Wilson County Agricultural Article from Ruth Correll, Agricultural Extension Agent

What Should You Do When You See a Swarm of Bees? Call a Beekeeper!

Local beekeepers say a swarm of bees is no sign for alarm. When left alone, the swarm usually poses no threat. However, experts say the bees themselves may be in need of some help. Swarming is a natural reproductive process where the queen takes about half of her family and finds another place to live. Prior to swarming, the colony made preparations for producing a new queen to reside within and maintain the remaining family.

If you see a swarm of bees clustered on a branch or shrub, please contact someone listed on the Wilson County Beekeepers Association (WCBA) swarm list. A local beekeeper can capture the swarm and relocate them to a beehive where they can be protected and provide invaluable pollination to surrounding crops. If not caught, lost to the ill forces of nature.

There has been concern about the decline in honeybee populations for several years. Scientists from around the world, including those at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, are avidly researching the health of our honeybees. While a swarm of bees may look scary, beekeepers say the bees are simply relocating, and they implore that no harm be done to these precious pollinators.

For additional information about bees and beekeeping, download a copy of the UT Ex- tensions publication Beekeeping in Tennessee (PB 1745) available for free online at the website: extension.tennessee.edu/publications.

The Wilson County Beekeepers is a very active group and promotes educational programs and information about bees and beekeeping. They meet monthly at the James E. Ward Ag. Center. Please visit their website – www.wilsoncountbeekeepers.org, to learn more about their programs and activities or to contact a local beekeeper on their swarm list.

Agricultural Market Summary

Cattle Market Trends
The calf market is expected to continue declining through the summer and into the fall while the yearling market is expected to remain steady and possibly even strengthen in mid to late summer. Alternatively, heifer prices have done a tremendous job of maintaining prices since the March time period. Feeder steers under 500 lbs. $8 to $11 lower, over 500 lbs. $3 to $6
lower, $192.50-$355.00; Feeder heifers steady to $6 lower, $170.00-$317.50; Slaughter cows steady to $4 higher, $90.00-$116.00; Slaughter bulls steady to $1 lower, $126.00-148.00.

**Grain Market Trends**
Corn was down; soybeans and wheat were mixed for the week. Corn cash price, $3.69-$4.03. May futures closed at $3.64 a bushel, down 15 cents.. Soybeans cash price, $9.60-$10.08. May futures closed at $9.69 a bushel, up 1 cent. Wheat cash price, $4.57-$4.60. May futures closed at $4.86 a bushel, down 8 cents.

For additional information on these and other topics, contact the UT Extension Office, 925 East Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087, 615-444-9584 or acorrell@utk.edu. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in all programs. Visit the UT/TSU Extension webpage at http://utextension.tennessee.edu/wilson or look for UT & TSU Extension, Wilson County on Facebook.

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