

Ashe County Beekeeping Association  
Regular Meeting  
October 12, 2017

1. Attendance by officers and board members: Randy, Helen (had to leave to take care of her mother), Bill Naser, H.S. Greene, Doug Galloway, Maggie McClelland, and Doug Ehrhardt. There were 22 total in attendance. No new members attended.
2. Greg Fariss will speak this evening on winter prep...
3. This is our final regular meeting. Next month will be the annual potluck dinner and we will be holding elections for next year...another new board member is needed as Doug Galloway has been elected to Caldwell Co. Beekeepers as president.
4. Special thanks Maggie McClelland for bringing food snacks to all our meetings this year.
5. There will be another mini hive made by H.S. Greene raffled...# 7. H.S. has also brought a box of winter patties...\$2.95...recommend putting 2-3 per hive vs. sugar blocks.
6. Another winter food source for your bees is sugar water + Honey-b-Healthy in a plastic, zip-loc bag...poke holes in top and bees can find/feed.
7. Mrs. Julia Houck to talk about a grant for gov't disaster reimbursement for lost hives - USDA program amounting to \$20M
  - a. two types - honey loss
  - b. NAP (noninsured crop disaster assistance program) - eligible for losses because of wipe outs due to tornado, flood, etc.
  - c. ELAP - most participation because hives lost due to natural disaster or foul brood...take pictures to document.
8. Greg Fariss, State Bee Inspector spoke on Helping bees through the winter. Greg is the inspector for Sandhills, Western Piedmont, the mountains and Ashe County. He lives in Davie County.
  - a. Concerning winter preparations, how many colonies do you have now vs. March 1?
  - b. Fall is really the start of beekeeping year...sets stage for winter survival and spring startup.
  - c. Reasons bee colonies die - starvation, too damp or just don't live long enough
  - d. Winter food stores - quantity of 45# to 60# needed to survive winter, either quality sugar or high fructose corn syrup.
  - e. Food placement matters - bees move up so ensure food is in upper hive body
  - f. Too much pollen can choke the brood nest
  - g. Use 1:1 sugar/water...2:1 sugar/water:
    - (1) division board feeder good
    - (2) hive top feeder
    - (3) plastic bag
  - h. Don't allow to starve to death in winter...look down frames for honey. add a feeder nearby, but don't disturb the cluster
  - i. lifespan in winter 4-6 months vs. 4-6 weeks in summer
  - j. Diseases - bacteria, fungus and virus. Nosema rate of approx. 40%
    - (1) tracheal mites no longer a problem
    - (2) varroa mites a major problem and will diminish hives ability to survive if not already treated. treat last week of July or first of august
    - (3) honey bee health coalition - tools for varroa management (updated quarterly)

- k. chemical control
  - (1) apivar
  - (2) checkmite+
  - (3) hopguard
  - (4) mite away quick strips
  - (5) apistan
  - (6) Oxalic acid dihydrate during non-brood periods...during December apply liquid or vapor
- l. non-chemical control
  - (1) genetics
  - (2) screen bottom board
  - (3) drone comb frame
- m. late summer/fall requeening is good beekeeping
- n. wind break. Wrap hives (Greg Fariss has never done). Bees only heat the cluster
- o. south and east facing entrance
- p. open bottom board increase ventilation and reduce dampness
- q. NO queen excluder. Food above, brood below