



The Buzz



Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers;

Another year is upon us, 2006. I don't think I will make any New Year's resolutions, but I do want to see if I can improve on a few things. I am one that sometimes procrastinates and I want to see if that can improve with this new year. I have good intentions, but something always gets in the way of progress! My life is full of little incidents that change my plans for the day. A phone call, a please come help me plea, a request for more honey, someone wants me to talk to a group, the list is endless. I never get the things done that I plan to do on a given day. I usually get plenty done, just not what I had planned on doing.

So it goes with beekeeping. Good intentions are put in place at the beginning of the year. I am going to keep better records, I am going to make creamed honey more often, I am going to keep track of containers and supplies better. Does any of this sound familiar? I hope that I am not alone. Winter makes a great time to repair wooden ware and replace comb. It also is a time to get caught up on all the past magazines that went unread during the hectic summer schedule. I guess the winter months give me time to relax a little. Not as many craft shows or farmers' markets to go to, but I should be making more candles and working on my inventory. It is too nice to come home after work and not think about the busy time I will have in the spring, summer and fall.

We had the first board meeting with some new officers and directors. Please feel free to contact any of us if there is something that you wish to be done this year. We can't do what the membership wants unless we know what specifically is needed or wanted. We would like to change the field day and want your input. What topics would you like to see covered or what would you suggest we do to get more participation? We have a vast array of knowledge in our membership, but we need to have volunteers to help. Would you like to be

on a committee for the Iowa Honey Producers? Contact the chairman of the committee you would like to be on so we can have some well-rounded input and get the information that the honey producers of the state want. A list of committees and chairs is elsewhere in the BUZZ.

Don't forget to register your hive locations with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for protection against pesticide spraying. When you register your bee yards, the commercial pesticide applicators are responsible for contacting you when they are going to spray in the area of your hives. They yard locations need to be registered each year. It is for your protection and the good of your bee hives.

Remember to order queens and packages as early as possible. Check the ads in the BUZZ for local Iowa beekeepers purchasing queens in quantity or selling packages. If you received a certificate for free queens at the Annual Meeting, don't forget to redeem it. You might also wish to check in the American Bee Journal or Bee Culture for other ads. Plan ahead.

We had some very favorable comments about the speakers for the Annual Meeting. Thanks to all who filled out the evaluation forms. The information has been tabulated and is a basis for planning the next meeting. A lucky beekeeper will be chosen from the list of those that turned in completed evaluations for free registration at next year's annual meeting. We will draw the winning name at the next board meeting.

"Bee" Creative in planning for the new beekeeping year.

Sincerely,
Donna Brahms, IHPA President



Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.** The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society. IHPA Membership is only \$10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer, 4012 54th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone : (515) 278-1762

WIN \$10 IF YOUR PHOTO IS PRINTED IN "THE BUZZ"

Submit your photos to "The Buzz". If it is selected for publication you will win \$10. This offer will extend for six months. This will not necessarily be six consecutive months. We may skip months if no photos are selected for publication. Choices will be made by the editor of "The Buzz" and all photos submitted will not be returned unless you submit a self addressed stamped envelope. Subject matter is to be general beekeeping or anything directly related.

What Do I Do With All My Wax Cappings?

This will be the topic when the North Iowa Bee Club meets Jan 14th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The meeting will be at Pat Ennis's house at 1040 Union Ave in Goodell.

Phone Pat at 641-444-4767 or e-mail him at flat_lander@lycos.com Learn how to melt wax and make candles. Learn, have fun and ask questions. Do hands on work with beeswax.

Northeast Iowa Beekeepers

There is a Northeast Iowa Beekeepers group. Louise Johnson is the contact person for this group. If you would like information on this group or would like to attend their meetings, feel free to contact Louise. 563-252-2340 or e-mail louisej@alpinenet.com

Northwest Iowa Beekeepers

There is also a Northwest Beekeepers Association. Their contact information has been added to the listing on the back of the Buzz. Give them a call for more information about joining the group.

WANTED TO BUY:

Used Cowan un-capper in good condition. Contact Ivan Rickers in Westside, IA. 712-663-4596

For Sale:

2# and 3# pkgs of bees with queen. Packages will be available about April 10th. These are Italians from Banks Apiary in California. Prices will be available soon, but expect them to be about \$5 per package more than last year. Call to book orders before February 28.

