

Beezette

May 2024

Warren County Ohio Beekeepers
Meeting at: Lebanon Presbyterian Church
123 N. East Street, Lebanon, OH 45036
warrencountyohiobeekeepers@gmail.com
www.warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org
www.facebook.com/groups/1769801953287281/



Next Meeting:

There will be no meeting in May in observance of Mothers' Day. Our next meeting will be in June. **It will not be at the church. The location TBD.**

HONEY JUDGING

Have you ever considered entering your beautiful honey into your county / state fair? Here are the criteria used to judge honey and other hive products, as well as some helpful pointers to assist beekeepers hoping to win that blue ribbon.

Extracted honey

Extracted honey is the most basic of hive products, and therefore the category has the largest entry in most competitions. It can also be one of the more difficult categories in which to perform well, so understanding the judge's criteria is very important to achieve a high score. There are light, amber, and dark categories of extracted honey.

A. Density (20 points)

The moisture content of honey is typically measured with a special instrument called a refractometer. If the moisture content of the extracted honey is above 18.6%, the entry is automatically disqualified because it may permit microbial growth and ferment. Water content below 15.5%, while not disqualified, may be docked points by the judge's discretion.

B. Absence of crystals (10 points)

The honey should be free of crystallization. These particles can best be viewed with a bright flashlight or polariscope (a special polarized light source that highlights particulate matter in honey).

C. Cleanliness (30 points)

There should be an absence of lint (7 points), dirt (10 points), wax (7 points), and foam (6 points) in the honey. While these particles can never be removed completely, they can be greatly reduced using proper straining and settling techniques.

D. Flavor (20 points)

Points will be reduced for honey flavor that has been adversely affected by processing, storage, or heating. This does not include subjective differences in taste depending on the floral source of the honey.

E. Accuracy of filling and uniformity (10 points)

Sets of three jars are required for each entry. Each vessel must be filled to just below the top rim and should be consistent among all three jars. Also, there should be an absence of air bubbles in the honey or foam on the surface.

F. Container appearance (10 points)

All of the containers, including lids, must be free of defects, scratches, and smudges. The inside of the lids must also be clean and have no honey residue. Glass or plastic jars are acceptable.

Conclusion

Placing an entry into the State Fair or local competition is highly rewarding, even if you do not win the blue ribbon. Understanding the rules and judging criteria will increase your enjoyment of a honey competition, and hopefully increase your chances of success. You should also consult the County / State Fair Handbook for details and regulations of the honey competition, since entries that do not conform to the rulebook are disqualified.

General Club Information:

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership renewals for 2024 continue to be accepted. Membership dues are due on January 1st of each year. Member dues remain the same at \$20 individual and \$25/family. Registration is online. Fill out the form at: <https://warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org/join-or-renew-with-paypal/>
- Payments are made via PayPal, but a PayPal account is NOT required.

Mentors

- Club members with a minimum of three years of beekeeping experience looking to mentor are welcome to fill out a Mentor Form on the club website.
- For members looking for mentors, go to www.warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org/mentors.
- **Calling bee enthusiasts, many hands make light work**; please consider getting involved with the club in a volunteer position. It's a great way to learn and share "beek" knowledge and experiences. Send an email with your comments or questions to warrencountyohiobeekeepers@gmail.com

WCOB Club Officers:

President Paul Dorger
Vice President Laura Fazekas
Treasurer Alan DeJarnette
Web Manager..... Rose DeJarnette
Director of Education Beatriz (Bea) Woodall
Secretary Dian Danino

A list of responsibilities for our board positions is posted on the WCOB website under “Members” at www.warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org/members/officer-job-responsibilities/

WCOB logo hats, shirts and outerwear can now be purchased online. Go to our website warrencountyohiobeekeepers.org, then click on Members/WCOB Logo Wear.



HONEY EXTRACTOR RENTAL

Warren County Ohio Beekeepers has a honey extractor that can be rented by members for \$5.00 per day. Any questions or comments should be directed to wcobeetreasurer@gmail.com.

What To Do in the Month Ahead:

- Referenced from “*Beekeeping for Dummies*” by Howland Blackiston from the Beekeeping Calendar for May:
 - Test / Treat for Varroa mites.
 - Check for eggs/queen.
 - Add queen supers as needed
 - Install new bees in hive
 - Check for swarm cells