

Orange County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2024

Elisa Bailey, OCBA Vice-president, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for the May meeting.

Hive Chat

Patrick Jones, the Director of NCDA&CS Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division explained the key points of the EPA Advisory on the Applicability of FIFRA and FFDCA for Substances Used to Control Varroa Mites in Bee Hives.

Postscript: Randall Austin wrote a wonderful summary on deciphering the EPA advisory on varroa treatments: https://baileybeesupply.com/wp-content/uploads/202406_Deciphering_The_EPA_Advisory_On_Varroa_Treatments.pdf

Roundtable Discussion: Varroa Treatments

Patrick Jones, Don Hopkins, Randall Austin, Larry Arnold, and David Bailey were our panelists. The following varroa treatment options were discussed:

- Apivar
 - o Synthetic, active ingredient is amitraz
 - o Don Hopkins noted that researchers have identified a genetic marker in varroa that aids resistance.
- Apiguard
 - o Active ingredient is the essential oil, thymol.
 - o Often used as a summer treatment because it works better with warmer temperatures, however, excessive heat (>95-100F) can cause significant mortality and affect the queen's egg laying output.
- Formic Pro
 - o The panel likes this treatment for spring and fall, when temperatures are around 75F
 - o While the label says formic pro can be applied while supers are on, the panelists all agreed this would not be the best practice.
- Oxalic acid
 - o Dribble versus vaporization? Don Hopkins thinks dribble method is just as effective and easier, safer, and less expensive.
 - o OA is a fall/winter treatment when the hive is broodless. Treating newly installed packages with OA is also an option
 - o A December "clean up" treatment sets the colony up for lower varroa levels during spring build-up.
- VSH queens
 - o Requeening your colony with a hygienic strain queen to promote hygienic behaviors

Club Business

Business Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

- **Jun 2nd**
Bee Jamboree
 - **Jun 13th**
Monthly Meeting
Preparing Your Honey for
Competition – Ryan
Chamberlain
 - **Sep 27th & 28th**
Tobacco Road Honey Classic
with Durham Beekeepers Assoc
- Thank you for bringing food
 - Director Updates
 - Education (practical exams)
 - Membership
 - Mentorship
 - Outreach
 - Blackwood Farm Park Update
 - State Fair update Daniel Curry-Corcoran
 - Other Items

Next Month's Speaker

At the June 13th meeting, we will have several educational stations set up where members can learn about how to prepare your honey and wax for competitions. Tips for harvesting, extraction, and filling your jars will be described.

Erika Wittchen
OCBA Secretary