

Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association



September 2018

srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday, September 8th 12:00-4:00 pm**

Club picnic at Tom's barn— 4865 CR 175, Clyde

Meat and drinks provided, please bring a dish to share.

Extraction demonstrations!



Look before you Harvest

The ultimate goal of the beekeeper should be to get your colonies through the winter successfully. Bees in the southern U.S. may thrive on as little as 40 pounds of honey, bees in the middle states need about 60 pounds, and northern bees may require 80 or 90 pounds! Those are average numbers for average years and average hives.

In all but the warmest areas, it is recommend that a beekeeper leave 80 to 90 pounds. In nearly all cases, this will assure a good supply of natural food for your bees, and it will save you messing around with syrups and sugars and supplements. In short, it is good for them and good for you.

The Mann Lake catalog used to have estimates for the weight of full boxes. According to them, a full ten-frame deep weighs 80-90 pounds and a full ten-frame medium weighs 65-75 pounds . Discounting the weight of the structure and dividing by 10, a full deep frame holds about 8 pounds of honey and full medium holds about 6 pounds.

According to Caron and Conner (2013), the ideal fall colony will have brood in the center of the lowest box. This will be flanked with frames of honey and pollen, and the two outermost frames will be filled with just honey. The second deep will be filled to the brim with honey—all ten frames.

Applying the math to their ideal colony, you will have 12 deep frames completely full of honey which gives you (8 x 12) or 96 pounds, plus any additional that is stored on the pollen frames. This setup should get you through any winter.

A common error that new beekeepers make is harvesting the honey supers without checking the brood boxes for honey. You **cannot** assume the deeps are full just because the honey supers are full. Often the bees use one or both brood boxes for brood and pollen during most of the season. Not until late in the year do they start moving the honey closer to the brood nest. If you take the supers without checking, you could be leaving your bees with almost nothing for the winter. So above all, remember to **look before you take.**

<https://honeybeesuite.com/how-much-honey-should-i-leave-in-my-hive/>



Honey Bee Trivia

What is implied by the phrase “raw honey” on honey labels?

Liquid honey that has not been filtered (limited straining) or heated above 95-100 degrees F.

Why is it often important to remove honey from the hive when it is fully ripened?

At times it is important to remove the new honey crop from the hive when it is fully ripened as quickly as possible for several reasons.

- 1.) some honeys crystallize rapidly so it is important to extract them from the combs before they crystallize.
- 2.) if multiple flows are a characteristic of the apiary site, prompt removal will prevent the mixing of the floral sources
- 3.) prevents the bees from tracking across the new, white wax cappings and darkening them with pollen and propolis residue.

Sweet Treats



Oatmeal Mug Cake

- 2 tbsp milk
 - 1 egg
 - 1/2 Tbsp peanut butter
 - 1 Tbsp honey
 - 2 Tbsp quick oats
 - 2 Tbsp flour
 - 1/4 tsp baking powder
 - Optional: blueberries for garnish
- Stir together all ingredients and microwave for 3-4 minutes
- **Mug cake will rise while cooking, so let sit for 1 minute before serving. Garnish with blueberries and a drizzle of honey.

“A Little Bit of Attitude— From our friend Jamie Walters with the Black Swamp Beekeepers Association

I’m sure most of you have seen a difference with the defensiveness of your hives. Don’t try to be “cool” that you don’t want to use a smoker or a veil. Just a few pumps of smoke at the front entrance and a couple in the top, once you pop the telescoping cover will greatly reduce the attitude. This is not to see who can withstand the most stings, as most of us know, just 1 sting to the face, throat, or neck could be a 911 situation!”

The club will be putting together a fundraising calendar and we need YOUR help! Please submit pictures to Carol Mahl, photosbymahl@yahoo.com. We will need images from all seasons to fill the calendar. Anything from your apiary with a beautiful sunset, to a worker bee landing on a flower, and everything in between!

Contact Carol with any questions on photo submissions. Thank you!

