

## IFAS Extension

### Wakulla County Extension

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### AFRICANIZED BEE APIARY WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

Crawfordville, FL – The Wakulla County UF-IFAS Extension Office, Wakulla County Emergency Management, and Wakulla County Sheriff's Office will host a workshop for beekeepers Thursday, September 4, 10A - NOON at the Extension Office at 84 Cedar Ave in Crawfordville. Additionally, the general public is encouraged to learn more about Africanized Bees through an education program at the Wakulla County Library 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Africanized honey bees (AHB) have made their way into the state of Florida. AHBs breed and compete with the European strains of honey bees that normally inhabit our state. Because Florida's AHB population is increasing, it is important to become familiar with AHBs and their behavior.

Although they are often referred to as *killer bees*, the correct term is *Africanized honey bees*. Another common mistake is describing them as *aggressive*. Their behavior is actually *defensive*-- they react to human invasion of their environment and defend themselves when necessary. Attacks occur when people get too close to a nesting colony of AHBs. The AHBs do not sit around and plot attacks on humans.

Most people probably first hear about Africanized honey bees via B-grade movies such as "Killer Bees" (1974) and "The Swarm" (1978). Labeling AHBs as aggressive killers can provoke unjustified fear and hysteria.

Fortunately, you do not have to learn about Africanized honey bees from bad horror movies or rumors on the Internet. Everyone is encouraged to attend informative presentations from Africanize honey bee expert Mike O'Malley. Mike works as a honey bee researcher and Extension Education Program Coordinator at the University of Florida - IFAS in the Entomology and Nematology Department. In the morning workshop, Mike will provide timely information to apiary representatives and local beekeepers regarding the future of the industry as AHBs become more prevalent in Florida. In the evening session at the Library, Mr. O'Malley will provide the latest research information on how the public can protect family, pets, and property from Africanized bees, and other insects. For more information visit [www.afbee.com](http://www.afbee.com)

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