Gordon Powell; 4012 54th Street; Des Moines, IA 50310
Ph: 515-278-1762 or
Cell 515-979-3362

FOR SALE: 2 or 3 lb. packages of Italian bees with queen. Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, Iowa the first part of April. Bees from Hill-Ward Apiary in California. All orders must be received by Feb. 28, 2006. Contact Douglas Child 319-634-3682

A Year With Honeybees

This video has proven to be popular available on either tape or DVD. We have sold 41 of them. It follows beekeeper Dick Blake through an entire production season. It starts with spring feeding and ends with the barrels of honey being loaded on the truck. There is good information here for beekeepers of every level. Available from the Iowa Honey Producers for \$20. That includes shipping within Iowa. It may be slightly higher elsewhere. Contact "The Buzz" for your copy. Make checks payable to the Iowa Honey Producers.

For Sale: Package Bees—2# and 3# packages with queens. On the first load you may have your choice of Carniolan or Italian queens. The first lot is expected to be here by the first week in April. This load is normally full by mid February. The second lot will be here in the second or third week of April. This load will have only 2# packages with Carniolan queens. Usually, we have bees available on this load until mid to late March.

Call Phil Ebert for price and availability. 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@net ins.net

Dates to BEE Remembered:

Feb. 10 & 11, 2006

Mead Fest (Boulder, CO)

Jan. 10-14, 2006

American Honey Producers Association Meeting

Jan. 11-14, 2006

American Beekeeping Federation Meeting

Jan.; Feb.; Mar., 2006

Beginning Beekeeping Classes

Mar. 3 & 4, 2006

Joint Spring Meeting with Kansas & Missouri

Aug. 10-20, 2006

Iowa State Fair

To add an important date to the list, contact the Buzz by email at thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com Or by mail at the address listed on the front cover.



Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Curt Bronnenberg. He and his wife Connie live at Perry, Iowa. Their business is Spring Valley Honey Farms.

Curt says his father started keeping bees when he was 15 and soon started working for a commercial beekeeper named John Jessup. Eventually he bought the business. So Curt has been around bees all his life starting out with 100 hives in 1989 and eventually through buying out smaller beekeepers and splitting his own hives has built the numbers to 2000.

Until about 10 years ago Curt says he sold all his honey in 55 gallon drums. Then about 1995 he started bottling and sells about 30% of his honey in jars and buckets. Connie has developed a hand lotion made with honey and a lotion bar made with beeswax that has added a couple new products to sell as well as honey.

Curt says he enjoys being involved with beekeeping because it is a subject that almost always sparks an interest when you tell people what you do for a living. It's also gratifying to provide a product that is healthy and tastes delicious. Curt tells me he is now in the process of completing a new building for his extracting and bottling and hopes to include a showroom.

A member of IHPA, Curt is a past president and historian. He is also a member of the board filling a seat vacated by past president Tim Loughlin.

Pollination has become a big contributor to Curt's income. He has

100 hives going to local apple orchards and 175 hives going into melon fields in Eastern Iowa. In the fall he goes through his entire operation to find the strong hives to send to California for almond pollination. He says the hives need to be very strong and very well fed. The brokers and growers require strong healthy hives to be sure they will provide adequate pollination.

Great story Curt, it was worth the wait.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

By-Laws of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

One of the items mentioned at the business meeting during the Annual Meeting was a request for copies of the By-Laws of the IHPA. They are available upon request. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to me and I will see that you get a copy. The postage needs to be 63 cents. Thanks for your interest in the IHPA.

