

CVBA Newsletter  
Volume 12, Number 8  
August 1, 2021  
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### Next Meeting:

**Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Linda Rizzardi

### Upcoming:

**August 30-September 4:** Claiborne County Fair-We will Not be doing the fair this year.

Clinch Valley Beekeepers Association meets every month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 pm. Our meeting place is:

Treadway Fire Hall  
189 Highway 131  
Treadway, TN 37881

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/clinchvalleybeekeepers](http://www.facebook.com/clinchvalleybeekeepers)

Website: <http://clinchvalleybeekeepers.org> Email:

[clinchvalley\\_beekeepers@yahoo.com](mailto:clinchvalley_beekeepers@yahoo.com)

### Upcoming Speakers

September-Jim Garrison

### Bee Funny

What did the bee in the hot tub say?

(Answer on the bottom of the last page.)

### Notes from July Meeting:

After opening with prayer, we had some business to attend to this meeting. The Field Day for July 3 was a success. Several people attended and they really got into the bees and all the workings in the hive. It is great to have all the interest in bees and the support of the club. Thank you to all who made it possible and especially to those who attended.

The Claiborne County Fair is the last week in August to September and we had planned to have a booth, however since the meeting we found out that we will Not have a booth at the fair this year as it is not available.

There are 3 October festivals: Sneedville, Rogersville, and Morristown. We can work in 2 hour shifts so everyone can enjoy the weekends of the festivals, or you can work as long as you can. CVBA will have a booth at each one. Volunteers are needed to work these as well. Again, brand new members are encouraged to come and help us. Experience is not a requirement to help. More experienced beekeepers are still learning too, and we need both to have a good booth.

For all activities, Candy Halford has a sign-up sheet to pick your work times. You don't have to sign up to work, just come on by!

(continued on page 2)

June Meeting continuation:

Chris Kuenzer then came and spoke to our club. His topic was honey production.

The national average of honey per hive is 65 lb. In East Tennessee probably more. He gets 300 lbs. from a single hives on some times. He usually gets well over 100 lbs. per hive. The following is his system. Honey production has variables that we cannot control. Weather is the main thing both fall and spring.

July- Summer queens are better mated than early spring queens. Replace all unproductive queens with summer queens. Replace all older queens with summer queens. He waits until there is a high enough drone count. He never banks queens because it shuts down the queens' ovaries. Your honey production is only as good as your queen. Write on the outside when you installed a new queen, marked or unmarked, and what breed of queen she is. If you have a marked queen and you find an unmarked queen in the hive, you probably had a swarm that you missed. You then know if it is a new queen. Don't feed in July-there is still a little flow going on. He also wants a little brood break for mite control and such.

August- Use only Cane Sugar. Feed 1:1 syrup. Continue requeening. This is to stimulate the queen. Beet sugar does not stimulate the queen like cane sugar does. You want the new queen to lay more winter bees. He keeps bee queens for maximum of 2 years.

September-Feed only if no flow is going on. Do not pull the fall honey, leave it for the bees. He only takes honey in the spring. Add treatments for mites. He uses Formic acid. Whatever you use follow the directions and check the temperature for the treatment you are using.

October & November- Feed bees 1:1. Reduce your small or weak hives to nucs. Do not combine. Much better off to reduce to nucs. Can stack them. (Always keep nucs on hand. Put your swarm cells in them and get more queens all during the spring and summer.)

December- Use Honey B Healthy and feed dry feed especially small colonies and nucs. He does have a YouTube Channel that shows how he does it. Basically, he puts wax paper with 2" open on one edge for air flow. He puts a block of wood to hold the sugar from going down the frames. He then puts 5-10 lbs of sugar on the waxed paper, added enough diluted Honey B Healthy (8 Tab per gallon of water) and uses 4-6 oz to mix the sugar into a "goop". "Goop goes on the bottom the rest of the sugar on top will catch any condensation and that is good. The whole thing doesn't need to be "goop". Just trying to get them started to eat it. Put a slit in the paper as well. Use 2" spacer or a super.

January- Do not touch bees but build the boxes and frames you will need for the coming season. Have 3 supers for each hive ready and 5 supers of drawn comb or combination for each hive. Get it ready or you will lose honey.

February- Check your bees and add Dry feed only. Do not use syrup. Continue your equipment. Ideally, the bees did not eat all the feed you put on already.

