



Local Bees.
Healthy Hives.
Stronger Communities.



Mouse Guards Before the Mouse Moves In

— OCTOBER NEWSLETTER —

As temperatures begin dropping, honey bee colonies become attractive winter shelters for mice. A hive offers exactly what a mouse is looking for: warmth, protection from predators, and sometimes an available food source.

A mouse can enter a hive while the weather is still relatively mild and establish itself before the bees settle into their winter cluster.

Why don't the bees just throw the mouse out?

During warmer weather, a strong colony can defend its entrance aggressively. As temperatures fall, however, the bees increasingly concentrate around the brood and food stores rather than maintaining the same level of entrance defense. A mouse that gets established can occupy the lower portion of the hive while the cluster remains above it.

An unwanted winter tenant may:

-  Chew and destroy comb.
-  Eat stored pollen and honey.
-  Build nests from shredded comb and other material.
-  Contaminate equipment with urine and droppings.
-  Damage woodenware.
-  Create enough disturbance that the colony is unnecessarily stressed during winter.



Watch for chewed wax, debris, nesting material or droppings around the entrance or bottom board.

By the time you see evidence, your little winter tenant may already have moved in.

When should a mouse guard go on?

**Before you think
you need one.**



DID YOU KNOW?



The honey bees you see in October may have a much longer job ahead of them than their summer sisters.

Summer workers may live only several weeks because of the tremendous demands of brood rearing and foraging. Winter bees are physiologically adapted to survive much longer and help sustain the colony until brood production increases again.

That's why fall colony health matters so much. You're not just preparing the hive for winter—you're preparing the bees that have to survive it.



Bee Events Near Augusta



Aiken County Beekeepers Association — October Meeting

-  Tuesday, October 27, 2026
-  7:00 – 8:30 PM
-  2724 Whiskey Road, Aiken, SC 29803
-  Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The South Carolina State Beekeepers Association calendar confirms the October meeting, and the Aiken group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month.