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The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

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 Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

Dates To Bee Remembered

Aug. 7-17th, 2008 Iowa State Fair IHPA Sales Booth/Fair Entries/Good Times
Sept. 20th, 2008 Central Iowa Meeting at Bonanza on East 14th Street north of I-80, Des Moines, IA at 6:30 p.m. for the meal and meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 5th, 2008 IHPA Board Meeting Back Alley Deli/Des Moines/2:00 p.m.
Nov. 6th, 2008 IHPA Board Meeting Best Western Regency Inn/ Marshalltown/7:00 p.m.
Nov. 7th-8th, 2008 Annual Meeting Best Western Regency Inn/ Marshalltown

Think ahead! CIBA will have their annual beekeeping equipment auction on April 18th, 2009 with the location to be announced.

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For Sale: Bee equipment
Bottoms; $1.00
Migratory covers; $1.00
Inner covers; 1.00
Queen excluders; $3.00
Hive bodies
9 5/8 new with frames and foundation; $26.00
9 5/8 drawnout combs used; 15.00
Supers
6 5/8 new with frames and foundation; $21.00
6 5/8 drawn out used; $10.00

Black winter wraps $1.00
Fillmaster Table top power bottle filler by Dadant $1,200 or best offer Bottling system and equipment Cremed honey equipment Extracting equipment cowen Uncapper, drip tray and wax melter Sump Tank Lg SS holding tank

Contact: Ann Garber
PO Box 36
Allerton, Iowa 50008
logchain@grm.net
voice: 641-873-4119
fax: 641-873-6497

For Sale:
50 pound box of metal inserts and Metal insert tool. Inserts are new and tool is like new. $75 each or both for $125 plus shipping.

Contact Gordon Powell
4012 54th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310
Ph: 515-278-1762

IHPA T-Shirts (These are membership prices. Non-member prices are available on request.)

The t-shirts are a bright yellow shirt with brown lettering.

Youth size (S) (M) (L) circle one _____ qty. X $8.50 $____________
Adult size (S) (M) (L) circle one _____ qty. X $9.00 $____________
Adult size (XL) (XXL) circle one _____ qty. X $10.00 $____________

Shipping is $3.00 per shirt, or $5.00 for two shirts.

Shipping $____________
Total $____________

Make checks payable to: IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

An IHPA t-shirt makes a great gift for bee enthusiast of all ages!

Send form and check to:
Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer
207 S.E. Diehl
Des Moines, IA 50315

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Greetings from the President of the IHPI

Dear Honey Producers:

We just finished adding supers. The colonies are certainly busy out there. The soggy ground and flooding in our area hasn't affected the bees too much. We have hills so the water rises, runs down the hills, collects in the low spots, runs over the roads and then recedes. We are certainly thinking about all of the work people are doing as a result of the flooding in the state. The rain just doesn't want to slow down. The recent tornadoes and their victims are also on our minds. As many of you will recall, Mike and I were boy scout leaders for 18 years and we spent many a camp-out at Little Sioux Scout Ranch. We still know many leaders and boys in the program and were very anxious the night the tornado went through Little Sioux.

The Queen Rearing Field Day was a great success. Pat and Curt did an excellent job of hosting the eager beekeepers. There were around 70 beekeepers that attended and learned the fine art of queen rearing. The flood waters were a concern, but the Raccoon River water had gone down enough to let us go to Curt and Connie Bronnenberg's Spring Valley Honey Farm in Perry. Thank you Pat for all of your work for this workshop. It was excellent.

I am still asking for help at the Iowa State Fair. If you have not signed up to work at the Iowa State Fair in the Iowa Honey Producers booth in the Ag. Building, please contact me and we will get you signed up and the tickets for entry into the fairgrounds sent to you. As an extra incentive, remember you also receive honey lemonade during your shift.

The Iowa State Fair entry books are not being sent in the mail this year. Access to the rules and regulations is by way of the computer only. This move is saving millions of pieces of paper. Don't forget to send in your registration by the deadline to enter the Apiary division. We need lots of entries to fill our shelves and to show the public all about beekeeping in Iowa.