March-Begin 1:1 syrup feed. Add a medium or deep of drawn comb. Do not use queen excluders. He says the plastic are wearing the bee wings out. The metal are better, but it slows the bees and makes them work harder therefore giving more honey. Pear trees bloom 6 weeks before the main flow. High protein content and it is great for bees' wings. Cottonwood, Poplar (this is late though), Clover (crimson is early) are also good for high protein.

April- Balance your hives. Move 1 capped brood from the strong hive to a weak hive. Don't overdo it, the brood will not keep warm. Feed if needed depending on the flow. If there is 5 days of rain-feed enough for 5

days. Begin your inspections! Mid-April. Stop feed 2 weeks before the honey production begins. Move any strong hives away from the weak hives and add honey supers. If locust is around put up to 4 supers of drawn comb on a hive at a time. If you have only foundation you can wait on how many to put on. Slower flow use the foundation only. He uses 2 deeps and 1-2 medium for brood only. If you want honey the queen has to have all the room she needs to lay. If she needs it add more for brood. Do not confine the queen especially early in the season. If she feels confined, she will swarm. Check for swarm cells every 10 days! You have to check during this month. You can move honey down once the flow comes to try to help keep the queen down. Catch swarms in your area only as it increases your risk of diseases. If you have a problem, call you local inspector to check it out!

May- Keep checking for swarm cells until the honey makes it unrealistic. He top supers only. You usually have honey or splits but not both. So, if you're a honey producer don't split it! You just get the minimum for your nuc if needed. (Queen cells). You want bigger colonies for quality and quantity of honey.

June- Pull honey and put the wet comb after you have extracted honey on the honey colonies as quick as you take them off. Rob and put on wet comb that helps keep swarms down too.

July- Leave one full super box of honey on for the bees. Reduce honey supers for fall flow. Make late season splits now. A late season split is taking a hive and dividing all in half not making a nuc.

He uses screen bottom board. Ventilation in the winter and it lets the honey dry faster too. He also uses 8 frames in a 10 frame hive to get the honey pulled out from the frames. A 10 frame with 9 frame the frame weighs 3.9 lbs. On a 10 frame with 8 frames it weighs 6 lbs. and a extracted honey frame weighs a proximally 1 lb. So, a 9 frame spaced box brings in 28 lbs. of honey an 8 framed spaced box brings in 40 lbs. of honey and takes less equipment! But you must only use drawn comb to use 8 frames this with or the bee space will be too much, and they will go every which way! A medium 9 frame makes 80 lbs. while a medium 8 frame makes 160 lb. He also marks the box outside if it is a 8 or 9 frame and he uses 9 in 10 frame always. The plastic spacers do not cost much and if you use them it helps.

As a new beekeeper learn what blooms when in your area. This way you learn when to put on supers, etc.

Work your bees with purpose. It only takes about 5 min to inspect a colony. You do not need to pull every frame and/or see the queen. Disturb as little as possible. Look for eggs, larva, and brood. No problem, go to the next colony. Only if you see a problem do you need to go in deeper.

Don't over expand! Don't do more than double your hives each year. It helps you get your foundation etc all together. By 10 colonies it is more work than hobby, but it is a good job to have if you really like it.

Do not use unwired foundation for comb honey. It could have miticides when you buy it. Use a half inch piece of wood or a popsicle stick and put in frame then the bees fill it out. You lose 8 pounds honey for one pound comb. So comb honey should cost at least \$2 more per jar.

Questions and answers followed. This was an interesting meeting. Please try to join us each month.

His YouTube Channel is Kuenzer Homesteading

For the winter feed video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q205PpUoJVY&ab\\_channel=KuenzerHomesteading](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q205PpUoJVY&ab_channel=KuenzerHomesteading)

## **Beekeeping Calendar**

### **August**

(Adapted from: <https://cookevillebeekeepers.com/tn-beekeeping-annual-calendar>)

All the honey should have been taken from the hive last month. And hives would be reduced.

Other than keeping an eye on things and completing mite treatments by the 15th there isn't a lot to do this month. Hive populations fall off. Robbing continues with any nectar source getting mobbed by out of work foragers.

Protect your hives from being robbed by other bees. Feed if needed.

### **Support Your Bee Club**

#### **Clinch Valley Beekeeper Association Hats, T-shirts, and Cookbooks**

T-shirts are \$10 and \$12 for XXL+ sizes

Hats are \$8

Cookbooks are \$10.

