

## GUILFORD COUNTY BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER ... APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2010

Note from the editor... I am still having problems with software compatibility & hope to be back on track by next quarter. *Norman Faircloth*

### CLUB MEETINGS SCHEDULE:

**Tuesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.** (no meal) Our own Wally Swaim will present his program on removing bees from structures (cutouts). He will discuss how to locate the bees, remove them with as little structural damage as possible and how to keep the property owner happy.

**SATURDAY, MAY 15, 10 a.m.-2p.m. FIELD DAY** at Hagan Stone Park. SHELTER #6.

5920 Hagan-Stone Park Road, Pleasant Garden NC

<http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/FF80D16A-B31D-41A8-9D3A-2546F30C5E3F/0/hsmapi.pdf>

The club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and the fixings. Members are requested to bring drinks, side dishes, and desserts to share.

Club members will provide a demonstration of hive manipulation and we will have mini presentations on a variety of subjects. Last year's presentations were informative and entertaining and included honey extraction, woodenware construction, proper medication techniques and more. Because of popular demand, we will repeat as many as possible.

Field day is a great time of social interaction and fun. This will be the perfect time for a "class reunion" for the 2010 beginning beekeepers and an opportunity to compare notes and ask questions about your new bee experiences.

*Shelter #6 is smaller than the one we had last year and seats 60, so be sure to remember to bring chairs!*

**Tuesday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.** (no meal)--Our speaker will be Joe Flowers. His presentation will be on stinging insects. He formerly worked with David Tarpy at North Carolina State and continues to volunteer his time to educate beekeepers across the State.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

March 12, 2010demonstrates **B.C. apiarists stung by bee deaths**  
Sol Nowitz the instrumental insemination of a queen bee. Due to a quarantine on bees from North America, Vancouver Island beekeepers must import hives from the southern hemisphere to replace their devastated colonies. ARNOLD LIM FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL

An unprecedented die-off of commercial honeybees on southern Vancouver Island this winter has left beekeepers in the region scrambling to rebuild their devastated stocks in time for spring.

Vancouver Island's bee population was also hit hard in 2007, when between 55 and 65 per cent of hives perished. Over the last three years, the number of commercial colonies on the island has dropped to 2,000 from about 12,000.

It's become a familiar story: In 2006, an alarming spike in the number of disappearing bee colonies across North America prompted experts to coin the term "colony collapse disorder," a phenomenon that has since been identified in more than half- a-dozen European countries.

Research into the exact causes of colony collapse disorder has generated much academic debate. In Ontario, biologist Ernesto Guzman at the University of Guelph studied more than 400 colonies throughout three seasons and found that varroa mites were associated with more than 85 per cent of colony deaths. The next most important causes of death, Prof. Guzman said, were too-sparse beehive populations in fall and insufficient food reserves for winter. "We're pretty sure we've solved a great deal of the mystery," he said.

Under a quarantine put in place in the mid-1990s, Vancouver Island beekeepers are prohibited from bringing in replacement bees from the North American mainland, a restriction that has forced island breeders and honey producers to import hives from the southern hemisphere.



**Bee Disease on the Decline** The honeybee holocaust that has been plaguing the species for unknown unknown reasons for the last few years may finally be subsiding.

According to a survey of beekeepers released by the Journal of Apicultural Research, the number of colonies suffering from Colony Collapse Disorder—a disease wherein colonies of bees are lost without leaving dead bees left behind—has declined to about 26 percent, down from 38 percent in 2008.

CCD, the disease that has been affecting bees since 2004, is only part of why bee populations have been declining, according to official sources.

"The story is really complicated. We thought we'd have a simple explanation. CCD drew our attention, but there are lot of things affecting bees," lead Pennsylvania beekeeper Dennis vanEngelsdorp said.

Last winter, about 29 percent of all production bee colonies in the United States died, an aspect that has left the beekeeping industry reeling. However, CCD is only currently considered to be the eighth most prevalent factor in bee mortality, down from fourth place just last year.

"Losses are shifting. There are fewer operations with CCD, though they still lost a lot of colonies. But other factors are killing bees," vanEngelsdorp said.

Starvation is currently considered to be the leading cause of bee mortality.

Approximately 90 different crops depend on bee pollination in order to propagate their species, all of which could be drastically affected if bee populations continue to decrease.

Nick Vadala on January 27 2010

#### **Websites:**

January 7, 2010, Congressional Research Service, "Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder": <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33938.pdf>

Colony Collapse Disorder:  
<http://maarec.psu.edu/pressReleases/FallDwindleUpdate0107.pdf>

<http://maarec.psu.edu/ColonyCollapseDisorder.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colony\\_collapse\\_disorder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colony_collapse_disorder)

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=15572>

CCD, Bees and Pollination, Ohio State University: <http://oardc.osu.edu/agnic/bee/ccd.htm>

Univ. of Calif. Agriculture and Natural Resources:  
<http://ucanr.org/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=2170>

Apiary Inspectors of America: <http://www.apiaryinspectors.org/>

Natural Resources Defense Council: <http://www.nrdc.org/thisgreenlife/0809.asp>

Bee Alert Technology, Inc.: <http://beealert.blackfoot.net/~beealert/index.php>

# Mystery problem again hits bee colonies

Almond growers report some shortages of the insects.

Posted at 11:23 PM on Friday, Mar. 05, 2010

By **Robert Rodriguez / The Fresno Bee**

A mysterious problem that causes bee colonies to decline is once again taking its toll on the state's beekeepers.

