

Advance understanding is key

Deal up front with restrictive covenants on city beehives

By Dr. Tammy Potter, Kentucky State Apiarist

According to state law, honey bees are not defined as livestock in Kentucky. This benefits Kentucky beekeepers in many ways. It means that homeowners are allowed to keep hives within city limits (as I do) without fear of violating city ordinances. However, the flip side of the recent appreciation of honey bees and all pollinators is increased scrutiny of homeowners who want to have hives in newer housing developments.

Check on restrictions in advance

Subdivisions' homeowner associations often create "restrictive covenants." A restrictive covenant applies to just its own subdivision; it is not city nor state law. If you live in a subdivision, condominium, or other location where your deed contains restrictions and the restrictions are ambiguous, you should have them clarified before you begin any activity, including beekeeping.

Although beekeeping is less expensive than other agricultural operations, it can be pricey investing in equipment, bees, and clothing. So check out all regulations that might affect keeping bees on your property.

The case of the new neighbor

Bill Miller, an Eastern Apiculture Society board member, had already received permission from his association in Alabama to maintain hives on his property. Then a new neighbor moved in. The neighbor sued him, despite the association's covenant.

The result was that the judge, who knew nothing about honey bees, had both parties agree to a set of conditions by which both could be satisfied. The Millers were able to keep their bees, but agreed to have no more than 10 hives, with exceptions being made for increases during swarm season. The neighbors had to pay for landscaping materials to create enough height to provide a botanical barrier, and other fencing. Miller's out-of-pocket costs for this judgment exceeded \$3,000, as did his neighbor's.

Miller's final thoughts on the matter: "Any ambiguity can be exploited to bring a case, and these cases will be expensive for the beekeeper and generally judged by folks who don't know anything about beekeeping."



Kristi Willoughby, Ohio County Beekeepers Association secretary, encountered this swarm that had started building comb on the flower pot.

Consider more insurance

Along those lines, it is helpful for peace of mind to have "third-party" insurance. I have three hives on my back porch within the Lexington city limits. The balcony is surrounded by mature trees, so the bees have to fly up at least 15 feet just to be able to access forage. There is also a gate on the balcony, so unwelcome teenagers have not been a problem. Nor is it likely a poodle is going to get stung.

Likewise in your setup, strange things could happen. But for a rider on your homeowner's insurance costing about \$20,

SAMPLE FOR VARROA SOON!

Dr. Potter's recent samplings have turned up Varroa mites near the minimum threshold of 3 mites per 100 honey bees.

Avoid these common mistakes when preparing show honey

Kentucky State Fair Honey Show Varia

Compiled by Tammy Horn Potter

Sept. 12, 2017

Most honey looks better in glass containers. These tips will help you to find appropriate jars for your honey, and also to show your honey to best advantage in the competition.

Air bubbles

Bottle the jars slowly and at an angle to avoid adding air. Allow the jars to settle for several days.

Crystals

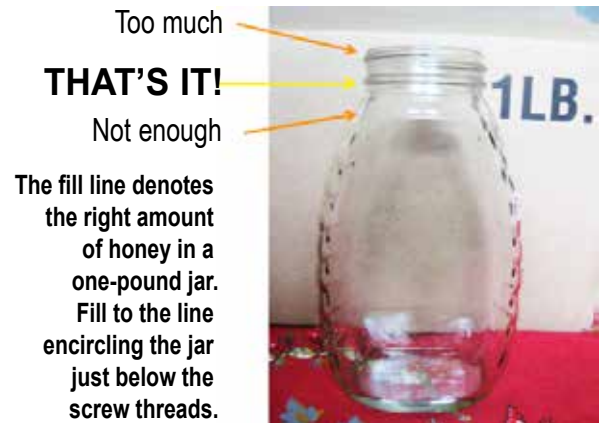
All honey will crystallize given enough time. Even tupelo and sage honey will granulate, although it may take a few years. Since honeys are supersaturated sugar solutions, crystallization is inevitable.

Most judges of honey shows use a polariscope, which is simply two sheets of Polaroid film, one of which is turned at a 90-degree angle to the other. The honey jar is placed between these Polaroid sheets, and a light source is placed behind a Polaroid sheet. Crystals, wax, hair (human and bee), pollen, and lint show up clearly in this fashion.

When honey starts to crystallize, the process proceeds quickly. For this reason, honey with any crystallization signs may be disqualified or have points deducted. Judging crystallization is a bit like judging moisture content. There is a sharp cutoff point, and even a small amount of granulation is not permitted. For most judges, this is a hard-and-fast rule. Honey with no crystals receives full credit; entries showing crystals receive point deductions.