#### **Club Membership**

CVBA dues are still \$10 a year for a single person and \$15 a year for a family. See a CVBA officer to complete a new membership form. You may pay your dues directly to one of the CVBA officers or mail them (please include your phone number and email address in case we need to reach you) to the following address:

Clinch Valley Beekeeper Association

C/O William Barnett

4853 Highway 31

Sneedville, TN 37869

If any of your information (address, phone numbers, email, etc.) changes, please let us know. We want to make sure you can stay connected with the club to help you get the most out of your membership!

#### **Clinch Valley Beekeepers Library**

Check out the selection of books and DVDs we have available. If you have a book or video checked out, please return it at the next meeting. Books can be returned to the Club Librarian, President, or Secretary. If you have an idea for a book or DVD you think would be good for our library let us know.

## Recipe of the Month

(Adapted from <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/how-use-honey>)

### Have Honey- Will Use it

**Spicy chicken marinade:** Mix together 1 tsp each ground cumin, coriander and cardamom, then combine with 1 tbsp honey and a little olive oil. Massage into boneless chicken thighs and leave for 30 mins. Grill on high until lightly charred, occasionally basting with the marinade as they cook.

**Roasted nut nibbles:** Whisk together equal quantities olive oil and honey, then season with sea salt and cayenne pepper to taste. Pour over unsalted nuts (cashews, almonds and walnuts all work well), toss to coat, then roast in the oven at 200C/fan 180C/ gas 6 for 10-15 mins, turning halfway through until golden. Leave to cool before serving.

**Tangy salad dressing** Whisk together 6 tbsp olive oil, 1 tbsp white wine vinegar, 1 tsp Dijon mustard and 1 tbsp honey. Season and toss over crisp salad leaves. For a creamier dressing, add a little crème fraîche.

**Honey & rosemary pork:** Roast a joint of pork on a bed of rosemary sprigs and insert a few rosemary leaves into the scored rind. With 5 mins cooking time left, remove from the oven and brush all over with a generous coating of honey. Roast for another 5 mins for crispy, honeyed crackling.

**Mint tahini dip:** Mix together 4 tbsp tahini paste with 2 tbsp natural yogurt, 2 tsp honey and the juice 1 lemon. Stir in 1 small crushed garlic clove, seasoning to taste and a small handful of chopped mint. Great with juicy lamb skewers and warm pitta bread.

**Quick sauce for pancakes:** Melt unsalted butter in a pan and stir in half as much honey. Gently warm through, then pour straight over pancakes for a tasty treat.

**Sticky roasted vegetables:** Perk up roasted vegetables with a simple orange dressing. Whisk zest and juice 1 orange, 1 tbsp honey, 1 crushed garlic clove and leaves from a few sprigs thyme. Pour in a little olive oil, then drizzle the dressing over chopped vegetables of your choice. Roast in a hot oven for 30 mins until cooked through, sticky and golden.

**Homemade granola:** Make your own breakfast cereal by mixing 2 parts rolled oats to 1 part roughly chopped hazelnuts and sunflower seeds. Add ground cinnamon to taste. Melt a generous knob unsalted butter with a few tbsp honey, then stir into the mixture. Bake in a low oven for 45 mins until toasted and golden. When cool, tumble in a few dried berries and raisins. Serve with milk or with fruit compote and a dollop Greek yogurt.

**Lemon & ginger refresher:** Squeeze juice ½ lemon into a heatproof glass, then add a small knob finely grated root ginger and a spoonful honey, or more to taste. Top up with boiling water and finish with a slice of lemon.

**Scented banana smoothie:** Blitz together a ripe banana, small pot live natural yogurt, splash of apple juice, drizzle of honey and a good pinch ground cinnamon. Throw in a small handful pecan nuts and give it a final blitz. Pour into 2 tall glasses, then dust with cinnamon. Perfect for a mid-afternoon energy boost.

## Bee Insights

Adapted from: <https://carolinahoneybees.com>

### Feeding Your Bees

#### How to Feed Honey Bees Sugar Water

When honey bees are not able to collect enough food through natural sources, beekeepers need to help. The most common way to help a hungry colony is by feeding bees sugar water. While sugar water or sugar syrup is not exactly the same as plant nectar, it will keep a colony alive. However, supplemental feeding is not without its challenges. Failure to do it right may create more problems for your hives.

