

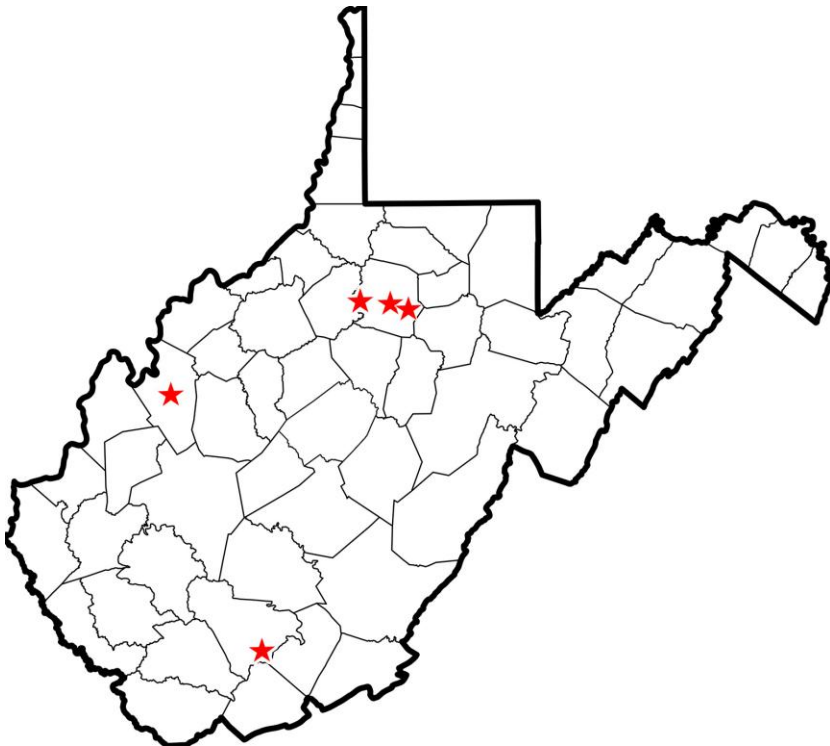
Average Pollen Intake per Hive in Pounds

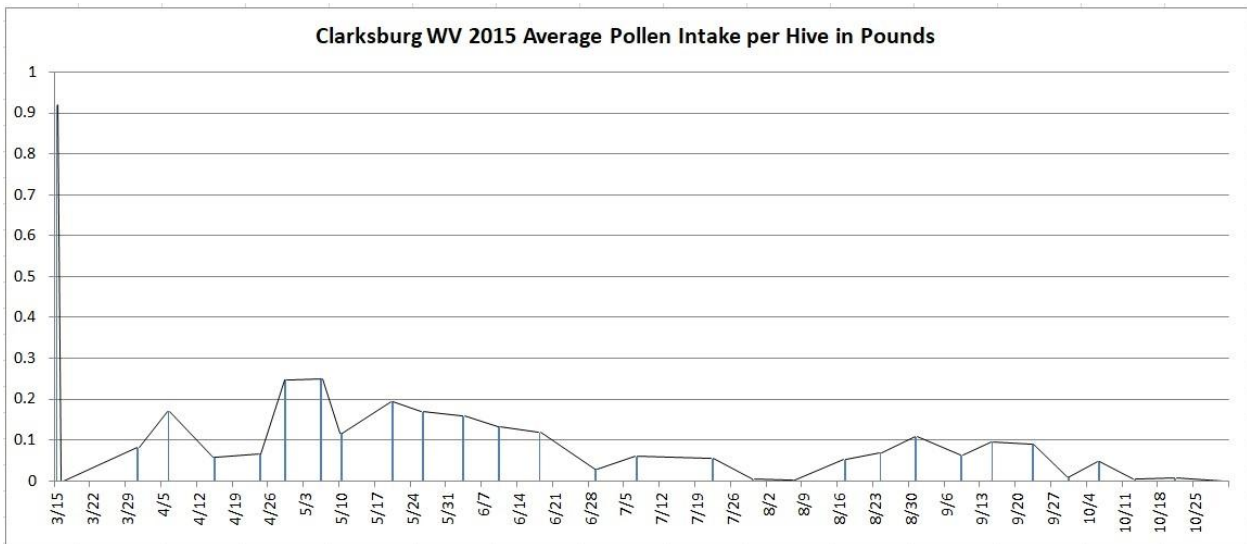
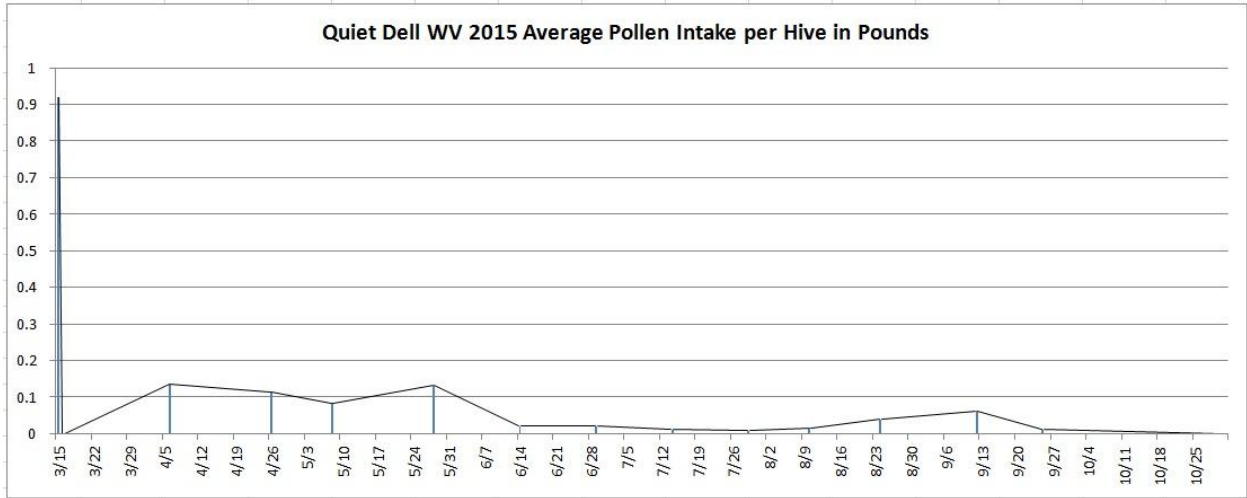
Below is a series of graphs showing the amount of pollen brought in through the year by weight, with a different graph for each location. It is important to remember that the pollen was collected on favorable foraging days, which