

WARREN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
May 2010



**MEETING
NEWS**

The next meeting will be May 2nd at 2:00pm. The address of the meeting place for future Warren County Beekeepers Association is:
Lebanon
Presbyterian Church,
123 N. East St.,
Lebanon, OH 45036.

We will have a panel discussion and answer questions anyone has. Thank you to Michelle Hansen for bringing refreshments.

Annual Dues are due. Please pay Gary Leever.

Family \$25

Individual \$20

Warren County Beekeepers website: www.warrencountybeekeepers.org/

National Honey Board website: <http://www.honey.com/> recipes, information, downloads and more!

USA- 44 M DOLLARS IN CROPS THREATENED BY HONEYBEE DEATHS THIS WINTER IN OHIO

An estimated 50 to 70 percent of hives kept by beekeepers died, said Cindy Kalis, spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The losses are in keeping with heavy fatality rates experienced since 2006 — a year when 600,000 bee colonies in the U.S. mysteriously fled their homes and disappeared, said James Tew, Ohio State University's state honeybee specialist. Bees annually pollinate Ohio crops worth \$44 million, including berries, fruits and vegetables. Honey sales yield \$1.4 million, according to Agriculture Department entomologist Barb Bloetscher. In the 1920s, Ohio beekeepers kept 120,000 colonies. Today, there are about 30,000.

BEEKEEPERS CALANDAR

MAY AND THE BEES: Bees are in full operation now that it is May. You can stop feeding strong hives now because they are bringing in lots of nectar and pollen. The hive is expanding rapidly. The brood chambers are filling up fast and becoming crowded and congested.

MAY AND THE BEEKEEPER: RED ALERT!! BEES SWARM IN MAY! You will have to implement a swarm control strategy. Keep in mind that bees swarm as a way of multiplying. It is not a sign of being a poor beekeeper. However, there are some important steps to implement to try to prevent swarming. Keep in mind that you must provide room for your hive to expand. And, you should put on honey supers in May. Put on as many as you'd like. I think it is good practice to have a minimum of two honey supers on all hives during the nectar season. Three or four supers are even better. Don't wait to add your supers or you may miss particular nectar flows. Get all supers on by May 1st!



Consider having an extra, empty hive on hand so you'll be able to capture a swarm. You will want to capture your own swarms or you will probably receive phone calls once your neighbors learn you are a beekeeper.

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