Donna Brahms, 65071 720th Street, Cumberland, IA 50843

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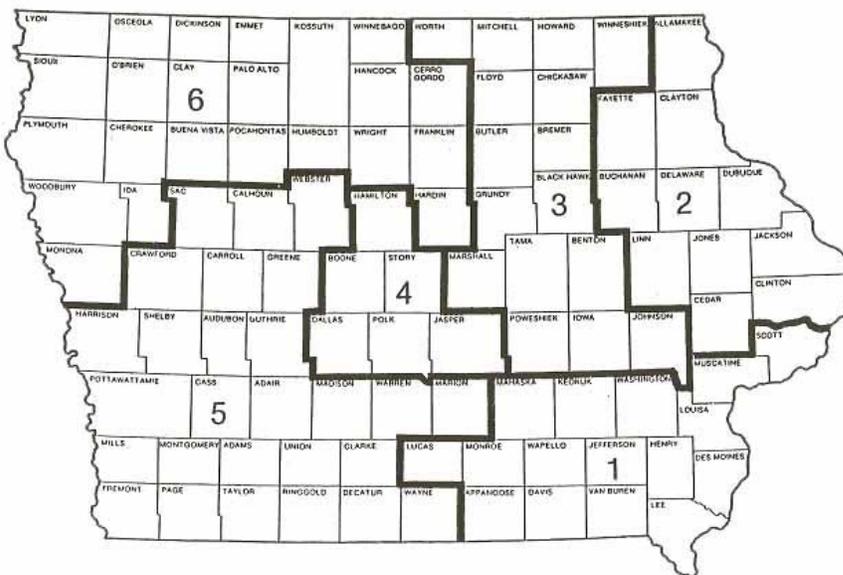
Phone: 936-825-2333 Fax: 936-825-3642

Email: rweaver@tca.net www.rweaver.com



The IHPA District Map

This map outlines the six IHPA districts. On the back of the Buzz is a listing of each of the IHPA District Officers. If you are interested in starting beekeeping or just have some questions, the district officers and IHPA board members can get you pointed in the right direction.



Iowa Honey Producer's Association Committees



Please feel free to contact the committee chairman to help with the important tasks of running the IHPA. We sincerely want to accept your offers of help and feel that the organization will only improve with the additional workers. The current committees and the chair of each committee is listed below.

Awards	Ellie Johnson
Annual Meeting/ Field Day	Pat Ennis
Beekeeper Bio's Education	Ron Wehr Phil Ebert
Historian	Doris Ramsey
Legislative	Mike Brahms
Membership	Louise Johnson
Newsletter	Phil Ebert
Promotions	Margaret Hala
Queen Program	Regina Jager
State Fair Sales	Donna Brahms
State Fair Entries	Melanie Bower
Bee Emergency	Vernie Ramsey

Iowa Honey Producers Association Board Meetings Scheduled for 2006

January 21, 2006			
Regular Meeting	Des Moines	1:00	
February 18, 2006			
Regular Meeting	Des Moines	1:00	
August 10-20, 2006			
Iowa State Fair	Des Moines		
November 16, 2006			
Regular Meeting	Marshalltown	7:00	
November 17 & 18			
Annual Meeting	Marshalltown		

The meetings are usually held at Immanuel Methodist Church located at 2900 49th Street in Des Moines. (49th & Urbandale Road)

Contest Results at the Annual Meeting

The foods entered were judged by Ann Garber, Mary Hays and 2005 Iowa Honey Queen, Teresa Jurchen.

Cooking with Honey Contest Results

Bars and Cookies

Third Place: Peanut Butter Cookies made by P & P Honey
 Second Place: Zucchini Cake made by Arlene Burns
 First Place: Honey Butterscotch Crispies made by P & P Honey

Snacks

Third Place: Festive Fruit Dip made by Mary Ebert
 Second Place: Tropical Cheese Spread made by Arlene Burns
 First Place: Honey Crunch made by Donna Brahms

Miscellaneous

First Place: Honey Rhubarb Pie made by Donna Brahms

Drinks

First Place: Mary's Apple Cider made by P & P Honey (Peggy & Pat Ennis)

Photo Contest Results

General Beekeeping

Third Place: Shiliah Spaulding
 Second Place: Doris Ramsey
 First Place: Donna Brahms

Bees on Flowers

Third Place: Doris Ramsey
 Second Place: Doris Ramsey
 First Place: Mary Ebert

Bees

Third Place: Doris Ramsey
 Second Place: Mary Ebert
 First Place: Gale Urquhart

Harvesting, Processing or Packaging Honey

Third Place: none
 Second Place: Donna Brahms
 First Place: Donna Brahms

The photo entries were judged by a member of the Marshalltown Photography Club.

Honey Recipes from the Annual Meeting

Some of the recipes from the Cooking with Honey contest at the Annual Meeting. More will be featured next month.