can be scarce at times due to unfavorable weather. The true average pollen intake therefore may be lower than the connecting lines displayed on the graph. It is also possible that pollen collection could have spiked higher at points between collection dates.

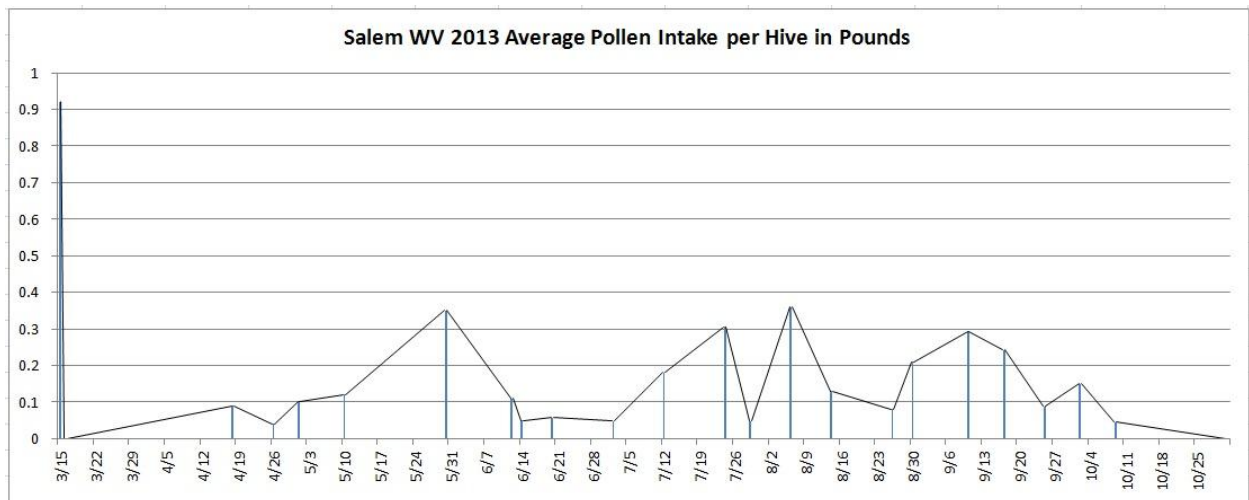
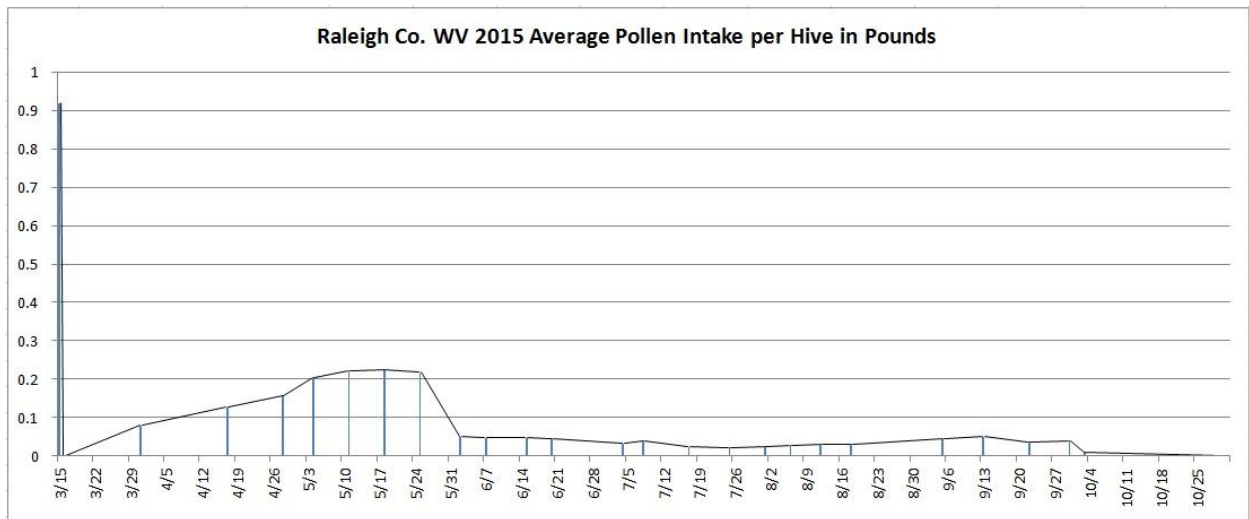
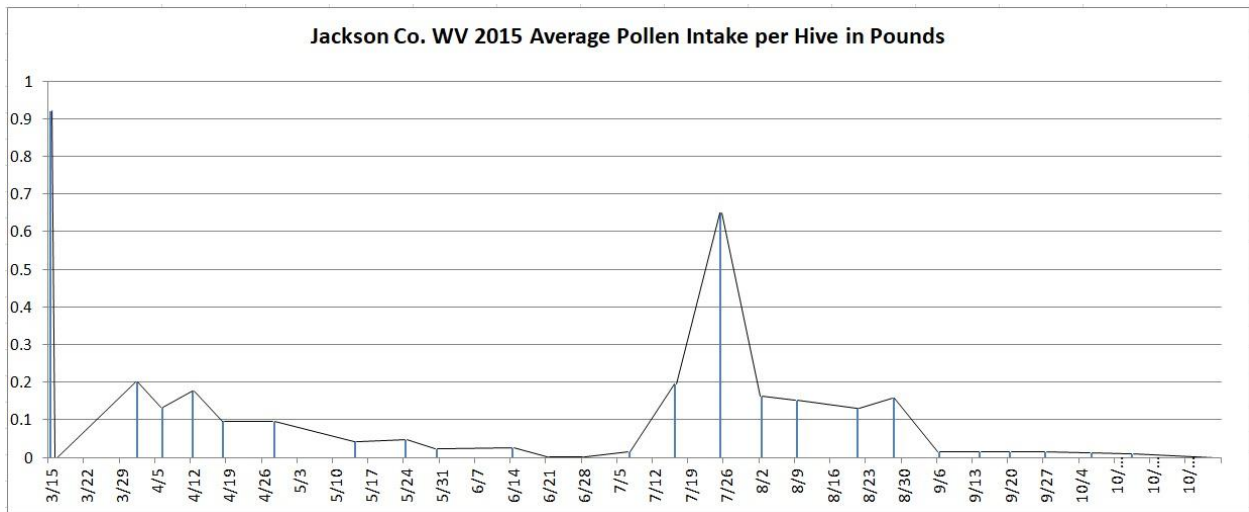
The vertical axis in the graphs is weight in pounds. The highest mark is one pound, about the maximum that could be collected in one day in our area with this method of collection. Continuous trapping would stimulate the bees to compensate by collecting much larger amounts. Collecting in short single-day periods helped minimize this behavior so that our data would better represent the natural foraging behavior.

