



Kelley Beekeeping

SERVING THE BEEKEEPER SINCE 1924

NEWSLETTER

~ Monthly Beekeeping Information, News & Support ~



Photo: M. Kirby

Bee Arts

Gardening for Pollinators

Follow these simple steps to create a pollinator-friendly landscape around your home or workplace.

- **Use a wide variety of plants that bloom from early spring into late fall.**
Help pollinators find and use them by planting in clumps, rather than single plants. Include plants native to your region. Natives are adapted to your local climate, soil and native pollinators. Do not forget that night-blooming flowers will support moths and bats.
- **Avoid modern hybrid flowers, especially those with "doubled" flowers.**
Often plant breeders have unwittingly left the pollen, nectar, and fragrance out of these blossoms while creating the "perfect" blooms for us.
- **Eliminate pesticides whenever possible.**
If you must use a pesticide, use the least-toxic material

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From the Queen's Court

by Melanie Kirby



Spring is settling in strong and many of the pollinators, from birds to flies and of course, our favorite-BEES, are out in full force. June 18-14, 2018 is National Pollinator Week.

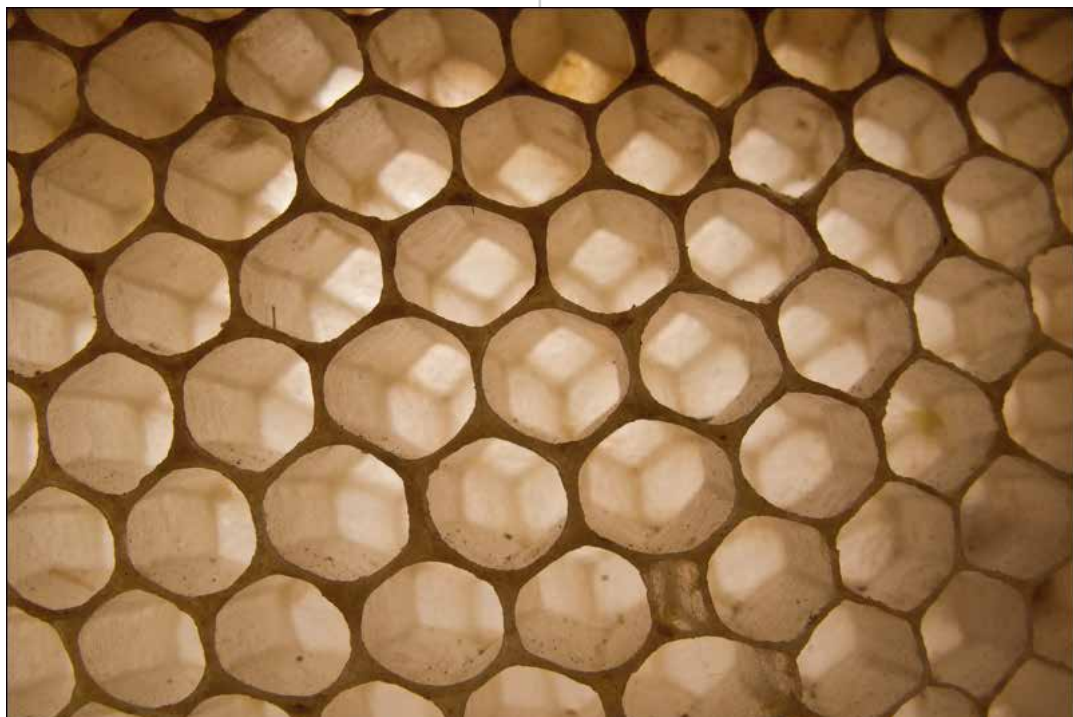
I've given several presentations this year emphasizing the need for pollinator friendly habitat. There is beauty in biodiversity. If there were only one kind of flower, one kind of landscape, one kind of animal, this would indeed be a rather lonely planet.

The field season is in full swing for producers from the west to east coasts. The northern tier is warming up and folks are getting ready for honey! Researchers are starting their field trials. It is indeed a wondrous feeling to interact with folks of all abilities who are wanting to help pollinators. There are also a slew of

pollinator focused organizations who are collaborating with land stewards to enhance habitat and promoting healthy policies for protecting pollinators.

