

Improving Survival Success Rates with Honey bee Colonies through Supportive Cohorts

Meeting #20 Transitioning from Winter to Early Spring

Project Leader:	Tiffany Ayres, CEO Keys to Bees, Master Beekeeper
Project Consultant:	Marty Jones, PhD
Project Partner:	Kim Patten, Manager Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse
Project Partner:	Lindsey Lyons, Director of Sustainability Learning Dickinson College

This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under subaward number ONE24-432.



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Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

SARE made funding possible.

SARE is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture with funding through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

The NIFA fund research and education projects to support sustainable agriculture; funding projects that help farmers, ranchers, and educators develop new ideas and strategies.

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Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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POST-MORTEM WINTER INSPECTIONS

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

- External Markings
- Cluster Description
- Bottom Boards
- Inspect Dead Bees
- Disease Indicators
- Honey Stores Remaining
- Inspection Logs

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POST-MORTEM WINTER INSPECTIONS

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

1. External Markings



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POST-MORTEM WINTER INSPECTIONS

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

1. External Markings
2. Cluster Description

LARGE CLUSTER



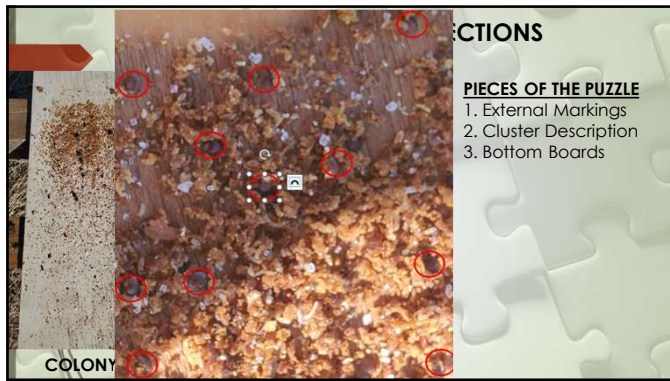
MEDIUM CLUSTER



SMALL CLUSTER



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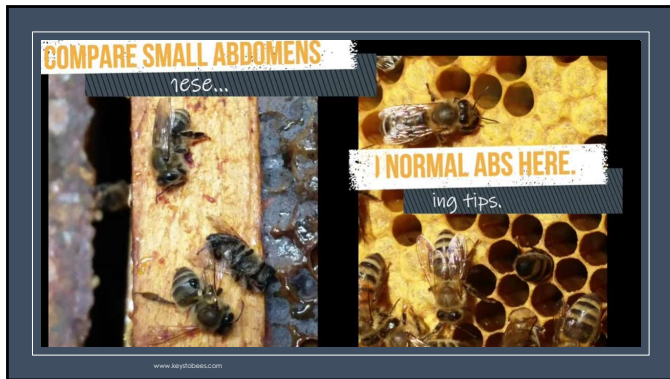
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**POST-MORTEM
WINTER INSPECTIONS**

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

- External Markings
- Cluster Description
- Bottom Boards
- Inspect Dead Bees
- Disease Indicators
- Honey Stores Remaining

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**POST-MORTEM WINTER
INSPECTIONS**

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

- Review your notes

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**HONEY BEE COLONY
LOSSES HURT**

**MAKE SURE TO LEARN
FROM THE LOSSES**

**AND NOT REPEAT
MISTAKES**

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FUTURE MEETINGS

3/14/26 ~ SOCIAL
11:30am - ?
693 Burnt House Road
Carlisle, PA

4/8/26 ~ Virtual Meeting
Review/Exam

4/22/26 ~ Virtual Meeting
What's next?

SOUTH CENTRAL PA LOCAL CLUBS

YCBA – meets 4th Tuesday 7:00pm-9:00pm at Aldersgate Church, 397 Tyler Run Rd., York

CABA – meets 3rd Friday 7:00pm-9:00pm at HACC, 1 HACC Dr., Harrisburg

LCBS – meets 3rd Tuesday 6:30pm-8:30pm New Meeting Place in Mt. Joy

PCBC – meets 3rd Sunday 2:00pm at Penn State Ext. Office, 8 S. Carlisle St., New Bloomfield

FCBA – meets 3rd Thursday 6:00pm-8:30pm at locations vary check on website fcbapa.com

PSBA – Fall Conference



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QUESTION & ANSWER

RESOURCE: 5-minute video on post-mortem winter checks
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmQldzpmkX8>





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THANK YOU

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