Honey Crunch by Donna Brahms

Ingredients:

½ cup Butter
1 tsp. Soda
12 oz. Bugles
1 cup Honey
1 tsp. Vanilla
5 cups Crispix
(corn chex or Honey Nut)
1 cup Pecans

Instructions:

Melt butter, add honey. Bring to a boil in the microwave. Boil 3 minutes. Stir several times. Remove from microwave and add vanilla and soda. Combine bugles, chex and pecans. Pour syrup over. Stir well. Microwave 3 minutes stirring several times. Pour on cookie sheets to cool. Break into small pieces. Store in airtight container.

Festive Fruit Dip by Mary Ebert

Ingredients:

2 cups Honey
5 Tbsp. Cranberry (canned)
2 packages 8 oz. Cream Cheese
1 Orange peel, grated

Instructions:

Blend well and refrigerate. Sprinkle with colored sugar. Serve with apples or graham crackers.

Honey Rhubarb Pie

by Donna Brahms

Ingredients:

Crust:

3 cups all-purpose flour
5 tablespoons water
1-½ teaspoons salt
1 egg
1 cup shortening (Crisco)
1 teaspoon vinegar

Filling:

3 cups cut fresh or frozen rhubarb
(½ inch pieces)
2 cups sliced peeled tart apples
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 can (8 oz.) crushed pineapple,
drained
4 tablespoons flour
1-¼ cup honey
1 tablespoon butter

Instructions:

1. In a bowl, combine flour and salt; cut in shortening until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Combine the water, egg and vinegar; stir into flour mixture until a ball forms. Divide dough in half. Roll out one portion on a lightly floured surface; transfer to a 9-inch pie plate. Trim pastry even with edge.
2. In a bowl, combine the rhubarb, apples, pineapple, honey, lemon juice and flour. Pour into crust. Dot with butter. Roll out remaining pastry to fit top of pie. Place over filling; trim, seal and flute edges. Cut slits in pastry. Using pastry brush apply milk to top and sprinkle with a little sugar.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 1-¼ hours or until the pastry is golden brown and the apples are tender.



2006 Beekeeping Classes

Several beekeeping classes are being offered through area community colleges. Contact one of the numbers below for more information.

Iowa Valley Community College, Marshalltown Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 for six weeks beginning Feb 2nd. Taught by Phil Ebert and Margaret Hala. Class fee of \$25 includes the book.

Jean Brownlie 641-752-4645
Email Jean.Brownlie@iavalley.edu

Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny Tuesday evenings starting Jan. 17th from 7:00 to 9:00 for six weeks. Taught by John Johnson and Gale Urquhart. Class fee of \$25 includes the book.

Lois Kiester 515-964-6685
Email Imkiester@dmacc.edu

North Iowa Community College, Mason City—class starting in Feb or March

Director of Continuing Education
641-422-4222 or Pat Ennis 641-444-4767

Kirkwood Community College—class location is in Washington—class starting in Feb or March
Ron Wehr 319-698-7542

Beekeeping Class in Winterset

Pat Randol will be teaching a beekeeping class at the Winterset Library. Class will be on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 PM beginning Jan. 17th and ending Feb. 28th. Contact Pat at 515-462-4768 or email prandol@fbx.com There are currently six people enrolled but there is room for more.

The class fee will be \$25 or \$30 depending on location. This includes the cost of the book and an opportunity to join the Iowa Honey Producers at a reduced rate. Most classes will be one night a week for four to six weeks plus a field day in a beeyard. Mason City will probably be a weekend course.

2005 Crop Report

At the annual meeting, several local beekeepers in each district or local association club members were asked for a reporting of the past year. Here is a summary of the reports.

The East Central Iowa Beekeepers has an average attendance at their meetings of 50. There was an early spring frost that affected several locations, but the average was around 100 pounds per colony in the Cedar Rapids area. It was very spotty for the rest of the area.

The Southeast Iowa Beekeepers stated that it was one of the better years even though it was dry. It was dry, but good with an average of 80 pounds of honey. There are 33 paid members of the SE Iowa Beekeepers.

The Northeast Iowa Beekeepers report was that the club started one year ago in September. They have had four meetings so far and have sent out 62 card for their membership. They recently had a field day with 28 attending in the rainy, cold weather. They averaged around 80-100 pounds.

The Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers are not meeting very regularly.

The Central Iowa Beekeepers reported that with having late queens and a frosty spring, splits didn't do well in some locations. There are approximately 65 in the group with an average attendance of 35 at their meetings. The average was probably 80-100 pounds with no fall crop.

