

8/27/15
YCBA Monthly Meeting

- I. Attendance
 - a. 76 in attendance
 - b. Board: Coral, Renee, Jeremy, Molly

- II. Call to order and agenda
 - a. Future meetings:
 - i. Sept. 26th- Dave Hackenberg Apiary Tour
 - 1. Leave York by 8:30am
 - 2. Tour at 11am
 - 3. Arranging a carpool
 - 4. Lunch after at Country Cupboard Inc. (101 Hafer Road, Lewisburd PA 17837)
 - a. Coral will make reservations, so if planning on joining for lunch let Coral know by Sept. 10th (717.577.4774 or coral1051@gmail.com)
 - ii. Oct. 10th- Annual YCBA Banquet
 - 1. 5:30pm at Winterstown Fire Hall
 - 2. silent auction, honey tasting, 3rd Annual Russel Wentz Photo Contest, etc.
 - iii. Nov. 16th- Special Tri-county meeting with Claire Densley of Buckfast Abbey, Devon, UK
 - 1. Held at York County School of Technology in the auditorium
 - b. Opening remarks:
 - i. York Fair Auto/Driver Gate Passes
 - 1. Still have 11 slots open
 - 2. Honey Bottling party 8/28 at Coral's house
 - a. afternoon
 - b. Some jars will be bottled at the fair
 - ii. Banquet sign up starts at tonight's meeting and a sign up genius will be sent out to all.
 - 1. Still only \$15 for admission
 - iii. Dawn Ore has fondant to sell- has 50 lbs.
 - 1. She paid \$53 and is willing to sell for \$40
 - iv. Dave Neuberger is absent today, but if anyone wants a honey pot in exchange for 2 lbs. of honey, let him know and he will make it happen

- III. Treasurer Report
 - a. Checking account has \$1,184.58
 - b. Savings account has \$4,005.26
 - c. Forming a budget committee due to meeting location expenses

- IV. **Bonnie Raindrop: Bees, Pesticides, and Us**
 - a. **Maryland County losses set the record at 61%**
 - i. **Alarming trends**
 - b. **Public awareness about colony losses has been talked about in the media and there is a lot of public concern**
 - c. **Public interests groups need beekeepers to start a dialogue**
 - d. **Maryland's Pollinator Protection Act 2015 (PPA)**
 - i. **would label nursery plants treated with toxic, beekilling pesticides being sold to consumers**
 - 1. **2014 study found over 50% of bee-friendly plants were treated with one or more neonics at levels that would kill a bee**
 - e. **Why a bill to limit neonics?**
 - i. **Confusion in the USA about what is happening with neonics**
 - ii. **Proven to be unnecessary on corn**
 - iii. **Found in many row crops and fruit trees**
 - iv. **Approximately 300 insecticide products containing neonics**
 - f. **Neonicoinoil sales over \$2 billion annually**
 - i. **290 homeowner products have flooded home and garden stores**
 - ii. **230 non-toxic/low-hazard product alternative to neonics effective for common pest problems**
 - iii. **PRI Product Evaluator App available on iTunes:
www.pesticideresearch.com**
 - g. **Pose unacceptable risk to honey bees and pollinators**
 - i. **1100 peer-reviewed studies show neonics harm bees**
 - ii. **Too toxic for unnecessary cosmetic use**
 - h. **Swedish Study- wild pollinators more decimated by neonics than honey bees**
 - i. **One neonic treated seed will kill a songbird**
 - ii. **Reduces adult bee longevity**
 - iii. **Harmful to babies**
 - iv. **Harmful to aquatic creatures**
 - i. **Why isn't the EPA protecting bees?**
 - i. **Only looked at what is the lethal dose to honeybees where 50% would still survive**
 - ii. **100% reliant on industry data (EPA doesn't have testing facilities)**
 - iii. **Corporations spend hundreds of millions of dollars in lobbying to have easy access to decision makers**
 - j. **Studies show consumers may apply pesticides 120 times more than the directions state**
 - k. **Get involved in your state Pollinator Protection Plan**
 - i. **Get involved!**
 - ii. **PA must draft a state plan**

- iii. Like the nation plan, all state plans so far do not address neonicotinoids at all
 - iv. State plans put the burden on beekeepers to move hives with 48 hour notice of pesticide application
 - v. Omit protection of colonies that are NOT contracted for pollination services
 - 1. Be vocal and visible. Take action. Educate.
 - i. Become a local spokesperson for bee action groups
 - 1. Sign and distribute petitions
 - 2. Write letters to your legislators (Governor Wolfe)
 - 3. Write letters to the editor in local papers
 - 4. Call your representatives and educate about why it's important to support bee-friendly legislation
 - 5. Introduce a local bee-friendly bill in your town
- V. Coral Still-Glossar
- a. Call Coral if you have two observation hives that you could bring to the York Fair and rotate them
 - b. David Papke made motion that we can vote on members of the board for another 2 years
 - i. Vote is carried
 - ii. Board members: Coral-President, Renee- VP, Erin- Treasurer, Molly-Secretary
- VI. Nate Webber- PA state bee inspector
- a. Few cases of fowl brood in Montgomery County
 - b. Hasn't found any nearby
- VII. David Papke: State of the Bees
- a. Nectar at this time
 - b. Bees born now will be the nurse bees for the winter bees
 - c. Should see several frames of brood
 - d. Check for mites or medicate for mites NOW or heavy mite load will put stress on the hive and cause winter bees to be weaker
 - e. Re-queening in the fall are less likely to swarm in the spring
 - f. Small colonies in the fall
 - i. Not going to put the time into the small/weak colony and let it die
 - ii. Combining colony with a strong colony to boost the population
 - g. Winterize the hives
 - i. Move hives to a good location
 - ii. Insulate the hives
 - iii. Close the bottom boards
 - iv. Reduce the entrances
 - h. Feeding the colonies
 - i. Strong colony-medium super full of honey and honey in the brood chambers as well

- ii. 60 lbs. of honey to get through the winter**
- iii. Feed heavy syrup in the fall (2:1 ratio of sugar to water)**
- iv. Not too early to start feeding now**

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm (time for socialization and snacks)