And in each of our own ways, we can only hope that our efforts to be a part of the process will be integrated into our communities and region for the better. This means that keeping bees is a process of due diligence. If one chooses to move colonies into their area, then like other livestock, it is critical to ensure that they have what they need. This means making sure they have enough healthy and nutritious food, keeping predators and pests at bay, consideration of neighbors, and timely seasonal management to keep them healthy.

There is A LOT to learn about keeping bees healthy. It can be nuanced and of course, like most things, the devil is in the details. If we forget a crucial part of the process of keeping bees, it could negatively magnify. The effects of what we do or not





do today, will ripple into the future and affect our landscapes, our cultures and our pollinators for years to come.

On a personal note, I made it through my first year of graduate studies. As an

And in each of our own ways, we can only hope that our efforts to be a part of the process will be integrated into our communities and region for the better.

“older” student returning to academia, it has been an interesting transition. But it goes to show, that you are never too old to learn more...and indeed that is what I want and need. To Learn More!!! Despite

reaching my 21st year of keeping bees professionally, there is so much more I want to learn about our sweet honey bees. They have inspired me beyond words and I hope that what I learn and what I do with that knowledge, can be of benefit to beekeepers near and far.

There are all sorts of beekeeping classes and club meetings occurring. I recently got to meet the Boise State Bee Club who were on a tour of beekeepers in the Pacific Northwest region. They visited a pollinator policy maker, a bee lab and a forestry department. They shared some of their yummy rooftop hive honey and lip balm as seen on the cover shot.

Join Kelley Bees for their 10th Annual field day on June 2nd in Clarkson, KY. More info in this newsletter!

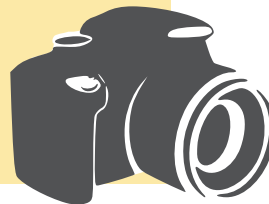
Take care of your bees and they will take care of you!

Melanie Kirby

CALL FOR PHOTOS!

Want to see your bee-related photo on the cover of the Kelley Beekeeping newsletter?

Send high res photos to:
editor@kelleybees.com



DON'T MISS OUT!

Kelley Beekeeping is looking for resale partners!

- Is your local beekeeping community strong and active?
 - Do you teach beekeeping classes?
- Would you like to run a business that aligns with your passion?

If you answered YES to any of these, we may have an opportunity for you!

Contact Us Today

Email: commercial@kelleybees.com or **Call:** 800-233-2899 ex. 204





Join us for
Our 10th Annual
FIELD DAY

The American Beekeeper

Saturday, June 2, 2018

*Gates at 7 AM • Opening introduction at 8:30 AM
All ages welcome*



Give us a call or go online to register today!



Kelley Beekeeping

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www.kelleybees.com



Bee Health

FieldWatch

Ten years ago, the first iterations of our stewardship platform were developed to help applicators, growers of specialty crops and beekeepers communicate about the locations of crops and hives to improve stewardship. This year we are celebrating our 10th anniversary with five new member states, and a rapidly expanding user base and enhanced technology.

Beginnings

FieldWatch® was created to develop and expand the operation of DriftWatch™, a voluntary online specialty crop registry program originally created by Purdue University in 2008. After operating in Indiana for a few years and with increased interest from neighboring states, Purdue University and interested agriculture stakeholders created a non-profit company called FieldWatch. Since 2012, we've operated as a stand-alone entity serving the agriculture industry.

Today, FieldWatch offers an online national registry and tools that facilitate communication between commercial applicators and growers of sensitive crops and beekeepers.

In 2018 alone, FieldWatch welcomed five new states to its ranks. South Dakota, Virginia, Ohio, Arkansas and Tennessee came on board, joining 14 other states: Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Wisconsin and the Canadian province of Saskatchewan.