The problem known as colony collapse disorder is characterized by a sudden drop in a bee colony's population and the inexplicable absence of dead bees.

The disorder has no known cure and appears to be cyclical. After several mild years, it has resurfaced with a vengeance, said Eric Mussen, apiculturist with the University of California at Davis.

"It never went away, but this year a substantial number of beekeepers got walloped again," said Mussen, the state's leading bee expert. "And worse than they had been hit before."

Although Mussen said it is too early to tell exactly how many bees have been lost, a bee industry official said losses in the state vary from 30% to 80%.

## UF research finds that 'killer' bees haven't stung U.S. honey production

Filed under [Business](#), [Economic Impact](#), [Florida](#), [Research](#) on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — In just a few years after Africanized honey bees were introduced to Brazil in 1956, the aggressive bees had dominated and ruined domestic hives throughout South and Central America. According to [University of Florida](#) research, however, the same story isn't playing out in North America.

According to an economic analysis from [UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences](#), since their arrival in the U.S. in October 1990, Africanized honey bees (often called killer bees) haven't had a substantial economic impact on the honey production of domestic hives — even after spreading throughout 10 states.

The analysis, published online by the journal of Ecological Economics, seems to indicate virtually no hive loss to the bees — any economic loss was likely due to the cost of preventive measures taken by hive keepers to keep the Africanized bees away, said [Charles Moss](#), one of the analysts behind the report and a professor in [UF's department of food and resource economics](#).

"This helps to show that the primary concerns with Africanized honey bees are liability and safety, which are everyone's concern and aren't strictly attached to beekeepers," Moss said. "Beekeepers already have a much more pressing economic concern from Colony Collapse Disorder."

## Bee-Friendly Haagen-Dazs(R) Brand Supports Proposed Overturn of New York City Beekeeping Ban

Haagen-Dazs loves Honey Bees(TM) Campaign Highlights Critical Need for Backyard Beekeepers

## Record Poor 2009 Honey Production

### United States Honey Production Down 12 Percent

Honey production in 2009 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 144 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2008. There were 2.46 million colonies producing honey in 2009, up 5 percent from 2008. Yield per colony averaged 58.5 pounds, down 16 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2008, and is the lowest yield since 1989. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 37.2 million pounds on December 15, 2009, down 27 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

### Honey Prices Record High

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2009 to 144.5 cents, up 2 percent from 142.1 cents in 2008. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2008 crop reflect honey sold in 2008 and 2009. Some 2008 crop honey was sold in 2009, which caused some revisions to the 2008 crop prices. (*Courtesy USDA-NASS*)

**Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2008-2009**

Color Class	Price					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>					
Water White, Extra White, White	138.9	140.8	195.0	272.1	141.2	142.3
Extra Light Amber	135.2	141.7	209.7	242.4	140.7	146.1
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	127.4	133.6	240.5	275.6	142.0	144.6
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	143.3	138.5	326.8	394.8	205.9	217.8
All Honey	135.4	139.2	224.7	278.4	142.1	144.5

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,  
and Value by State and United States, 2009 <sup>1</sup>**

State	Honey Producing Colonies <sup>2</sup>	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 <sup>3</sup>	Average Price per Pound <sup>4</sup>	Value of Production <sup>5</sup>
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Cents</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AL	9	49	441	66	182	803
AZ	20	52	1,040	562	153	1,591
AR	24	57	1,368	301	139	1,902
CA	355	33	11,715	2,109	139	16,284
CO	28	53	1,484	326	140	2,078
FL	150	68	10,200	1,428	138	14,076
GA	65	41	2,665	346	147	3,918
HI	10	95	950	323	163	1,549
ID	103	46	4,738	1,706	145	6,870
IL	8	34	272	57	226	615
IN	9	32	288	101	198	570
IA	26	42	1,092	339	151	1,649
KS	9	63	567	164	189	1,072
KY	5	35	175	25	273	478
LA	37	103	3,811	610	132	5,031
ME	6	50	300	51	186	558
MI	66	60	3,960	1,505	151	5,980
MN	122	65	7,930	1,427	140	11,102
MS	14	104	1,456	87	132	1,922
MO	11	47	517	57	198	1,024
MT	146	70	10,220	3,577	145	14,819
NE	48	56	2,688	1,102	144	3,871
NV	10	52	520	57	129	671
NJ	9	32	288	46	193	556
NM	7	60	420	143	163	685
NY	47	65	3,055	978	183	5,591
NC	11	45	495	84	252	1,247
ND	450	77	34,650	7,623	137	47,471
OH	11	50	550	132	275	1,513
OR	55	34	1,870	767	149	2,786
PA	21	40	840	319	199	1,672
SD	270	66	17,820	6,237	139	24,770
TN	7	51	357	86	235	839
TX	74	63	4,662	886	138	6,434
UT	26	38	988	198	147	1,452
VT	5	49	245	69	236	578
VA	6	39	234	56	328	768
WA	62	44	2,728	1,064	149	4,065
WV	5	37	185	33	267	494
WI	63	60	3,780	1,588	151	5,708
WY	37	48	1,776	391	143	2,540
Oth Sts <sup>6 7</sup>	15	51	768	127	280	2,150
US <sup>7 8</sup>	2,462	58.5	144,108	37,153	144.5	208,236

<sup>1</sup> For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

<sup>2</sup> Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

<sup>3</sup> Stocks held by producers.

<sup>4</sup> Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

<sup>5</sup> Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

<sup>6</sup> CT, DE, MD, MA, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>7</sup> Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

<sup>8</sup> Summation of States will not equal U.S. level value of production.