

# Skagit Valley Beekeepers



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November 2015

## It Just Snuck Up On Me.

The next meeting will be **November 12th, 2015 at 7:00 PM** at the Skagit Farmers Supply CENEX Administration building, located at 1833 Park Avenue, Burlington WA. Speaker/Topic TBD.

I hope your bees are all nice and tidy and snuggling up in their hives. Cooler weather is coming but they do predict another mild winter like this last one. Although, as one person I met on the trail this year told me, "Never trust a psychic."

## Things To Do This Month

- Ensure your hives have plenty of ventilation. You want to make sure your hives can stay as dry as possible. If you use an entrance reducer, don't reduce it down to the smallest opening, the 4" opening may work best.
- Make sure they're fed up well. Lift the hive - it should be hefty. If not, it's too late for liquid feed but fondant or candy or simple dry sugar will help. Brad Raspet has a great recipe for bee candy/fondant at: <http://skagitvalleybeekeepers.org/contact/BeeCandy2.htm>, or more information on the Mountain Camp dry sugar method of feeding bees in the winter can be found at: <http://goo.gl/Zjqzrw>
- Install mouse guards.
- Clean dead bees off the bottom board from time to time and make sure the entrances are clear.
- Clean up your equipment and sharpen your hive tools.
- Catch up on some of those magazines and find a few good bee books to read,

## 2015 Honey Report

This year I didn't get as many respondents as I did last year but but the reports I did receive sounded like most people had a pretty good year.

Last year, from those who reported how many hives they pulled honey from, we had on average 29 pounds of honey per hive.

This year we pulled approximately 31.82 pounds of honey per hive. One person reported 96 pounds from just one hive alone. Wow!

I had 11 respondents reporting on a total of 51 hives and from that they pulled 1623 pounds.

Thanks you everyone who responded and to everyone, I hope you have a great 2016!