FieldWatch Facts and Milestones

- More than 20,000 sites representing more than 34 different crops are registered with FieldWatch.
- Since 2008, the numbers of acres registered has increased more than 90 percent, and in the last 12 months alone, an additional 100,000 acres have been added to the registry.
- More than 17,000 individuals use the FieldWatch registry.
- Certified organic (or transitioning to certified organic), grapes, vegetables and other fruits are the leading crops on the registry; 60 percent of the locations on the registry are apiaries.
- The following states currently have registries with FieldWatch: Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin and the Canadian province of Saskatchewan.
- To support and facilitate broad participation, specialty crop growers, beekeepers and applicators are able to access DriftWatch or BeeCheck FREE of charge. This is accomplished because of the a large number of businesses and organizations choose to become FieldWatch sponsors. They are [listed here](#).

For more information, visit: www.fieldwatch.com

Bee Arts (Continued)

possible. Read labels carefully before purchasing, as many pesticides are especially dangerous for bees. Use the product properly. Spray at night when bees and other pollinators are not active.



photo by Beatriz Moisset

- **Include larval host plants in your landscape.**

If you want colorful butterflies, grow plants for their caterpillars. They WILL eat them, so place them where unsightly leaf damage can be tolerated. Accept that some host plants are less than ornamental if not outright weeds. A butterfly guide will help you determine the plants you need to include. Plant a butterfly garden!



photo by Rachel Powless

- **Create a damp salt lick for butterflies and bees.**

Use a dripping hose, drip irrigation line, or place your bird bath on bare soil to create a damp area. Mix a small bit of

table salt (sea salt is better!) or wood ashes into the mud.

- **Spare that limb!**

By leaving dead trees, or at least an occasional dead limb, you provide essential nesting sites for native bees. Make sure these are not a safety hazard for people walking below. You can also build a bee condo by drilling holes of varying diameter about 3 to 5 inches deep in a piece of scrap lumber mounted to a post or under eaves.



- **You can add to nectar resources by providing a hummingbird feeder.**

To make artificial nectar, use four parts water to one part table sugar. Never use artificial sweeteners, honey, or fruit juices. Place something red on the feeder. Clean your feeder with hot soapy water at least twice a week to keep it free of mold.



photo by Bill May



Bee Arts (Continued)

- **Butterflies need resources other than nectar.**
They are attracted to unsavory foodstuffs, such as moist animal droppings, urine and rotting fruits. Try putting out slices of overripe bananas, oranges and other fruits, or a sponge in a dish of lightly salted water to see which butterflies come to investigate. Sea salt provides a broader range of micronutrients than regular table salt.
- **Learn more about pollinators**
Get some guidebooks and learn to recognize the pollinators in your neighborhood. Experiment with a pair of close-focusing binoculars for butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.



photo by Beatriz Moisset

For More Information

[Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants](#) (Eastern United States) (PDF, 3.5 MB) - developed and published by the USDA Forest Service providing a guide to providing habitats for pollinators in the eastern United States.

[Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants](#) (PDF, 3.2 MB) - developed and published by the Lolo National Forest, Missoula, Montana, providing a guide to providing habitats for pollinators primarily in the western United States.

[Gardening for Native Bees in Utah and Beyond](#) (PDF, 3,9 MB) - a Utah Pests Fact Sheet published in January 2013 by Utah State University Extension and Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory. This fact sheet provides guidance for plant selection to garden for pollinators, including some 200 garden plant genera nationwide and a table of their flowering phenologies (in northern Utah).

[Plants for Pollinators in the Inland Northwest](#) (PDF, 3.1 MB) - a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Technical Note, TN Plant Materials No. 2B, October 2011. This technical note provides guidance for the design and implementation of conservation plantings to enhance habitat for pollinators including bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds. Plant species included in this document are adapted to the Inland Northwest, which encompasses northern Idaho, northeastern Oregon and eastern Washington.

Learn How You Can Use Agroforestry to Help Pollinators

[National Agroforestry Center](#) website. This issue of Agroforestry Center's Inside Agroforestry highlights ways that agroforestry has supported pollinator conservation and management as well as efforts that have also served to educate the public.

