

# What's the Buzz?

with Deez L'Town Beez

*Hello friends and fellow keepers!*

## Blue Ribbon Honey

The county fairs were always a lot of fun, but when I first started entering exhibits, my items just weren't what the judges were looking for. Over the years, I've studied, been mentored, and I finally became a Maryland state honey judge last year. Here are a few tips on how to ensure your honey gets noticed.

**Follow the rules.** If it says, "Three glass jars with pink plastic lids" then you should enter three glass jars with pink plastic lids otherwise points are deducted.

**Honey must be clean.** Do not filter it with cheesecloth as it leaves behind a filament.

**Jars must also be extremely clean.** Use the dishwasher and let it air dry. Don't use paper towels or dishcloths as they leave particles behind.

**Fill the jar to the top edge of the bottom bead.** It needs to be a full jar of honey with no foam or debris floating on the top.

**Lids must be clean.** Pro tip: cover the top of the jar with plastic wrap and then put your lid on. When you get to the fair, remove the plastic wrap and put your brand-new, clean lid back on the jar. If you wash your lids, make sure that you hand dry them immediately because they can rust (which would be a point deduction).

**The water content should be less than 18%.** Lower moisture content earns you more points. Anything higher than 18.6 (at most fairs) could cause disqualification. Honey that is too wet will ferment.

**No labels.** There should be no identifying marks.

The honey show superintendent will carefully handle your jars of honey so that judges see it exactly as you brought it. There are so many fantastic items that you can enter at the fair: photographs, art projects, wax candles, cosmetics, propolis, etc. Just check out the catalog! You could win not only ribbons but some bragging rights as well!

## Farm Calls

Now is the time to schedule your fall farm call. We can discuss mite treatment options, prepare for winter, and assess the overall health of the hives.

## Did you know....

that there are more than 400 different species of bees in Maryland? These include: Mason, Sweat Bees, Mining Bees, Carpenter, and Bumble (the largest and most recognizable).

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## STUFF YOU'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO WANT TO KNOW



### Beekeeper for a Day Class

September 7th, 3:30-5:30  
October TBD - check website



### Maryland State Fair

August 22 - September 8



### DeManda Cure Magnolia Market 2024

Serenity Farms  
September 21st, 10am - 4pm



### Charles County Fair

September 12-15th  
Entries due Sept 11th



### St. Mary's County Fair

September 19-22nd  
Entries due Sept 19th  
[St. Mary's Catalog](#)



### Calvert County Fair

September 25-29th  
Entries due Sept 23th



### **RECYCLE & REUSE**

Bring back your glass honey jars and get \$1 off your next jar.

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## Deez YouTube Shorts



• Clean-up on Aisle 5!

From Our Hive to  
Yours. Happy Keeping!

