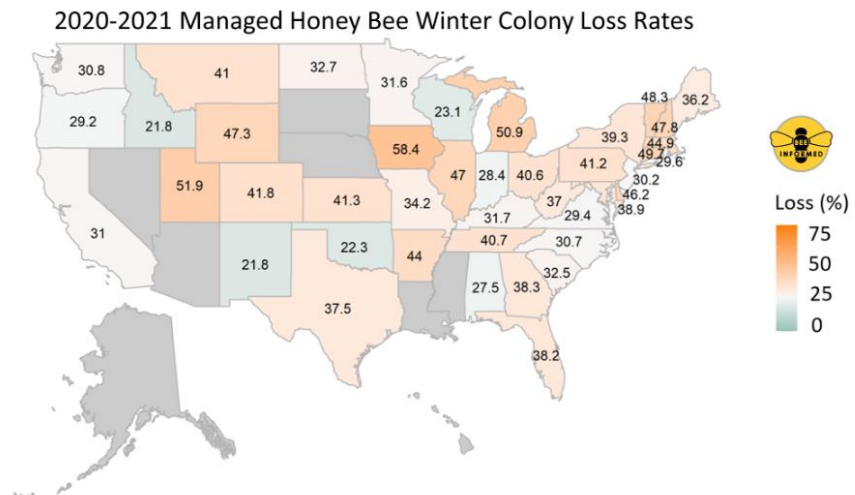


US HONEY BEE COLONY LOSSES 2020-21: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The Bee Informed Partnership (<http://beeinformed.org>) has released the [preliminary findings of the 2020-2021 National Colony Loss and Management Survey](#). The results are based on the responses of 3,347 United States

beekeepers who collectively manage almost 200,000 colonies, 7% of the estimated 2.71 million US managed honey-producing colonies.

- Winter 2020-2021 - 32% loss (almost 10 percentage points higher than winter 2019-2020)
- Summer 2020 – 31% loss (slightly lower than summer 2019 loss; 8% points higher than average since 2010)
- Entire year 2020-2021 – 46% loss (2nd highest loss on record, 6% points higher than 10-year average)
- Ohio – 41% loss
- High loss rates require beekeepers to create new colonies every year by splitting strong colonies, purchasing packaged bees or nucleus colonies (nucs), and/or catching swarms.



MEDINA COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY VIRTUAL BEE FESTIVAL

We mentioned in the June 2021 Bee Herder that the MCBA re-installed an observation hive in the main branch of the Medina County District Library. The club typically participates in the annual Bee Festival. This year the festival will be held online. Check out the activities below and visit the event website, which already includes several videos.

THE NORTHEAST OHIO BEE YARD – JULY

Tasks for northeast Ohio beekeepers in July include harvesting honey, managing nectar dearth, treating for varroa, and starting to plan for winter.

Extract honey. When you go into your bee yard to collect honey supers, load up your wagon with extra inner covers, top covers, and empty supers. I lay the inner cover on the bottom of the wagon and if all or most frames in a super are capped, remove the entire super, place it on the inner cover and put the extra top cover over it. If only a few frames are capped and ready to be removed, I lay the empty super that I brought with me onto the inner cover, place into it the full frames, and quickly cover it with the extra inner cover. Call Peggy to reserve the extractor if you don't have one!

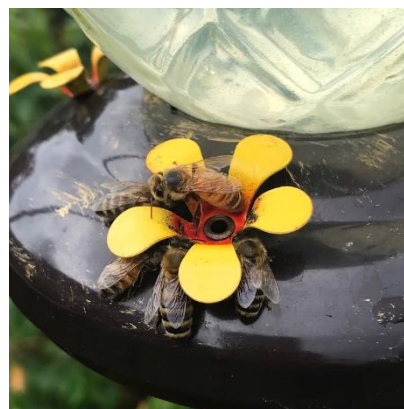
After extracting, take the super with the emptied frames back to the apiary and place it above the inner cover of the hive from which you removed it. Work quickly! Place the top cover back over the hive to prevent robbing. The bees will pull any remaining honey down into their hive. After a day or two, take the clean super off.

Prevent robbing. We are officially in the summer dearth - the shortage of nectar-producing flowers in the hot and dry (well, not this year) period between spring and autumn flowers. You'll find bees looking for food anywhere they can find it, including hummingbird feeders and honey supers in a building where the door was left open. That is quite a sight! Take the following precautions to minimize robbing during this time of dearth:

- When you bring empty supers back to the apiary, close hives as quickly as you can.



The poster for the Virtual Bee Festival features a honeycomb background. At the top, the title "Virtual Bee Festival" is written in a large, stylized font, with a bee flying through a dashed line above the word "Bee". Below the title, the dates "July 17-31" are displayed. The main text describes the event: "Enjoy bee-themed virtual events including the opening of the hive, beekeeping information, fun crafts, and activities for kids. Stop by Medina Library for a bee-themed story walk, contest, and more!". Two featured events are listed: "Balloon Animal Class with Nate the Great" on Saturday, July 17, 10:30 am, and "Bee Fest Storytime" on Wednesday, July 21, 9:30 am. Both events are on Zoom. A URL "mcld.info/BeeFest" is provided for registration. The Medina County District Library logo and the Friends of MCDL logo are at the bottom.



- Close cracks in hive bodies.
- Reduce hive manipulations. During inspections, have all equipment ready, work quickly, and open only one hive at a time. Cover the top of open hive bodies with a damp towel or sheet.
- Add a robbing screen late at night or early in the morning.
- If you see robbing, cover the hive with a damp sheet to prevent robbing bees from getting to the entrance. The activity should quickly subside. Take the sheet off when things calm down.

If we are so worried about robbing, you might ask why would beekeepers be working bees this time of year? There are still a few key tasks to take care of in July and August before the fall flow.

Monitor, and if needed, treat for varroa. The bee population starts to decrease in the dearth, while the mite population continues to increase (see Paul’s 10 Minutes article for a chart). A higher percentage of bees carry mites and can be infected with viruses. Conduct an alcohol wash or sugar roll and treat if the count is more than 1 mite per 100 bees. You saw the colony loss rate of 41% in Ohio in 2020-21- act now! The Honey Bee Health Coalition has a [Varroa Management Decision Tool](#) that will help you make decisions about how to best manage varroa in your hive. And don’t forget to submit your mite count numbers to the [Bee-Informed Mitecheck project](#).

Create summer splits. Splitting hives can help with varroa control through a brood break, protect against winter loss by giving you two colonies to take into winter, and result in spring colonies with young queens. Make splits soon to allow for several brood-rearing cycles before the fall nectar flow or the first frost. There is still time to let bees raise their own queens or you can call a local bee club friend or bee supply company for mated queens that you can install into the split.

2021 MCBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

MCBA offers webinars and lectures by local and national beekeeping experts organized by the MCBA and other bee clubs, a monthly newsletter, the opportunity to sell honey at the county fair, and email updates with timely information. Membership is \$20 for emailed newsletters or \$25 for a printed newsletter mailed to your postal address. Membership provides one vote in MCBA club matters and includes one family member in activities other than voting.

Renew your membership [online here](#) or complete the form below, make a check payable to Medina County Beekeepers Association, and mail to Medina Beekeepers, PO Box 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258.

Membership Form - Please complete so that we have current roster information for the newsletters!

Member Name: _____

e-mail: (please print): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ (Optional) # of colonies: _____