

NCBA BEE SCHOOL 2026 – WEEK 5

Let's review:

- Hive Location (Remote Apiary)
- Bee Life Cycle and why it's important to know
- Mites & Testing
- Diseases and Treatments
- Ordering Equipment or Bees
- Anything else????

Tonight:

Spring Hive Management with Brian McCafferty

Model of a Hive Inspection – Ed Rock

Break and Hands-On (

- Package Installation
- Hive Inspection Choreography
- Catalogs +
- Questions with NCBA Staff





NCBA BEE SCHOOL 2026

Break

- Explore hive set ups, equipment, and tools.
- Practice Package or NUC installations with the equipment & Hive Inspections
- Talk with the beekeepers

HIVE INSPECTION PRIORITIES

▪ Bee Aggression Triggers:

- Loud Noises / Vibrations – be quiet calm and confident & have your smoker ready
- Anxiety
- Odors -
- Squished Bees – practice your moves – choreograph – gloveless(?)

▪ Use All Your Senses

- Sight, Sound, Smell, Touch
 - See Regular patterns, listen for buzz tone, any funky smell?
- Not so much Taste

▪ Remember Bee Biology

- Queen, Worker, Drone
- Egg, larvae, capped pupae

▪ Looking for “GOOD”

- Calm – normal looking – orderly bees at the entrance
- Population, Eggs, Larvae, Capped Cells (Pupae) – neat pattern, active, crowded, all life stages
- Queen – see her, any queen cells?
- Nectar, Pollen, Capped Honey – is the hive growing

▪ Looking for “BAD”

- Misshapen Bees, Irregular Laying Pattern
- No Queen or signs of a Queen
- Queen Cells (bottom of frame) or Supersedure Cells – on face of frame
- Extreme Aggression or Lethargy



LOOK AT THE OUTSIDE OF THE HIVE

Bee Activity

- Are they...
 - Bringing in pollen?
 - Do their abdomens look translucent/full of nectar?
 - Behaving normally?
 - Aggressive at the entrance?
 - Piling of dead bees in front of the hive?
 - Streaking the front of the hive?

CHECK THE BOTTOM BOARD



LOOK AT YOUR FRAMES.

POPULATION, LAYING PATTERNS,
VARIETY OF BEES, POLLEN/BEE
BREAD, AND NECTAR



LOOK FOR
DRONE CELLS –
ARE THEY
ISOLATED ON
THE OUTSIDES
OF THE FRAME?



BURR COMB IS
BUILT ON THE
BOTTOMS OF
FRAMES.

MANY TIMES
CONFUSED FOR
QUEEN CELLS



LOOK FOR EGGS



LOOK FOR
ROYAL JELLY
AND UNCAPPED
LARVAE



LOOK FOR NURSE BEES CARING FOR THE LARVAE



LOOK AT THE
FRAME'S
PATTERN.



WHOA – THAT'S
A LOT OF
DRONE COMB



AND IF YOU SEE
QUEEN CELLS.

SUPERCEDEURE – THE
HIVE DECIDES IT
WANTS A NEW QUEEN

SWARM CELLS – THE
QUEEN DECIDES TO
SWARM





WRAP - UP

Any Questions?

NCBA Bee School Website: [Bee School -
NORFOLK COUNTY BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION](https://www.norfolkbees.org/bee-school)

< <https://www.norfolkbees.org/bee-school>

Upcoming Events for Next Week

- Summer, Fall, and Winter Hive Management with Carolyn Holmes & Mo Khalil
- And We'll Start the Sign Up Sheet for Saturday Field Days
 - April 11,
 - April 18,
 - April 25

Have a great evening, and we look forward to seeing you next week!