



The PSBA Waggle

Occasional Cyber Postings from the
Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association

6/13/16

[Keep the Hives Alive Tour](#)

**National Keep the Hives Alive Tour brings urgency to global pollinator decline
Hackenberg Apiaries to Host Panel Discussion on the science behind bee decline to #keephivesalive**

Lewisburg, PA – With an average of over 40 percent of U.S. honeybee hives dying and costing over \$2 billion each year, farmers, food advocates, beekeepers and environmental advocates across the nation are taking to the road to raise awareness on the massive decline.

The [Keep the Hives Alive Tour](#) will stop in cities in California, South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Pennsylvania and North Carolina during National Pollinator Week, June 13-23. At the end of the tour, beekeepers, farmers, farmworkers, scientists and advocates will bring a truck load of dead bees to Washington, D.C. to urge the EPA, the USDA and Congress to take action on toxic pesticides and support sustainable agriculture.

The Hackenberg Apiaries are continuing the tour by hosting a panel discussion on the science behind bee hive decline. The discussion will be followed by a tour of the Hackenberg Apiaries. Dave Hackenberg started the Apiaries 50 years ago and is now in business with his son. They have lost 80% of his 3,000 hives. Today, Dave and his son provide pollination services with 2,400 hives.

Who: Dave Hackenberg, founder of Hackenberg Apiaries, Jim Frazier, Professor Emeritus of Entomology at Pennsylvania State University, Maryanne Frazier, Senior Extension Associate of Entomology at Pennsylvania State University, Jeff Pettis, USDA Researcher and Luke Criswell, Pennsylvania farmer.

What: Panel discussion at Hackenberg Apiaries to discuss the science behind the loss of bee colonies. Panel discussion followed by tour of Hackenberg Apiaries.

When: June 18 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: [Hackenberg Apiaries](#)

Visuals: Banners, Bee Truck and display of dead bees

Local contact: Dave Hackenberg, (813) 713-1239, buffybee@sunlink.net

National contact: Tiffany Finck-Haynes, (202) 222-0715, tfinckhaynes@foe.org

Communications contact: Kate Colwell, (202) 222-0744, kcolwell@foe.org

Social media: [#KeepHivesAlive](#), [@keephivesalive](#)

Pennsylvania Loss Survey



Number of Respondents: 506

47% were members of the State association 53% were not

Number of colonies alive in Nov. 2015: 3055

Number of colonies alive in April 2016: 1849 Percentage of loss: 39.5%

Perceived reason for losses: Starvation 53 10.5% Mites 105 20.8% Nosema 6 1.2% Queen failure 66 13.1% Too small cluster going into winter 111 22% Unknown 152 30.1% Other 198 39.2%

Did you treat for mites? 50.5% Yes 49.5% No

If yes what mite treatment did you use? Apistan 22 8.6% Checkmite 8 3.1% Api life Var 35 13.7% Formic Acid 87 34.1% Oxalic Acid 79 31% Other 57 22.4%

Did you find small hive beetles in you hives? 32.3% Yes 61.8% No 5.9% Unsure

7.5% were used for pollination services 92.5% were not

Of those that were, they primarily pollinated: Fruit trees 31 54.4% Brambles 11 19.3% Garden crops 40 70.2% Other 10 17.5%

The top five responding counties were: Allegheny, Chester, Erie, Montgomery, and

PSBA Summer Picnic & Queen Swap

Saturday, August 6, hosted by Fisher Bee Farm, located at [1 Queen Bee Lane, McVeytown](#). Fishers will be providing meats and punch. Guests are asked to bring a side dish, dessert and drinks to share. Also, please bring a lawn chair. Fisher Bee Farm will have plating, cutlery and napkins on hand.

The location is right beside a nice creek that anyone is allowed to play in. They also have a small zoo of a farm for anyone wishing to see live animals.

The PSBA Executive Board will meet at 10:00 AM with lunch to follow at 12:30PM. All clubs are encouraged to send a representative.

Make a queen to swap from your really great colony. A queen swap will take place among anyone that wishes to share that great genetics

The Waggle is not intended to be used for editorials, but rather specific activities or information that may be of interest or value to PSBA membership.

Charlie Vorisek

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