



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension

Service

Martin County

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The Martin County Buzz

Next Meeting:

November 6, 2017

5:30 pm



November Notes:

*Attach an entrance reducer to the front of the hive. This serves two purposes: cold wind is kept out of the hive; and, mice are prevented from nesting in the hive.

*If you haven't removed your mite treatments and queen excluder, do so on the first warm day in November. Otherwise, there is no reason to open your hives.

*As winter hits, monitor your hives for wind damage frequently, and check openings to make sure there is ventilation. Your bees can tolerate cold, but sealing the hives entirely can cause condensation that will devastate the population.



What's Happening Inside the Hive?

The bees have changed to their wintertime mode. A large colony may have a small amount of brood in early November, but that will soon disappear. By now the queen has completely stopped laying eggs. Five or ten days in November will be warm enough for the bees to fly, but they will find nothing blooming.

As the weather gets cold, the bees form a tight cluster to keep warm. This ball of bees overlaps several frames of honey. The bees gradually consume their stored honey and generate heat. The colder it gets, the tighter the bees cluster. Week by week, the ball of bees gradually moves through the hive to find more honey. When the first snowfall covers the hives, consider that the honey bee is the only insect in Kentucky that keeps warm all winter. In early winter, mice may move into a hive and make a nest. This can occur even if the hive is alive and well overwinter. The bees are tightly clustered and the mouse finds a spot in the corner away from the bees.

Honeybee Trivia

Honey has been delighting humans for over 40 centuries. In ancient Egypt taxes were paid with honey. In early Greece and Rome honey symbolized fertility, love, and beauty. In the Bible this sublime nectar is called "the heavenly food".

North American Indians called honeybees "white man flies" because Colonists brought them from Europe.


An estimated 211,600 beekeepers maintain apiaries in the U.S.

South Dakota, North Dakota, Florida, and California being the biggest honey producers.

Utah is known as the Beehive State.

An estimated 3.2 million colonies are in the U.S.

The average honeybee can fly at a speed of 15 miles per hour.

Sincerely,


Roger Mollette
Agent for Agriculture N/R



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