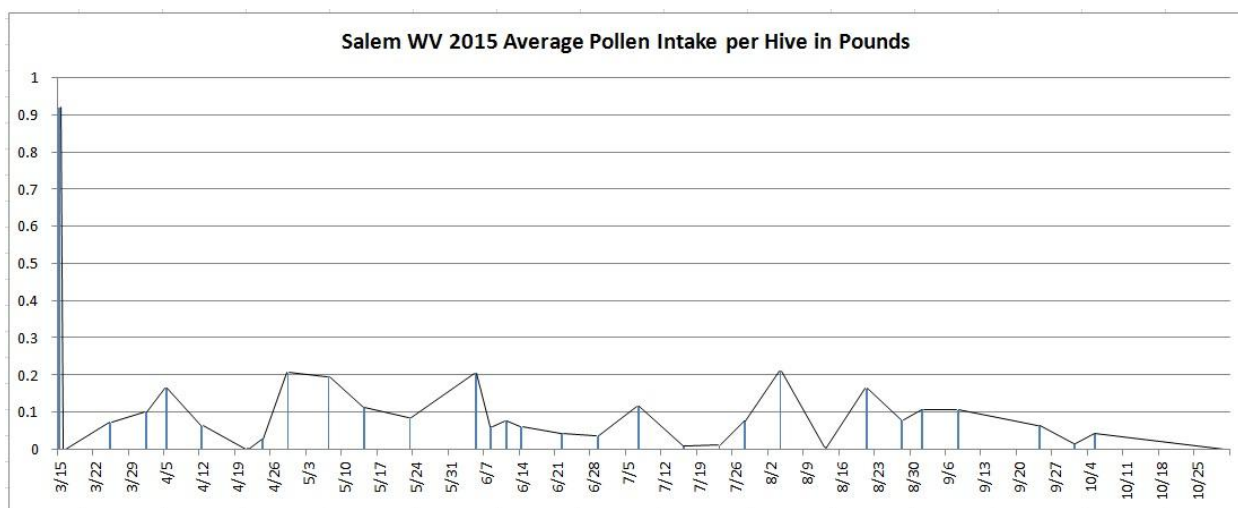
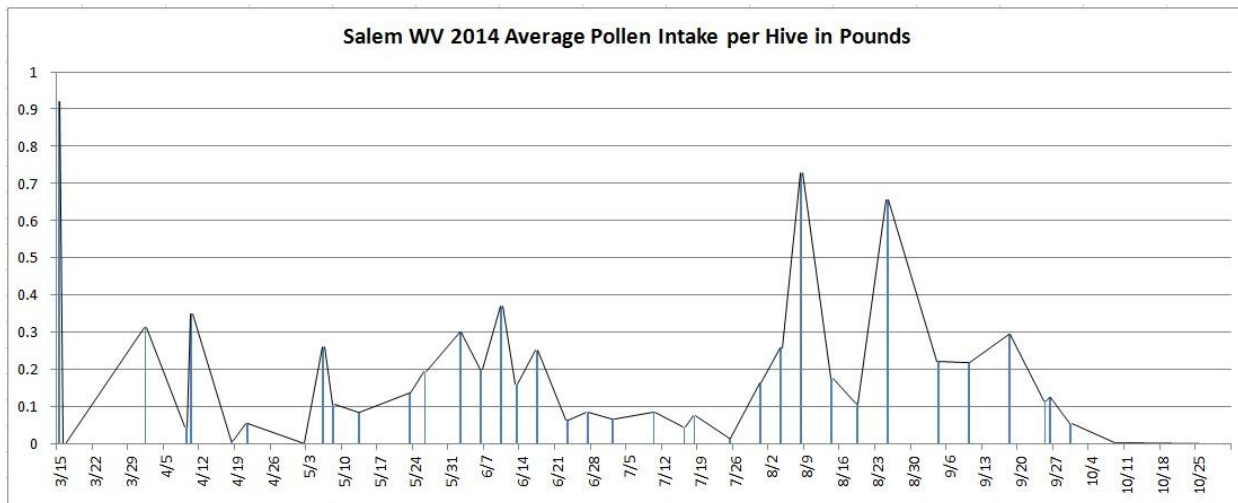
The dates at the bottom show 1-week intervals from March to October, while the vertical lines show points at which samples were taken. The height of the vertical lines shows the amount of pollen collected in that sample, corresponding to the weights on the vertical axis. *(Ignore the high vertical line on the left which was used to create a uniform chart between all locations.)*

If more information was known about the protein content of each pollen type, a similar chart could be compiled showing the amount of actual protein being gathered by the bees at each point through the active season.









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