If you see someone pushing a cart full of sugar through the market, that person might be a beekeeper. We beekeepers do get some funny looks when shopping for so much cane sugar. Yet, each year thousands of beekeepers invest their time and money making supplement food for their colonies. So why do we beekeepers go to all this effort? There must be a good reason, right? Are beekeepers nuts? Well, yea – sometimes, but not in this case. For the colony low on food stores, feeding by the beekeeper can be the difference between life and death.

#### Should You Feed Your Bees Sugar Water?

In the beekeeping industry, opinions vary a bit on whether or not feeding bees sugar water is wise. The topic is debatable and depends on the location and condition of each colony.

The absolute best food our colonies is plant nectar and pollen. Natural nectar has an abundance of nutrients that cannot be replaced with plain sugar and water.

But sometimes a colony is low on food stores through no fault of the bees. This could be due to a new colony just building their home, swarms starting from scratch or even weather conditions. Faced with the fact of letting a colony starve or feeding them, most beekeeper choose to feed the hives. However, the concept of feeding honey bees often creates a division among beekeepers. Some beekeepers feel that you should never feed your hives, period. Other beekeepers accept the need to feed their hives when conditions warrant.

#### What is Sugar Water & How You Make It?

What exactly is sugar water and why should we use that for bee food? This recipe for bee feeding is made by mixing white granulated cane sugar and water. Granulated sugar dissolved into water, mimics natural plant nectar. While it is not exactly the same nutritionally, it is very similar in sweetness. And honey bees are accustomed to collecting liquid food.

When making sugar water for your bees, it is important to only use white sugar. Never use molasses or brown sugar as this will make your colonies sick – or dead.

Many beekeepers use a feeding supplement added to the bee food. This is usually in liquid form and encourages good feeding. It also prevents your syrup from becoming moldy.

Other than the products available commercially, there are homemade recipes for using essential oils to feed bees. This is thought to promote better bee health. These products are concentrated- add only a small amount.

#### Bee Food Recipes

There are 2 basic recipes for bee sugar water commonly used by beekeepers . The ingredients in bee food recipes varies only in sweetness. We are mixing a percentage of water to a percentage of dry granulated sugar. You can measure by weight or volume it does not matter.

#### How to Make 1 Gallon of Sugar Water for Bees

Mix equal amounts of granulated sugar and water to create 1:1 sugar water. You can measure with cups or use weight as the unit of measure. It does not matter because either method of measuring will result in a 1:1 sugar : water syrup.

For 1 Gallon of 1:1 Sugar Water: 10 2/3 cups of granulated sugar and 10 2/3 cups of warm water. Do not stress over exact measurements. Even in the field, nectar sources vary a bit in sweetness.

2:1 Sugar Water: A 2:1 ratio contains twice as much sugar as water. For example, 8 cups of sugar to 4 cups of water. When using this mixture, use very warm water to dissolve the sugar easier. However, do not boil your bee syrup, this is not good and it is not necessary.

<b>Recipes For Sugar Water</b>	
Can be measured by volume or weight	
<b>1:1 (one to one)</b> equal parts of pure cane sugar & warm water EX: 1 cup of sugar/1 cup of water 1 # of sugar/ 1 # of water	<b>2:1 (two to one)</b> 2 parts of pure cane sugar & 1 part warm water 2 cups of sugar/1 cup of water 2 # of sugar/ 1 # of water
Use to promote brood rearing in new colonies	Promotes honey storage for winter

### Feeding Bees By the Season

Why are these 2 different ratios used in feeding bees? I'm glad you asked. While both bee syrup recipes provide carbohydrates, feeding them has different results on the colony.

**Feeding Bees in Spring or for Colony Buildup:** Spring is a time of growth as over-wintered colonies are busy raising bee brood. New hives that are started from buying packages are

struggling to get their colony established. Feeding honey bees a 1:1 ratio, promotes brood rearing. This thin mixture is closest to the sweetness of natural nectar. With "new nectar" being placed in the comb, the bees are not afraid of starvation and are more likely to ramp up brood rearing. This same method of feeding 1:1 applies to any time throughout the season when you have a colony in need of food. Perhaps a new split hive could benefit from some supplemental feeding.