The Northwest Iowa Beekeepers Association is a new group. Most of the beekeepers started with new equipment and packages this year or last year. The average was around 60-80 pounds and there are 20 members in the club.

The Southwest Iowa Honey Producers had a spotty year also. There is a large territory covered in this club, so varying amounts were reported from 60-100 pounds.

In North Central Iowa some people had a lousy year while others reported a great year. Some had over-wintering problems while others had an excellent over winter report.

I either missed the Back to Basics Beekeeping Club or there was no report. I am sorry if I missed you.

The story seems to be the same, repeating year after year. Some honey producers fared well, some not so well. We had stories of tremendous crops and of some that were lousy. Some had excellent over wintering colonies while others had a terrible over wintering rate. Some locations were dry, some had adequate moisture. Location, location, location is the key along with good management and favorable weather. We don't always get all the ingredients to make a successful year. Let's work on that for the new year.

Submitted by Donna Brahms



THE BEEYARD REPORT

"Maybe it will get better". Those can be dangerous words. I was having a little trouble with stiffness in my neck. It was a bit of an irritation but I thought no big problem. Besides, I had a lot of work to do. I woke up the day after Thanksgiving with so much pain I could hardly stand it. After about 20 phone calls, I finally found a chiropractor that had office hours that day. After I got to his office and he looked me over, I heard the comforting words "It's going to hurt a lot worse when I am done with you". He didn't lie. After some very painful treatments, I am finally getting back to normal. In an interesting development, I found out the father of the chiropractor has a farm with some good bee ground. We may have a yard there next year.

I still had around 300 colonies to get the wraps on when I went down to injury. I had been waiting for the bees to take the last bucket of syrup down before I finished the wraps. With the high cost of fuel, I wanted to get it all done in one trip. I had to enlist Alex and Adam for assistance. They spent a weekend working in the snow. Alex and I finished up later in the week. Now, there is nothing to do but wait for spring and see what we have left alive. As I said last month, I am concerned about the early cut off in brood rearing. We just don't have the young bees we have had the last two years. I could easily suffer a 30 to 40% winter loss.

It's always relaxing to finally get into the winter flow of things. I got the excess equipment moved out of the garage but the forklift I borrowed from Taylor's is still sitting in there. The place is a little jammed up but with a little organization, I can work in there. The heating system is pretty lame but if it gets too cold, I just go to the house for a while.

There are plenty of things to keep me busy. I have a load of honey I need to sell to somebody. There is plenty of equipment in need of repair. I also need a little recreation. I've been taking in a few basketball games and I'll be going to the AHP meeting in Houston.

Happy Holidays to all!!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert

The Old Man is taking a Siesta. He asked me to write an article this month.

By Gordon Powell

I figure the best thing I can write about is disease, or better yet how to identify and clean up disease, not just treat to prevent disease.

I recently got the shock of my bee keeping years, when I found five hives out of eight with a severe case of American Foul Brood. I am sure that one of the hives found the disease and that I didn't find it when I added supers in early June. The disease weakens this hive to the point that the other



Photo 1

hives robbed them of their honey and killed the bees. This is how the disease was spread to the other four hives. I found the disease when I went to get bees ready for the fair. It was obvious that I had a large clean up job ahead of me. First I confirmed that it was American Foul Brood using the rope test, as shown in the photo below. My nose had already told me that it was American foul brood. The dead decaying brood whether it is a few cells or a whole frame gives off a very foul odor. Once you know the odor it is not hard to recognize American foul brood whenever you encounter it again. Here are two pictures showing the foul brood (Photo 1) and how to test using a small twig or toothpick (Photo 2). You will notice that the dead larvae sticks to the twig and stretches out from the cell. You will notice the small holes in the capping where the live bees have



Photo 2

haven't hatched.