Where to buy honey jars

- **Betterbee:** betterbee.com/containers/glass-containers.asp
- **Brushy Mountain:** brushymountainbeefarm.com/1-lb-Round-Comb-Glass-Jars-cs-12/productinfo/747/
- **Dadant Bee Supply (Frankfort):** dadant.com/catalog/containers
- **Gamber wide-mouth 1-lb. jars:** gambercontainer.com/store/honey-containers/wide-mouth-pet/1-lb-wide-mouth-pet
- **Kelley Beekeeping (Clarkson):** kelleybees.com/containers.html
- **T.M. Klein and Sons:** tmkleinandsons.com/honey-jars.html



Fill line

The point of having a “fill line” or “fill ring” is twofold: to be fair to both the customer and the beekeeper. The fill line is a continuous ring molded into the glass around the lower jar mouth. You want to fill to the top of the ring, not over. The yellow arrow in the photo above illustrates the fill line or fill ring.

Jars

No doubt it can be difficult to find the proper glass jar for state fairs. Some people keep jars for decades because they have found glasses without imperfections. Keep in mind that comb honey and creamed honey need to have wide-mouth, 1-pound glass jars. For all categories, try to avoid using Mason or Ball jars that have “cast-in” decoration. This decoration detracts from your entry.

Lint

Use nylons, not cheesecloth. Cheesecloth will leave a great deal of cotton lint in the honey. Lint usually cannot be seen without the aid of a polariscope, a tool that the judge always uses. In dark honey, lint is impossible to see without a polariscope. Lint from cotton, diapers, cheesecloth, *etc.*, will show up. After use, don't wash the nylon with other clothes. It will pick up lint in the process and transfer that to the honey.

Moisture

As with crystallization, high moisture content can cause honey to ferment very quickly. Most customers do not open a jar of honey at the time of purchase to smell or taste it. Only when the customer arrives home will he or she detect these

... See **VARIA**, page 3

Education events for June

Kelley, KSBA, Pollinator gatherings set

- **June 2:** Kelley Beekeeping, “Field Day 2018: The American Beekeeper.” 807 West Main Street, Clarkson. Gates open 7 a.m. CDT. Lunch included in \$7 registration fee. Speaker will be **Jerry Hayes**. Beginners, hobbyists, sideliners, and commercial beekeepers will find appropriate classes and demonstrations and network with fellow beekeepers and experts. New this year: a beginners course track. Tours of the Kelley facility will be offered. Supervised children welcome, no child care available.

Pre-register at kelleybees.com/kelley-beekeepings-annual-field-day.html.

- **June 2:** Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA) business meeting. Kelley Beekeeping, 807 West Main Street, Clarkson, adjacent to Field Day. Membership must be current to attend. Topics include the Kentucky State Fair, honey certification, and the KSBA fall meet.
- **June 2-3:** Schoolhouse Bees Queen Production event, Visalia. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. June 2 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 3 Cost \$135, lunch included.
More information: Tom Frickman, (859) 356-1350.
- **June 18:** Pollinator Protection Plan Stakeholder Day. University of Kentucky Research Farm, 9-11 a.m. EDT, and Columbia Gas of Kentucky, 1-3 p.m., in support of National Pollinator Week June 18-24.
Must pre-register with Tammy Potter at tammy.potter@ky.gov.
- **June 21:** Madison County Pollinator Appreciation Day at Berea Urban Farm, 199 Adams Street, Berea, 5-8 p.m. (See page 4.)
RSVP: embryjim@gmail.com. More information: (859) 270-3699.
- **July 2: Entry deadline, Kentucky State Fair.** Your Association president or cooperative extension agent may transport your entry or exhibit to Louisville. The entry must arrive on time, with appropriate tags. State Fair officials will not be held responsible if the entry is submitted via proxy but does not have tags and/or is late.

State Apiarist's schedule

- **June 1-3:** Puget Sound B.A. ✱
- **June 4-5:** Annual leave days.
- **June 11:** USDA sampling; Pennyrile B.A., Hopkinsville.
- **June 12:** USDA sampling.
- **June 13:** 4-H Teen Council, Lexington. Dr. Tammy Potter and Dr. Blake Newton of the University of Kentucky Entomology Department and 20 members of 4-H will discuss honey bees, CRP plantings, and native bees.
- **June 15:** Moonlight Market, Irvine.
- **June 18:** Pollinator Stakeholder Day, UK and Columbia Gas of Kentucky.
- **June 21:** Fayette County Youth Program, Valley Park; Madison County Pollinator Day, Berea Urban Farm (page 4).
- **June 22:** Lincoln County Pollinator Celebration, UK Cooperative Extension Office, Stanford.
- **June 25:** USDA sampling; Fort Harrod B.A., UK Cooperative Extension Office, Harrodsburg.
- **June 27:** Speigle Heights youth program, Lexington.

✱ — The State Apiarist attends on personal time.

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problems. This is why moisture is such an important part of the judging.