[Also take a look at the Agroforestry Center's Pollinators Issue web page...](#)



photo by Janet Mukai



Bee Science

2018 American Bee Research Conference

AAPA, American Association of Professional Apiculturists, is an organization consisting of professors, state apiarists, scientists and students who all study and work with honey bees (*Apis mellifera*).

The goals of the AAPA focus around three major areas: 1) Promoting communication within and between industry, academia and the beekeeping community; 2) Developing and fostering research on fundamental and applied questions to gain a greater understanding of bee biology in an aim to assist and improve the beekeeping industry; and 3) Create a venue to rapidly share new techniques and current research to advance the field.

AAPA organizes a yearly conference, the American Bee Research Conference (ABRC) which is usually in January, often together with other professional beekeepers (American Beekeeping Federation, or American Honey Producers Association, Apiary Inspectors of America).

Current Leadership:

President: Michael Simone-Finstrom (USDA, Baton Rouge, LA)

Vice President: Judy Wu-Smart (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

Secretary: Maggie Couvillon (Virginia Tech)

For more information, visit: <http://aapa.cyberbee.net/>



The 2018 American Bee Research Conference (ABRC) was held January 11–12, 2018 at in Reno, NV. There were over 30 research groups represented at this year's conference featuring 55 oral presentations and 12 poster presentations. The 2018 ABRC was held concurrently with the 2018 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow. The 2019 ABRC will run concurrently with the American Honey Producers in January in Arizona.

The following are the submitted abstracts for presentations given at the 2018 American Bee Research Conference. Click on this link to view over 50 abstracts from the conference.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0005772X.2018.1450208>



Bee Thinking About

National Pollinator Week: June 18-24, 2018

While pollinators may come in small sizes, they play a large and often undervalued role in the production of the food we eat, the health of flowering plants, and the future of wildlife. A decline in the numbers and health of pollinators over the last several years poses a significant threat to the integrity of biodiversity, to global food webs, and to human health, according to scientists. PollinatorLIVE brings the excitement of pollinators to you through webcasts, webinars and online education resources.

Check out the resources on this web site:

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch Nature's Partners: Pollinators, Plants and People webcast and broadcast from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Scientists and educators explain pollination, plant-insect interactions, how to study pollinators, their importance to the food supply, and what people can do to help.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch The Insect Zoo in Your Schoolyard, webcast from the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Learn about pollination, pollinators, participatory science projects, the latest about monarch butterflies, and how to attract pollinators to your schoolyard.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch Honey Bees, Native Bees, Gardening, and More held at the Washington Youth Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum. Learn about our native and honey bees, tour the youth garden, and learn how good nutrition and pollinators are connected.



<https://pollinatorlive.pwnet.org/>

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch Woodsy Owl's Rubbish Rot Rap, the butterfly dance performed by Chikawa (in English and Spanish), and the PollinatorLIVE song and dance.

[CLIC AQUI](#) para mirar Socios con la Naturaleza: Polinizadores, plantas y humanos.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the web seminars held for teachers and hosted by the National Science Teachers Association about studying pollinators and using schoolyard gardens to teach science.



[Explore More Distance Learning Adventures](#)



Meet the Beekeeper

Rachel Coventry, Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch

Name: Rachel Coventry

Occupation: Store Manager and Beekeeper at Curtis Orchard and Pumpkin Patch

Location of Company: Champaign, IL

How did you get your start in beekeeping and what inspired you work/study them?

As a child I found honey bees fascinating and would often observe the honey bees flying around the orchard. Getting stung on the foot nearly every summer didn't scare me away. I finally got my opportunity to look in a hive when I joined the Peace Corps. Although I was there in the Crop Extensionist program I eagerly jumped at the chance to learn beekeeping. Now I work with bees on my family's orchard.

What is some past research or programs that you worked with?

In 2015, fellow beekeeper, Maggie Wachter, and I wrote a SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research Education www.sare.org) grant to study single varietal honey on small scale farms, but our research quickly morphed into recommendations for small scale farmers, especially those that use honeybees for pollination. We wanted to see if our management practice of moving the hives was really necessary given the distance bees will fly and the size of our farm would not exceed that distance. It was less stressful for the honeybees to remain in one location and we didn't notice a difference in the overall pollination.