To clean up disease from the equipment that is as severe as this requires quick action and positive results. I brought in the dead hive and immediately placed the wooden frames with beeswax foundation in a better way wax melter and turned the thermostat to 275 degrees and let it run for 3 hours after reaching that temperature. This prevents the spread of the disease by sterilizing the frames and killing the bacillus larvae that is found in the spores in the comb that causes American Foulbrood. This melted all of the wax from the comb, which I caught in a clean pan. I then took the wooden frames with the hot dry casing left from the brood and placed the casing in a cardboard box, which I placed in a closed garbage can until I was able to dispose of it properly. The disease only effects the young bees as they are going into metamorphosis to change from a worm into an insect. The spores have to be in the food, honey; that they eat. After sterilizing the frames in the melter, I rewired and installed

new foundation. I then scorched the inside of the hive body and bottom board with a propane torch to kill any spores. I placed one frame of drawn comb from clean bees and a division feeder in a deep hive body with five newly sterilized wooden frames with new foundation. I

fixed two hive bodies this way and took them out to the bee yard. I opened the next hive that had the disease American Foulbrood and set the brood nest off on an old hive body. I then place one of the clean hive bodies where the old hive body had been on a freshly cleaned bottom board. I then filled the feeder with fructose corn syrup. I then took a frame from the disease hive body and after looking for the queen shook the bees off in front of the hive.

When I found the Queen I placed her on the frame of drawn comb in the clean hive body and closed the hive up so she wouldn't fly away. I then finished shaking the bees off the combs and allowed them to crawl into the clean hive. This gave them a sense of swarming and with the new foundation



Photo 3

and plenty of fructose they started to draw foundation. I then took these two hive bodies home and cleaned them up the same way I had done the first hive body. The next day I took these two hive bodies with new foundation and a division board feeder in them out to the bee yard and remove the last two disease hive bodies in that yard. I then cleaned up those frames and hive bodies. I came upon a dilemma when I found some of the infected frames were solid plastic made by Pierco. I called Pierco to ask how to clean and sterilize the solid plastic frames that were contaminated with American Foulbrood Disease. The person I talked to at Pierco couldn't give me a proven method of disinfectant of the



Photo 4

solid Pierco frames. He did say he had heard of some beekeepers taking the frames to a car wash and using high pressure soapy water to clean the frames and he also said he had heard of some beekeepers dipping the frames in a bleach water after high pressure water cleaning. I wasn't satisfied with his answers, so I called Jerry Hayes in Florida and asked him how to clean the solid plastic frames like Pierco and the solid sheets of Plastic Foundation. Mr. Hayes told me to simply take the frames to a car wash and using high pressure wash them thoroughly removing the entire casing left from the rearing of brood. I did not need to dip them in a bleach solution or do anything else to disinfect the frames. Knowing this saved me from having to replace some expensive plastic frames.

At this time I was contacted by Becky



Photo 5

Ohrman, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; regarding an anonymous report that I had American Foulbrood in an observation hive at the fair. I reported that I had AFB and yes, I was working on cleaning up the disease. I agreed that the best thing to do was to have an inspector come and check my bees. On Aug. 29th, Bill Eickholt; state apiary inspector, inspected 13 of my 15 colonies of bees. We found one hive in my yard at Earlham with American Foulbrood. I had not checked that yard since early June when I put on supers. Bill Eickholt told me that according to the Iowa Code, I had 10 days to clean up the disease. I did the same thing to that yard that I had done to the others by replacing the hive body with new foundation and feeding the bee's fructose. On Sept. 13th Bill Eickholt and Becky Ohrman, made a re-inspection of the hives and found them to be clean of American Foulbrood. I have included a picture of Bill doing his first inspection of my bees (Photo 5) and a couple of pictures of an excellent frame of brood and bees. (Photo 4)

Note the queen in the center of the picture (Photo 3). She is a nice size and nice golden colored Italian Queen.

This doesn't mean that my work is done. I will have to monitor these hives very closely this spring to make sure that the bees haven't stored honey for food with foulbrood spores in it and feed

it to the young bees and create another out break of American Foulbrood. I haven't fed any antibiotics such as terramycin or trylosin. I feel that by sterilizing the frames and inside of the hive bodies and bottom boards and shaking the bees onto new foundation no disease will be transmitted to the new combs by the bees. This was the most severe outbreak of American Foulbrood that I have had in the thirty-five years of keeping bees and I hope it is the last. It just goes to show that if it is near your bees they will find it and it can get ahead of you in a short time. The important thing is to take the proper steps to clean up the equipment and irradiate the disease.

Sincerely, Gordon Powell



Photo 6

Information for feature Article in the BUZZ

As an Iowa beekeeper, we would like to feature you in the next publication of the Buzz.