Since honey shows are about marketing a good product for consumers, any honey with a moisture content of 18.7 percent or higher will be disqualified. Any honey with a moisture content of 18.1 to 18.6 percent will have points deducted. Any honey with a moisture content of 14 to 18 percent will receive a full 15 points. Any honey with a moisture content of 13.9 percent or lower will have points deducted. Any fermented, smoked, or fume-board chemically contaminated honey will be disqualified.

Testing honey

Test honey with honey refractometers. If moisture is too high, leave in a room with a dehumidifier through the night or several nights. Protect the honey during this process. Small hive beetles love to take advantage of honey that is not stored in a safe place.

A **non-technical method** to test honey for moisture is simply to turn the bottle of honey upside down. If a bubble rises quickly to the top, the honey probably has too much moisture. A bubble tends to rise more slowly in denser honey with appropriate moisture. This non-technical approach is fine for gifts but not appropriate for honey shows.

Pollination-promoting groups to be honored in Madison County event

Supporters of pollinator-friendly activities in Madison County are invited to **Pollinator Appreciation Day** Thursday, June 21 from 5-8 p.m. EDT at the Berea Urban Farm, 201 Adams Street, Berea.

The event is free to the public, and will include farm tours and beehive inspections by **Dr. Tammy Potter**, Kentucky state apiarist, from 5-6 p.m.; a recognition program with local speakers from 6-7 p.m.; and a reception and tour of the Berea Urban Farm from 7-8 p.m. The program will move indoors in case of rain. Parking is available on Adams Street and in Old Town.

Guides will be available all during the event to lead farm tours, and Dr. Potter will take people through one of the top bar hives. Extra bee suits are available if needed.

Further observances

- The Berea Urban Farm event will be preceded by a media conference at the Berea Municipal Utilities pollinator garden at 200 Harrison Road in Berea.
- **Jim Embry** of Sustainable Communities Network, which received a three-year grant from **Bayer Feed a Bee**, made available several hundred milkweed plants in mid-May free to interested gardeners. The milkweed is the sole habitat plant for the monarch life cycle. "As part of our effort to create and protect monarch habitats, we ordered a few hundred milkweed plants to be planted on our farm and to be shared with our community," Embry said.

Lexington Dunbar students to plant pollinator garden

The **Community Problem-Solving Club** at Lexington's **Paul Laurence Dunbar High School** heads for a national competition this month with a project to raise awareness of honey bees in their community.

Club advisor **Ben Crawford**, of the Dunbar math faculty, was quoted in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* that the students are conferencing with farmers, beekeepers and elementary school students in their quest to raise awareness.

H-L reporter Valarie Honeycutt Spears said the Dunbar team is working with science students and service club members to begin a garden of pollinator-friendly plants on school grounds, guided by science teacher **Keia Newsome**.

The Dunbar team won first place in the state problem-solving competition last March, a preliminary to the June national competition in Wisconsin.



- As another part of implementing the Kentucky Pollinator Protection Plan on the farm, Embry is developing and planting five to eight acres in native grasses, woody plants/trees, native flowers, native bee nesting sites, and monarch waystations, he said.



Jim Embry.

Discount to HAS St. Louis ends June 15

Registration is open online for the upcoming Heartland Apicultural Society meeting at Washington University in St. Louis. Visit heartlandbees.org for information on speakers, dorms, hotel accommodations, meals, evening activities and more. While you are there, sign up for the HAS email list to get updates.



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Speakers include Marla Spivak, May Berenbaum, Dennis VanEngelsdorp, Keith Delaplane, Jennifer Berry, Sammy Ramsey, Jeff Harris, Dewey Caron, Jim Tew, Phil Craft, Kent Williams, Greg Hunt, Krispn Given, Tammy Potter, Becky Masterman, Ana Heck, Bridget Mendel Lee, Pete Berthelsen, Martin Marklin, and Jenny Warner.

Activities include classes for all skill levels, bee-yard activities (bring your veil), Queen rearing classes (20 spaces left in the limited enrollment), an Anheuser-Busch Brewery tour, and a visit to the St. Louis Zoo.

Complete information: heartlandbees.org, where you can register for the **Early Bird discount and sign up for follow-up informational emails.**



“Bees” co-star on KDA parade float

Model bees bounced on wires around a hive on the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s float in the Republic Bank Pegasus Parade during the Kentucky Derby Festival in Louisville. The float depicted chapters from the history of Kentucky agriculture and featured 4-H and FFA state officers, Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles on a tractor, and a variety of Kentucky Proud products. The float earned the President’s Award at the Derby Festival.



Bee buzzing your pool? She just wants a drink

A honey bee buzzing your swimming pool just wants a drink of water, preferably without getting her legs wet.

Here’s how you can help the bees, while keeping them at a distance from your pool party.

Cover the swimming pool for at least three days. Buy a baby pool and place it away from the swimming pool but near enough that the honey bees can find it.

