Coping with an unusually warm winter

Try to avoid letting the colony consume its honey stores. We are having a mild winter, and the honey bees will run out of honey (i.e., their fuel) if you are not vigilant in keeping up their nutritional needs.

Heavy sugar syrup will help the bees survive until the flowers start blooming. The ratio for heavy sugar syrup is 2 parts sugar to 1 part water.

Rotating the colony so that the honey bees move back into the center of the hive, and moving honey frames within their vicinity, will help them perceive that they have adequate stores. Re-tilt the hive so moisture can run out of the hive.

Consider adding a super of drawn beeswax foundation to allow the honey bees plenty of room to move up and out. This will help you manage swarming.

Hap-bee Val Day!

This Valentine beeswax sculpture is by Rich Mundell, past president of the Heartland Apiculture Society.
Apiarist’s Report and Education Events

It’s winter workshop time, and continuing education is the heart of the State Apiarist’s report; so on to the list of seminars, workshops and classes.

- **Feb. 4: South Central Bee School**, Allen County Intermediate School, 720 Oliver Street, Scottsville. Registration $10 per person. Pre-registration not required. Registration 7:30 a.m. CST, welcoming remarks 8:15 a.m., and sessions conclude with door prizes at 4 p.m. Guest speaker: **Jennifer Berry**, University of Georgia. Lunch not included, but may be brought in. Classes offered for all levels of beekeeping. Veterinarians will be allowed to attend the Veterinary Feed Directive and Bee Disease course in the afternoon, at no charge. **Kelley Beekeeping** and **Dadant** will attend with supplies for sale. Contact vendors directly for pre-orders to be delivered that day.

- **Feb. 4: South Eastern Bee School**, Whitley County High School, Boulevard of Champions, Williamsburg. Registration 8 a.m. EST. Charge: $20 for preregistered attendees, $25 at the door. **Mike Studer**, Tennessee State Apiarist, speaks about “Myths and Misconceptions.” $25 per person, $40 per couple. Under 18s are free. Lunch and refreshments included. Vendors will be present.

  Exit 15 off I-75 and go east on 25W. Go 1.3 miles and turn left. Go a quarter-mile, and the school is on the right.

- **Feb. 9: Beginner Beekeepers Series.** Speaker, **Dr. Tammy Horn Potter**. Topic: “Basic Biology.” 6-8:30 p.m. EST. Pulaski County Extension Service, 28 Parkway Drive, Somerset. $25 per person, $35 per couple, for the entire series. Seating is limited (no more than 40 seats), so register promptly. Sponsored by the **Lake Cumberland** and **Lincoln County** beekeepers associations.

  Register with Beth Wilson (606) 679-6361, or beth.wilson@uky.edu.

- **Feb. 11: Bee My Honey Brunch** at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, 3501 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg. 9:30-11:30 a.m. $50 per person. Private tours of Shaker Village’s demonstration apiary with the beekeeper, followed by a festive three-course brunch featuring the sweet labors of hard-working honey bees.

  More information: (800) 734-5611.

- **Feb. 21: Honey Production.** 6-7:30 p.m. CST at Cumberland County Extension Office, 90 Smith Grove Road, Burkesville. Speaker, **Dr. Tammy Horn Potter**. $8 for this class, $30 for series of six on several ag topics.

  Pre-register (270) 433-7700.

State Apiarist’s schedule

- **Feb. 4:** South Central Bee School. Scottsville. Details at left.

- **Feb. 9:** Beginner Beekeepers Series. Topic: Basic Biology. 6:00-8:30 p.m. EST. Pulaski County Extension Service, 28 Parkway Drive, Somerset. Details at left.

- **Feb. 11:** Kentucky Pollinator Protection Plan discussion, 1-3 p.m. EST at Bernheim Arboretum. Bernheim Members, $10; non-members, $12. 2499 Clermont Road, Clermont (Bullett County).

  Patricia A. Smith, wren@bernheim.org.

- **Feb. 25:** Discovery Trek: Introduction to Beekeeping, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, 3501 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST. $55 cost includes admission + 20 percent off dining voucher. Shaker Village is home to 40 hives that produce spring and fall crops of honey. Learn the basics of setting up hives from experienced Shaker Village beekeepers. Participants will learn about the honeybee lifecycle, choosing hive equipment and assembly, hive site selection, pest management, the costs of beekeeping, how to establish your first hives, and what to expect in your first year as a beekeeper. Practical instruction and a variety of guides and resources will be shared. Participants will also take home a beginner beekeeping book.