**Feeding Bees in the Fall:** It is not uncommon to find colonies that are not quite ready for Winter. These colonies run the risk of starvation without supplemental feeding. The ratio of 2:1 is fed to honey bees to promote food storage. This mix is not as likely to encourage brood rearing and more likely to end up stored in comb for Winter. Of course, this will not be really honey but the colony will store it as such. It is much better to feed your colony rather than have them starve in the middle of Winter. Fall feeding should be complete before cold weather arrives.

### When Should I Start Feeding Bees Sugar Water?

There are two situations where a beekeeper must consider providing supplemental food for colonies. The new colony started from scratch and established hives that are unable to harvest enough nectar are both in need. If you purchase bees in a package, they arrive on the scene with no resources. They have no drawn beeswax comb, food stores, or brood. Begin feeding a new colony 1:1 immediately and continue until all of their comb is drawn out. Because they begin with nothing, understanding how to feed a new package is critical to their growth. This cannot wait several days.

Problems with your queen honey bee, a late freeze that causes a nectar dearth and other issues can make hive buildup very difficult for new colonies. Even established colonies may benefit from supplemental feeding at times. Weeks without rain that create a nectar dearth or other weather conditions may cause a deficit of incoming nectar. Offering these colonies a helping hand can be the difference between a strong colony going into Winter or a weak one that is dead before Christmas.

### Does Feeding Bees Make Them Lazy?

Feeding bees does not make them lazy. In fact, honey bees prefer natural nectar when good sources are available. Some bee hives will need to be fed and some may never need it – depending on local conditions.

### When to Stop Feeding Bees Sugar Water

Feed new colonies, or captured swarms, until they are established and have some food stores. Check your hives in mid to late Summer, are the bees filling the box with brood and food? The biggest mistake made by new beekeepers is failing to feed a new colony long enough.

Established colonies can usually survive on their own unless you are in a drought. If you know that your hive has enough food stored for Winter-you don't need to feed. One of the best secrets to successful Fall feeding. is to get out there and get it done in late summer before the weather cools.

### When You Should Not Feed Bees Sugar Water

Yes, there will be times when you should not be feeding bees syrup. These include times of cold weather, when your honey collection supers are on and a few other situations. Bees cannot make good use of sugar syrup in cold temperatures. It's important to get those colonies ready before cold weather arrives. Remember, never feed bees when honey collection supers are on the hive. I am referring to boxes of honey that are intended for human consumption. The bees will use any nectar (or nectar-like substance) to make honey. Honey produced from sugar water instead of nectar – that's a no-no. And, its not real honey.

### Final Tips on Feeding Sugar Water to Honey Bees

Feeding bees is a lot of work and expense. How much you need to feed will depend on your climate and foraging conditions. Too little food during Spring build up causes the bees to sacrifice brood or developing young bees. Poor foraging conditions in the Fall prevents storage of food for Winter survival. Especially when keeping many hives in one location, remember that we cannot always rely on natural nectar. This is another example of why it is important to connect with local beekeepers – they will know the key times when you may need to consider feeding your bees.

Master Beekeeper, Charlotte Anderson shares her love of all things honeybee. She helps others become better beekeepers and teaches new beekeepers how to get started. Her mission is spreading awareness of the importance of honey bees. She is a former Beekeeper of the Year in South Carolina.

#### CVBA Board of Directors and Officers

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Board Members: David Sams 423-693-6846  
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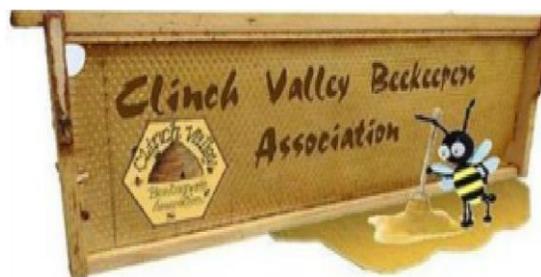
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Debbie Clayton 865-310-2421  
Bill Clayton 423-626-8786

##### Sullivan County

Wayne Yates 423-288-6536



CVBA encourages each person to further their education by reading books, checking out various websites, and watching the videos that are available on bees and beekeeping. We also encourage everyone to have a mentor, especially if you are new to beekeeping. If you need a mentor, please let us know at the next meeting and we will try to find one that is close to you and/or your apiary. Remember all apiaries must be registered with the State of TN. Forms are available at the meeting or they can be downloaded from the internet. <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/bees/forms.html> We also encourage membership in the Tennessee Bee Association. Forms are available at the club meetings.

Answer to Bee Funny- Swarm in here!