Honey bees do not like to get their legs wet, so provide gravel, “packing peanuts,” or something that will enable the bees to position themselves to slurp some water but stay dry.

These small water sources can help your bees maintain colony temperature (especially in the hot summer months), and it can keep them out of your, or your neighbor’s, pool and birdbath.



No, she doesn’t want a dip, or to sting you – she just wants a drink.

Dr. Tom Webster advocates spraying the pool perimeter with Fischer’s Bee Quick repellent while the pool is covered.

When the honey bees have accepted the alternate water source, you may uncover the swimming pool.

How to prevent mosquitoes

We also have to keep mosquitoes from breeding in the outdoor standing water we intended for the bees.

Caitlin Gill, environmental specialist in the Florida Department of Agriculture, advises to change the baby-pool water every three to five days, and to scrub the sides of the container above the water line on each change.

Gill says this will dislodge any mosquito eggs and deny them a larval habitat, interrupting the mosquito life cycle.

Be sure to keep changing the alternate water source, never letting the baby pool go dry. Refilling with clean, fresh water will keep the water good for bees but not mosquitoes.

Mary Bammer, University of Florida extension coordinator, writing on the UF Honey Bee Lab blog page, “Water Sources for Bees, Not Mosquitoes”: <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/entnemdept/2017/07/06/1291/>.

2018 Hive Count Survey

For administrative and economic reasons, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) collects information on beekeepers and hives within the Commonwealth, in accordance with state law. The KDA needs an inventory of beekeepers and hive counts by county to accomplish this. Your voluntary help is greatly appreciated. Please email, fax, or mail this form as below. Thank you for your assistance.

Name of club _____

Beekeeper name _____

Type of beekeeper: queen producer _____ hobbyist _____ sideliner _____ honey producer _____
pollination _____ top bar hive _____ nuc producer _____

General definitions: Hobbyist = 1-30 hives; Sideliner = 31-99 hives; Commercial = over 100 hives

County _____

Number of losses from 2018 winter months, January-March _____

Total colonies as of June 1, 2018 _____

Tammy Potter, State Apiarist, Kentucky Department of Agriculture • 109 Corporate Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 229-2950 (work cell — preferred number to reach me) • (502) 573-0282 (general KDA office number)
Fax (502) 564-7852 • tammy.potter@ky.gov • www.kyagr.com/statevet/honeybees.html

State Fair entries due July 2

Rule change affects recipes for Honey Culinary competition

Kentucky State Fair Honey Culinary judge Jill True notes that the Honey Culinary competition is for recipes featuring honey as a primary ingredient. Accordingly, a recipe that lists honey as a primary ingredient must be submitted with the entry.

True emphasizes that **the amount of honey in these recipes must be higher than that of all other sugars combined**. So, if a recipe such as the one at right contains two cups of sugar and one tablespoon of honey, the entry does not meet this contest requirement.

True also reminds us that, to help judges remain unbiased, each entry should be on unidentifiable plates. Recipes should bear only the entry and class number, preferably typewritten or typeset, in black ink, without including a name.

The premium book is now online, and the deadline for entering the Kentucky State Fair is **July 2**.

The Kentucky State Fair premium book:
https://kystatefair-vmw4lkzwlga35dg.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/3_1_Bees_and_Honey.pdf

REMINDER: FSA reporting deadlines

are coming up **July 15** for some of you to annually report your number of honey bee colonies on form FSA-578. Those in the **NAP or ELAP disaster relief programs** filed a required report last January, but if you are not enrolled in NAP or applying for ELAP, you may report by July 15. More information in the July *BeeLines*.

State Fair Blue Ribbon Winner!
(but it wouldn't qualify this year — see left)

Dark Honey Cake with Icing

CAKE:	1-3/4 c. all-purpose flour	FROSTING:
1/4 c. butter, softened	3/4 c. baking cocoa	6 T. butter, softened
1/4 c. shortening	3/4 t. salt	1/2 c. baking cocoa
2 c. sugar	1/4 t. baking powder	2-2/3 c. powdered sugar
1 t. vanilla	1-3/4 cup milk	1/3 c. milk
2 eggs		1 t. vanilla
1 T. honey		

Beat butter, shortening, sugar, and vanilla in a large bowl until fluffy. Blend in eggs and set aside. Combine flour, cocoa, salt, and baking powder separately; add, alternately with milk, to sugar mixture. Blend well. Pour into a greased and floured 9-inch round cake pan. Bake. Cool in pans on wire rack 10 minutes. Remove from pans and let cool on rack for an hour.

FROSTING: Beat butter in large bowl until fluffy. Add cocoa and powdered sugar alternately with milk. Mix in vanilla. Blend until smooth and creamy. Spread frosting on cake.

— Mary Anderson, Louisville