What are you currently working on/ or what services does your company currently offer?

a. Currently, I enjoy mentoring people passionate about honeybees and considering starting their own hives. The best way to learn beekeeping is to shadow a beekeeper and I enjoy talking about one of my favorite subjects.

b. We offer a way to connect with agriculture. There are apples and pumpkins for picking, kittens to pet, goats to feed, corn mazes and more. We also offer cider, honey, bakery goods, and other farm products.

Where do you see the next few years of research or beekeeping management leading?

I hope there will be new ways to ensure successful overwintering. Also, better control of the varroa mite. I would also like to see more ditches and waterways being filled with wildflowers.

What message about bee health and management would you like to share with readers?

Since I met Maggie I had much higher winter colony losses. Now that I follow her management techniques and overwintering set-up, my losses have declined significantly. First step is to have a strong hive and low mite count going into the winter. Next, do not even think about collecting honey until the colony is three 10 frame deep boxes high (or equivalent). Third, before winterizing the hive ensure the orientation



Meet the Beekeeper (Continued)

of honey is as follows-bottom box: 8 frames of honey all in the middle, middle box: 6 frames of honey all in the middle, top box 4 frames of honey all in the middle. This will ensure that as your cluster moves up they will find honey. Fourth, add at least one sugar board. Fifth, add a layer of canvas that is big enough to be seen when the outer cover is on top. This will act as a wick to allow moisture to escape. *Editor's note: a [Moisture Board](#) works well for wicking, too!* Finally, wrap with reflective insulation and secure with a ratchet strap. Also important is to install the mouse excluders before it gets cold and make sure you have a good wind break.

Where can we find information about your research/organization?

Maggie and I wrote a booklet of our research. It is available for download at www.CurtisOrchard.com/honey . Our full research is available here: https://projects.sare.org/sare_project/fnc15-1019/

Anything on or off topic that you find interesting about yourself/organization to share with readers?

My bees' honey won World's Best Honey at the Center for Honeybee Research Black Jar Honey Contest last year!

How can readers contact you and get more info on your organization?

rachel@curtisorchard.com is the best way to reach me. Visit Curtisorchard.com or find us on facebook or instagram. I often post beekeeping videos and pictures

Buzzworthy Buys!

For the hottest prices on our most buzzed-about products, shop our **Buzzworthy Buys & Smoking Hot Deals** at **kelleybees.com!**

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Introductory Queen Rearing – Lincoln Area



Saturday, June 23rd 2018

9 am to 4 pm (*registration begins at 8:30 am*)

At UNL's Eastern Nebraska Research and Education Center (Formerly ARDC), Mead, NE

*Class limited to 40 people. Register today!

Taught by:

Judy Wu-Smart,

Assistant Professor
UNL-Dept. Entomology

Dr. Steve Sheppard

Entomology Department Chair
at Washington State University

Melanie Kirby

Graduate Student,
Washington State University

Learn about...



Manage hives for queen rearing



Queen qualities for local needs



Different races of queens



Trait selection for varroa mite &
disease resistance

For additional information on advanced beekeeping,
please visit <https://entomology.unl.edu/bee-lab>

Cost:

\$150 per person.

Includes queen rearing handbook,
lecture slides, refreshments, &
lunch. \$100 for 1 additional family
member. (*does not include
handbooks or materials*)

*When registering, please let us
know about any dietary restrictions.

*For additional information about the class,
contact Dustin Scholl at dscholl3@unl.edu*

Pre-registration is required

Send: Name(s), address, phone number, email and
class fee to:

Jeri Cunningham
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Department of Entomology
103 Entomology Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0816
email: jcunningham1@unl.edu
phone: 402-472-8678

Please register by March 16th, 2018

***Make checks payable to: University of Nebraska**

2018 Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course and Conference October 26-28, 2018

The Hotel Providence, 139 Mathewson Street, Providence, RI 02903

SAVE THE DATE!

