

What is CCD?

During the past year many honey bee colonies in the U.S. have been stricken by a malady labeled **COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER**.

Today, the cause for this has not been identified, however many problems have been suggested as contributing to CCD. Chief among them are viruses, diseases and a wide variety of stresses beekeepers put on their bees during management.

These stresses include exposure of our bees to agricultural pesticides, and the necessary treatments beekeepers must use to protect bees from their normal pests. Many beekeepers use their bees for pollinating farmer's crops, traveling to many states to do so. Moving bees around the country is stressful on bees and beekeepers, but is necessary for income.

Another factor scientists are considering is abnormal weather conditions which may be causing nutritional problems for our bees. Stressed plants don't produce pollen or nectar so there's not enough food. Beekeepers have to feed their bees, and, though not detrimental, honey and pollen substitutes are not the best honey bee foods. This too can cause stress.

Cell phones, genetically engineered pollen and nectar, power lines, toxic chemicals in hives, exotic agricultural pesticides and foreign diseases have been ruled out as the main causes of **CCD**, though they may play a contributing role in this ongoing problem. Scientists are seeking funds to study the problem, so stay tuned to see if they can find the cause, before all the bees disappear.

Why Do We Need More Beekeepers?

One of the main reasons we need more beekeepers is that wild native bees and feral honeybees are no longer available in large numbers. Honeybees have been threatened by various pests and establishing new honeybee colonies is crucial to securing successful pollination.



Join Today Call (910)455-5873 for more info

We meet at 7:00 PM, the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Onslow County Multipurpose Complex located at 4024 Richlands Hwy. Jacksonville, NC 28540



Interested in Learning More about Honeybees?
Already Have Hives of your own?

Come Join Us,
The Onslow County
Beekeepers Association

www.ocbeeks.com

Reasons to Join OCBA

1. **Meet New People.** Share ideas and fellowship while learning more about honeybees.
2. **Gain Beekeeping Skills.** We get together once a month, or more, to find out the latest in management techniques, marketing information, problem solving ideas, and just plain Bee Talk!
3. **Use Our Extensive Library.** We have a library of videos, books, and magazines devoted to helping us learn new skills or refresh old skills.
4. **Just the Right Level.** Our members include large scale beekeepers, sideliners, and beginners. No matter what your level there's someone there just like you.
5. **Attend Our Field Meetings.** Every year we schedule field trips to a local apiary. This is a great place to watch a skilled instructor showing management tricks, problem solving, or just a friendly look-see.

Beekeeping Classes

OCBA provides up to two beekeeping classes per year depending on interest. One class is held in the Fall with another in the Spring if needed. Lectures are given at the Onslow County Multipurpose Complex. It is an excellent way for those curious about beekeeping to learn with minimal expense.



Exhibits & Presentations

OCBA provides beekeeping presentations and exhibits at public and private events. These help educate the public about the benefits that honeybees provide. Honeybees are our crop's most important insect pollinator. We even have a Honey House located behind the Onslow County Farmer's Market.

Swarm Collection

A number of OCBA members will be glad to collect honeybee swarms free of charge. When honeybees get over crowded they will make a new queen and the old queen will fly off with about two thirds of the colony. This is nature's way of increasing honeybee colonies and is perfectly normal. It can even be an impressive sight to see. The honeybees will usually cluster a short distance away from the old colony and send out scouts to look for a new home. These swarm clusters can last anywhere from a few minutes to a couple of days until they dissipate when a new home is found. If you see a cluster don't disturb it. Contact a local beekeeper to come out and collect the bees. Since walls or other structures could become an ideal nesting spot, having a beekeeper remove the hanging swarm could save the homeowner a lot of expense.

Honey and Bee Product Sales

Many of our members sell the products of their beehives to the public. Honey, honeycomb, creamed honey, beeswax candles, lip balms, lotions, and soaps are among some of the more popular products. Some members even use bees for their crops, such as strawberries.