- **Feb. 25:** Northeastern Bee School, Maysville Community and Technical College, 1755 U.S. Hwy. 68, Maysville. Speaker: **Dr. Clare Rittschof**, University of Kentucky. Classes in all aspects of beekeeping offered. Registration 7:30 a.m. EST, school 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Preregistration $20 adults, $750 children 12 and under, before Feb. 22. Registration $25 at the door. Lunch included.

  Bobby Fore, 1338 Stevens Road, Owingsville, KY 40360. Mark payments “ATTN: 2017 Beekeeping School” and make checks payable to Licking River Beekeepers Association.

See **BeeLines**, page 3
**EDUCATION  … from page 2**

- **Feb. 25: Small Farm/Garden Conference,** Franks Building, Boyd County Fairgrounds, 1768 Addington Road, Ashland. Dr. Tammy Horn Potter, state apiarist, and UK extension specialists and agents. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. EST. Door prizes. Free. Lunch not provided.
  
  Caution: Google directions may not be reliable. For directions, visit boyd.ca.uky.edu (Boyd County Cooperative Extension website). Also follow this link: https://www.google.com/maps/@38.3804321,-82.7226268,14.25z to view a map online.

- **Feb. 25: Beginner Bee School,** Northern Kentucky Beekeepers Association, Boone County Enrichment Center, lower level, 6028 Camp Ernst Rd., Burlington. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. EST. 30-minute lunch. Bring a brown-bag lunch; club provides drinks and snacks. No charge.
  
  Tom Spille, tomspille@yahoo.com.

**Mar. 4: Audubon Beekeepers Bee School,** Henderson County Cooperative Extension Expo Center, 3341 Zion Road, Henderson. Speaker, Debbie Seib, President, Heartland Apiculture Society. Pre-registration, $15 for adults. $5 for 12 years and younger. Lunch included. Registration at the door, $20.

More information: Larry Stone, (270) 339-7245; Jan Powell, (270) 860-2942; Or visit audubonbeekeepersassociation.com.

**Mar. 4: Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association.** Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 109 Corporate Drive Complex, Frankfort. Guest speakers, Dwight Wells, Heartland Bee Breeders Association, and Tom Webster, Kentucky State University. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. EST. Open to members. Membership is $100, and can be paid at the door or mailed to treasurer Joe Taylor, P.O. Box 234, Leitchfield, KY 42755.

Association president is Dorothee Morgan, lavenderlanefarms@gmail.com or (606) 801-1491.

- **March 11: Bluegrass Beekeepers School,** Kentucky State University, Frankfort. Registration 8 a.m. EST, opening session 9 a.m., school concludes 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration $25 per adult, $10 high school age and younger. Registration at the door $35 per adult and $15 for high school age and younger.

  For registration form and information, visit Bluegrass Beekeepers Association web page, bluegrassbeekeepers.com, or contact Phil Clark, (859) 492-9910 or pdc3393@twc.com.

- **March 18: Kentucky State Beekeepers Association Spring Meet,** Franks Building, Boyd Co. Fairgrounds, 1768 Addington Rd, Ashland, KY 41102. Also sessions in Catlettsburg. Stephanie Tarwater (Tennessee inspector) and Gabe Blatt (West Virginia Heartland Queen Bee Breeders). Main area hotels are Hampton Inn and Fairfield Inn. Many nearby restaurants.

  Caution: Google directions may not be reliable. For directions, visit boyd.ca.uky.edu (Boyd County Cooperative Extension website). Also follow https://www.google.com/maps/@38.3804321,-82.7226268,14.25z to view a map online.

**Apriarist’s advice available on podcast**

State Apiarist Dr. Tammy Horn Potter was interviewed on the Kentucky Farm Bureau “Across Kentucky” podcast on how honey bee hives make it through the trials of winter.

AUDIO: kyfb.com/federation/newsroom/across-kentucky-january-28-201

**Honey Bee Health videos at KSBA**

The Honey Bee Health Coalition has produced a series of honey bee health videos, focusing on combating parasites. The videos are available at the KSBA website and are watchable on portable media, including smartphones, enabling beekeepers to take this data to the field.

visit ksbaheekeeping.org/honey-bee-health-coalition-unveils-videos-to-help-beekeepers-combat-devastating-parasites/
The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40 percent of the score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources are all evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources not cited in the endnotes should be listed in a “Resources” or “Bibliography” list.

Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words.