Contact: The American Apitherapy Society
aasoffice@apitherapy.org



Photo by James Turner

The American Apitherapy Society proudly announces its 22nd annual Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course & Conference to be held at the Hotel Providence, a landmark property located in the heart of downtown Providence's Arts and Entertainment District.

Downtown Providence is just 10-15 minutes from Warwick's T.F. Green Airport (PVD) offering easy access to the conference venue and all that downtown Providence has to offer. Invest in your health and join us for a weekend of Apitherapy while perhaps extending your stay in the area to enjoy the many local attractions such as museums, shops, restaurants, theaters, galleries and outdoor adventures, and perhaps experience Providence's signature event...WaterFire.

Medical doctors, a spectrum of holistic health practitioners, veterinarians, researchers, backyard beekeepers, and members of the general public interested in self-reliant health care will convene from all over the United States and the world to learn about apitherapy. Apitherapy, an ancient healing modality, refers to the therapeutic use of products from the beehive: Honey, pollen, royal jelly, propolis, bees wax, and bee venom.

Attendees will receive basic training in the therapeutic properties of each of the hive products including hands on practical bee venom therapy sessions where participants will obtain practical experience with this amazing healing practice. Presentations are given by the American Apitherapy Society, Inc. faculty who are some of the most prominent and experienced Apitherapists in the world. Examples of material covered in these presentations are allergic reactions, techniques of BVT, informed consent and legal issues, propolis and cancer, Lyme disease, Parkinson's disease, veterinary apitherapy, wound healing, and much more. Certificates of completion will be available to all participants.

The AAS is a nonprofit membership organization established for the purpose of education in the advancement of Apitherapy. CMAACC has been named in memory of Charles Mraz, an American pioneer in the use of bee venom to treat diseases.

All CMAACC 2018 information and registration will be available at www.apitherapy.org where you will be able to view all CMAACC information and register for the course online. Conference information will also be shared and distributed via our free monthly newsletter from now until the conference date including any updates or changes. You can sign up to receive the newsletter via a link at the bottom of our home page on the website. **There will be an early registration incentive with reduced fees for those registering on or before the early bee deadline so BE AN EARLY BEE** and don't miss out on this opportunity! Specific dates for deadlines and registration will be announced soon. Membership or a one year renewal to AAS is included with the course fee. For further questions please contact the AAS office at aasoffice@apitherapy.org.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 2018

Kelley Bees 12th Annual Field Day

Kentucky: June 2, 2018
www.kelleybees.com

NE Kansas Beekeepers Fun Day

Nebraska: June 2, 2018
www.NEKBA.org

CT Beekeepers Summer Picnic

Connecticut: June 1-3, 2018
www.ctbees.org

CO State Beekeepers Summer Meeting

Colorado: June 8-10, 2018
www.coloradobeekeepers.org

Illinois Queen Rearing

Illinois: June 9, 2016 (Rain date June 16)
www.llcc.edu/community-education

VA State Beekeepers 100th Anniversary

Virginia: June 15 & 16
www.virginiabeekeepers.org

WSU Queen Rearing & Breeding Short Course

Washington: June 15-16, 2018
www.bees.wsu.edu

CO Professional Beekeepers Assoc.

Colorado: June 16, 2018
<http://coloradoprobeekeeping.org/2018-summer-meeting/>

Indiana Purdue Field Day

Indiana: June 16, 2018
http://indianabeekeeper.com/contact_us/purdue_field_day

UNL Intro to Queen Rearing

Nebraska: June 23, 2018
<https://entomology.unl.edu/>

We'd love to share news of your upcoming events. Please send the event name, date, website and/or contact information by the 10th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.
Email information to: Editor@KelleyBees.com

Need Help? Contact Us!

KELLEY BEEKEEPING COMPANY

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Local: (270) 242-2012
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CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 7:00 am - 5pm CST
Saturday 7:30 am - 12:00 pm CST
**Phone lines are open every Saturday. Except for the months of October, November and December when we will only be open the first Saturday of each month.*