Since deadlines are involved, we would like you to complete this form and return it as soon as possible.

We will review the information and visit with you by telephone if we need further information. We would like to include pictures with the articles, so if you can send one it would be nice. If space limits comments, feel free to attach additional pages. Thanks for your cooperation!!!

Name: Spouse:

Address:

Business Name:

Email Address:

When and why did you start keeping bees?

Size of business?(#hives, etc.):

Items marketed:

What are your satisfactions in beekeeping?

Any interesting future plans?

Name, size of local beekeeping group and when they meet:

Activities carried out by the group:

What is your role in working with the group?

What involvement do you have with IHPA?

Beekeeping experiences that would be of interest to other beekeepers:

Thank you, and please return hard copy and picture to:

**Ronald J. Wehr
2270 Juniper Ave.
Keota, IA. 52248
(319) 698-7542**

If you have e-mail please send this information and digital pictures, to ehoney37@netins.net

2005 Bee and Honey Inquiry

Dear Honey Producer:

There are unique issues and challenges facing today's honey operations. What can you do to address these challenges? How can you have more control of the future of your industry?

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) can help by providing quality data for decision-making. The need for actual, reliable bee and honey data is greater than ever. You, the honey producer, are the only source of this essential data. Having quality information enables the USDA and the honey industry to be more responsive to the American public, increase consumer understanding and awareness, and establish an appreciation for the safety and health benefits of U.S. honey.

NASS is asking you to participate in the December 2005 Bee and Honey Inquiry. This survey provides important data on bee and honey inventories and value of production. Response to this survey is voluntary and not required by law, but your response is important to ensure reliable honey production and price estimates. Individual reports are kept confidential.

Data collection has already begun. You may have already received your questionnaire in the mail. Data will be collected until February 1, 2006. Results of this survey will be published on February 28, 2006. You can receive this report by mail or by accessing <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/index.asp>.

If you have any questions about the Bee and Honey Inquiry or did not receive a questionnaire and want to participate, call Vernon Rhodes at 1-800-772-0825.

Respectfully,

Vernon Rhodes
Agricultural Statistician
IA Field Office
NASS/USDA



IHPA Board Meeting of December 10th, 2005

The IHP board of Directors met Dec 10th in Des Moines. Offering liability insurance to beekeepers through the Association was discussed. This was examined several years ago but we are going to take another look at it. Bee inspection was also discussed. The state is not planning to do inspections on beekeepers with less than 50 colonies. It's possible the IHP may set up a mentoring system which will make people available to help other members solve problems. Donna Brahms and Pat Ennis are going to set up a committee to meet with the state to see if we can facilitate this option.

Gordon Powell is going to head up a committee to determine the distribution of the hurricane relief funds that were designated at the annual meeting. A youth mentoring system was also discussed. In this scenario, the IHP would provide bees and equipment or financial support to beginning beekeepers. It was de-

vised board members should contact their local FFA chapters to see if there is any local interest in this. Initially, this would be a pilot program with one or two participants.

The feasibility of producing a disease control video was discussed. With inspections on the decrease, the IHP needs to find an effective way to get information to beekeepers on how to monitor disease and mite levels. If this video is produced it will be distributed free to beekeeping groups but sold on an individual basis with a discount available to IHP members. Alex Ebert will prepare a plan for video production and it will be discussed at the January meeting.

An electronic system for registering beehives may be in place by spring. Gale Urquhart is working with Becky Ohrtman on this. Gale is also heading up work on a new beekeepers directory. Progress is being made on this.

Comments on the annual meeting were for the most part positive. The biggest complaint was that people didn't know what the program was going to be far enough in advance. A new program planner should solve this problem. We also need to improve the quality of the summer meeting. Attendance and the quality of the program have dwindled the last few years. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21st.



The Buzz Newsletter-January 2006

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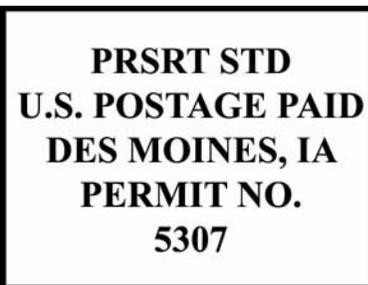
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The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association
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National Honey Board
www.NHB.org

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American Beekeeping Federation website
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