**8-23-18 YCEA MEETING**

1. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:
	1. Thanks given to:
		1. Mark Gingrich for hosting the summer picnic
		2. Volunteers that helped at Browns Farm Market for Honey Bee Day
		3. Joyce Wilder for arranging pick up of a back drop display for future events
	2. Volunteers needed:
		1. Volunteers to man the booth at the York Fair September 7-16, 2018
			* + Volunteers are asked to send mailing address to Coral to receive parking passes email Coral at coral1051@gmail.com
	3. Centennial shirt/cap sales will be accepting until August 31st by Jane Picking & Joan Schell.
	4. Guild program application deadline is approaching
		1. Requirements/skill levels are listed on the website
		2. Good way to evaluate personal development ~ completely voluntary
	5. Tri-County Meeting (York, Lancaster & Harrisburg) This information was not known at the meeting – happened the next day. See website for maps and specifics. Randy Oliver will be this year’s presenter. A hand count was taken of folks planning to attend. An Sign Up Genus notice will be sent out to get a headcount for Lancaster county for planning purposes.
	6. YCBA Fall Banquet to be held October 27th at York Central Market.
		1. Finalizing menu and pricing cost expected to be $25-$30 per person
		2. Volunteers needed prior to banquet to assist answering questions at the market
	7. The Secretary position is open if anyone is interested should contact Gary Anderson.
	8. Social events – anyone participating in social events are to let the Gary know to gain support (borrow display and potentially a future observation hive).
		1. We are classified as a non-for-profit 501c3, encouragement for the community to see our involvement and financially aid our outreach efforts.
	9. Jeremy Barnes has asked volunteers to assist with topics and desired speakers for next year’s meetings.
2. STATE OF THE BEES by David Papke
	1. LATE SUMMER
		1. Beekeepers often believe they have queenless hives based on finding little or no brood. It is not uncommon for queens to shutdown laying for short periods of time during this time of the year. Encouraged beekeepers to wait 2-3 weeks and see if laying picks up.
		2. Large colonies can get cranky this time of year. If you do not have to go into a colony, once your mite checks/treatments completed, may want to let them be. Large colonies can also be searching for nectar and/or robbing weaker hives. Reduce entrances of the weaker hives to help colonies defend their honey stores. Look for robbing (robbing is when a stronger hive will take honey stores from a weaker hive). Robbing puts guard bees on high alert.
		3. Colonies are now raising the bees which will be going into winter. Winter bees live longer and have more fat. Healthy bees have better survival odds. **If you have not treated for mites it is important to do so.** In preparation for the fall, get the mouse guards in place. Some weaker colonies may need to be combined to make stronger hives for the winter. Some beekeepers will re-queen this time of year (first year queens are less likely to swarm). Suppers and Queen excluders should be removed.
		4. Some honey bee favorite plants in bloom now: sedum, goldenrod, asters, clematis, joe pye weed, dahlias, yarrow, sage & catmint.
	2. PROGRAM WITH MAGGIE DOUGLAS – assistant professor of environmental science at Dickinson College, Carlisle PA
		1. Clues to bee health from reading the landscape and beekeeper data.
		2. This project is a collaborative effort with the Department of Agriculture.
		3. Colony health and signs of trouble
			1. Colony losses 35-40% in the U.S.
			2. No smoking gun but many factors including: lack of food, parasites, pesticides and general lack of flora.
		4. Need for landscape perspective
			1. Reading and understanding the waggle dance
			2. Displayed the study of distances bees travel for resources – covering much territory – crossing wide areas with potential for a multitude of dangers.
			3. This proposes a challenge because we cannot control the entire landscape our bee’s travel, what is the alternative?
		5. Potential for scientists and beekeeper cooperation
			1. Displayed maps of registered apiaries within PA. This showed different locations and densities. The use of this information provided by beekeepers allow scientist to see into the apiaries.
				* Beekeeper actions: mite treatments, splits, honey harvest
				* External factors: density of hives, surrounding vegetation
				* Colony dynamics is combining the information of both beekeeper actions and external factors.
		6. Colony Dynamics:
			1. Takes land over maps and predicts the amount of food for bees.
			2. From public sources can gain maps of the pesticide use (for commercial locations) and predict the toxicity for bees.
			3. Would expect the hive density (density maps) to impact varroa mites.
			4. For this study they are using the USDA data and the three maps listed above.
		7. Results:
			1. Results broken down into counties
			2. York County proves to be in a very challenging area to raise bees; many threats and not many aids.
			3. Reviewed the different types of pesticides and which showed to be most toxic (pyrethrins and neonicotinoids).
			4. **Toxic externally vs. internally**
				* **Oral toxic loads appear to be increasing**
				* **Neonicotinoids are very high with corn ~ though bees are not necessarily attracted to corn the impact of these pesticide treatments affecting surrounding areas that are attracted by bees is real.**
				* **In PA compared corn crops to fruit crops. Showed a decrease in fruit crops and an increase in corn and soy. These neonicotinoids are the widely used in these crops and the dosage used has also increased.**
				* **What does this mean:**

**Know the planting dates of your neighbors with corn and protect the bees.**

**Try to identify the chronic effect on the bees**

* + - * + Preliminary data from state beekeeper survey:

269 apiaries in York County completed the survey.

Average is 2 hives and keeping bees for 2-5 years.

High winter losses ~ thought from mites and small clusters

Graph showed the treatment for mites directly impacted the winter survival numbers.

Much variation, need more beekeeper information

Plea for ALL beekeepers to fill out the yearly USDA survey

* + - 1. Look for the web app coming next year
			2. Contact to supply more information or questions: psuland4bees@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Ayres