



APIARY NEWSLETTER

MIGRATORY BEEKEEPER INSPECTIONS



Inside this issue:

NEWS FROM THE HILL	2
ILLEGAL CHEMICAL USE	2
CLASSES	3
AR BEEKEEPER DAY	3
HONEY RECIPES	3

If you are a migratory beekeeper bringing bees back into Arkansas you will need to have your bees inspected before they return to Arkansas. This inspection certificate will need to be forwarded to our office. However, if you are sending bees to California for almond pollination the Apiary Section can inspect your bees when the bees re-enter the state if you choose not to have them inspected in California.

We are making this decision based on the different prices charged per county and the time delays associated with

some inspections. Hopefully this will make the process easier for those beekeepers that choose to have their bees inspected when they return. All we ask is that you give our office plenty of notice of when your bees will be back in the state, and that the bees are kept in one to two drop yards until the inspections are completed. Hopefully with great cooperation we will be able to provide this service in the future.

Also, please advise our office if you need an Imported Fire Ant Inspection before departure.



INSPECTOR'S CORNER

Thanks to all who helped make my first year as Apiary Inspector very enjoyable. I appreciate all the cooperation and patience that I have received. I am looking forward to another season of working with you and your bees.

I would like to request that anyone planning to sell or give away nucs, queens, packages, hives or anyone who will be moving bees around to please schedule an inspection well in advance. Due to the lag between the actual inspection date and the date you will receive a health certificate or

moving permit, it is important to have your inspections taken care of in advance so that you will have the paperwork on hand at the time of sale, transfer or transport.

Thank you ,

Aman Minick,
ASPB Apiary Inspector



Special points of interest:

- Upcoming beekeeping classes.
- Illegal chemical use in beehives
- AR Beekeeper Day at the Capitol
- Honey recipes



NEWS FROM THE HILL



Dr. Steinkraus's M.S. grad student, Natasha Wright, and he published a couple articles on honey bees and small hive beetles this fall.

Steinkraus, Don and Natasha Wright. 2012. Putting Yourself in the "Shoes of the Honey Bee". American Bee Journal, Vol. 152, pp. 777-780, Aug. 2012. This article featured photos of three of the Entomology Department's graduate students and honey bees, varroa mites, and tracheal mites.

2. Wright, Natasha and Donald Steinkraus. 2012. A scientific note on a protozoan pathogen of the small hive

beetle. Apidologie Vol. 43, available online). This is the first report of a natural obligate pathogen of the small hive beetle in the world.

Dr. Steinkraus will be teaching ENTO 4043, Apiculture, at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville Spring 2013. This semester long course is very hands on and the students build hives and frames, install bees, collect swarms, and learn about bee biology.

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- You can email your request to Dana.Jones@aspb.ar.gov



"The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others."

- St. John Chrysostom

ILLEGAL CHEMICAL USE IN BEEHIVES



Pest control in the beehive, particularly concerning mite control, is a hot topic in the bee world. Many beekeepers are finding that mites may be resistant to the legal mite control products on the market. This could be due to many reasons including but not limited to: overuse by beekeepers, misuse by beekeepers, and/or a change to the product formula by the manufacturer to control toxicity levels in the hive. Some beekeepers have opted to using a variety of "homemade" illegal chemicals, not labeled for use with honey bees or in the hive, to either try to solve this problem, or to just find a cheaper treatment.

The most recent product being used is Taktic (amitraz). It is being formulated with Crisco on to cardboard strips and placed in the hive. This is a cheaper means for mite control, however it is not labeled for this use and is illegal. It has been implied that this is widespread among commercial beekeepers across the nation. It is believed that many beekeepers have reached a

state of desperation that they believe warrants the off-label use of amitraz.

Such illegal treatments are not condoned by the Arkansas State Plant Board or by EPA, and they are starting to bring action against this illegal activity. The Arkansas State Plant Board will take samples of any unidentifiable substance found in hives we inspect, and those samples will be tested in our lab. Anything that is found that is not labeled for use with honey bees will be subject to legal action by the State and could be referred to EPA for Federal Action.

To avoid any infractions you should only use legal products that are labeled for use in the hive. Illegal chemicals may control hive pests, but there have been no studies to show what impact, short or long term, they will have on the hive, honey bees, and/or the environment.



UPCOMING BEEKEEPING CLASSES

Jon Zawislak, the apiculture specialist for the UA Cooperative Extension Service, will conduct more introductory short courses starting early next year. Each short course consists of three evening class sessions. The first class covers beekeeping equipment and bee biology. The second class covers seasonal bee colony management. The third class covers bee hive pests and honey bee diseases.

Check the website for details at <http://www.aragriculture.org/insects/bees/events.htm>.

The next classes scheduled will be:

- January 14, 21, 28 - Fayetteville
- Feb 4, Feb 11, Feb 18 - Searcy
- Feb 25, Mar 4, Mar 11 - Fort Smith



ARKANSAS BEEKEEPER DAY AT THE CAPITOL



The Arkansas State Beekeepers Association has scheduled a special day at the Arkansas State Capitol. February 27 will be the “Arkansas Beekeeper Day at the Capitol.” The ABA encourages all beekeepers to come. We will be located in the Rotunda from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00p.m. We will have the opportunity to

meet our lawmakers and express the importance of bees. Please make every effort to attend.

Richard Coy,
Pres. ABA

HOLIDAY HONEY RECIPES

Holiday Taigalach - Honey Nut Balls

2-1/2 cups sifted flour
 1/8 tsp salt
 1 tsp baking powder
 4 eggs
 4 tablespoons salad oil
 1 pound dark honey
 3/4 cup brown sugar
 1 tsp powdered ginger
 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
 2 cups filberts (or other nuts except peanuts) chopped
 1/2 cup candied cherries (optional) but adds a colorful and festive look
 Sift the flour, salt and baking powder into a bowl.
 Make a well in the center and drop the eggs and oil into it.

Work into the flour and mix until a dough is formed.
 Break off pieces of dough and roll into pencil- thick strips.
 Cut into 1/2-inch pieces and place on a lightly greased cookie sheet.
 Bake in a 350 F oven for 20 minutes or until browned.
 Shake pan once or twice.
 Cool.
 Cook the honey, brown sugar, ginger and nutmeg for 15 minutes.
 Drop the baked dough into it and cook for 5 minutes.
 Add the nuts and cook 10 minutes additional, stirring frequently.
 Test the mixture by dropping a little on

a wet surface; if it holds together, it's done; if not, cook until it does.
 Turn out onto a wet board and let cool until easy enough to handle.
 Then shape into 3-inch balls between moistened hands.
 Decorate with the candied cherries, if you wish.

Honey Roasted Pecans

2 cups pecan halves
 1/4 cup honey
 Heat oven to 350 degrees. Place pecans in an even layer on baking sheet. Roast 12 to 15 minutes. Remove from baking sheet and place in large bowl.
 In saucepan combine honey and pecans. Cook over medium high



heat, stirring until mixture simmers and foams (about 4-6 min).
 Transfer to a baking sheet (lined with wax paper for easy clean up) and separate with fork. Cool completely. Store in air tight container.

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