Last fall we received a phone call from a gentleman asking if we would get some bees out of an old school house that was situated on his property. I told him that it was the wrong time of year and because they weren't bothering anything where they were at, if they were still there in the spring to give us a call. We indeed received the call. We decided to go look at the bees following church. Sure enough, honey bees behind a sheet of particle board that was covering the windows of the school house. We went back home, tended to our honey bees by adding supers, collected all of the equipment and headed back to "vacuum" bees. We were a few miles from home and I asked about a ladder. We had forgotten ours! We arrived at the site, unloaded the equipment, found a gate that Mike could use as a ladder and proceeded to remove the particle board. Yep, lots of old comb, new comb, sealed honey, brood and quite a few bees flying. They were really calm. Mike started the vacuuming process. The shop vac that we were using started making a terrible sound. The bearing was going out of the motor. We decided to call a few people in the area so that we didn't have to go clear back home to get another shop vac. Finally we borrowed one from Mike's brother and started back to the task of obtaining the honey bees. Several hours later, we were headed back home with new honey bees. I was busy taking photos while Mike kept handing me pieces of the former home of the bees. I was able to take a cross section photo of the pollen stored in the comb. I found some bees ready to emerge from the cells, some queen cells, sealed honey and lots of interestingly shaped honeycomb. It was an interesting day. Now let's see if the honey bees are able to produce some honey in their new location.

If you receive a phone call that there is going to be spraying in your area, ask the caller to tell you what kind of spray is going to be used and ask if they could please apply it either really early in the morning or later in the evening. If you can move your colonies, you could do that, but with honey supers on, it would be a task. If you want to shut up the honey bees, please remember that they could suffocate in a very short time or get overheated. It might be best to use screen wire to close the entrance. My experience is that most chemical applicator's will work with the beekeepers. If you do experience problems, remember to call the state apiarist, Andy Joseph. We now have someone to help us with these problems. There are new "No Spray" signs available to post that are visible from the ground or air also. They are really reasonably priced and are available to people that have registered as part of the sensitive crop registry with the Iowa Agriculture Department. Partial funding for these signs is provided by aerial applicators around the state.

I know that this article is later than I usually send it to Alex. The 6 farmers' markets a week, gardening, the Senior Center, husband, children and grandchildren and beekeeping are keeping me extremely busy right now. I just don't seem to get enough done each day. Please enjoy your copy of the BUZZ when you receive it and if you have any problems or questions, give one of the officers or board members a call.

I certainly hope that you will find time to help at the Iowa State Fair, prepare entries for the Apiary exhibits at the state fair and to enjoy the summer weather that we are going to have. Keep an eye on your colonies for swarming. Invite the Iowa Honey Queen to an event that you are attending. Enjoy your family and take time to watch the honey bees working busily as they gather the nectar and pollen to sustain them.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPI President
Things started to turn around in the middle of May. By the beginning of June the bees were looking pretty good. All of the good ones were supered by the 10th. It seems like every yard has three or four that are queenless or we are waiting to see if the queens mated. We got a good three weeks of dandelions but then it turned wet again. I’m pretty cold blooded but I usually take my long underwear off by Memorial Day. As we moved into June, I still had it on.

Adam pulled a frame or two of brood from the good colonies when he supered. That’s what he used to stock his mating nucs. We are over a month late is getting that up and running. The first lot of queens tried to mate during the monsoons. The results were predictable. I’ve turned down orders for at least 200 queens.

The first lot of bees coming out of the apples was super. We expected the same from the second lot. After selling off half of our queens, we didn’t think we were going to have enough. It was a mad scramble to find more. When we actually got the second lot of bees back home, they were crap. We wound up knocking them down into small units just to use up the queens.

The packages look good. They were supered at the end of May. Most of them will be doubles. One yard started slow and never caught up. Adam left most of that yard as singles. We liked the way the 4# pkgs. with two queens worked out. We usually direct release our package queens but with the 4#, we want to slow down release until the bees are sure which queen is theirs.

We always have a lot of ticks but this year they seem to be gravitating toward my private parts. It’s a little disconcerting.

If you would like to nominate someone, please send the information to me by the deadline of September 30th.

Louise Johnson
34147 310th Street
Guttenberg, IA  52052
(563) 252-2340
louisej@alpinecom.net

IHPA Award Nominations

It is time to think of deserving beekeepers and friends of the association that should receive one of the Awards that the IHPA presents at the Annual Meeting banquet. Please review the categories and submit your suggestions along with a short letter explaining why you feel that this candidate should receive an award. The categories that we usually present are as follows:

1. **Pioneer Award**- for having been involved for 50 years or more and still active in beekeeping.

2. **Distinguished Service Award**- for assisting other beekeepers, willing to share information, and /or serving the association.

3. **Education Award**- teaching beekeeping classes, speaking at service clubs, giving presentations to school children or speaking about beekeeping on radio or T.V.

4. **Promotions Award**- for promoting honey and beekeeping, promotions for the state association or promoting their own product.

5. **Friendship Award**- for being a friend of the association. This could be someone who has displayed at the annual IHPA trade show, a state official who has assisted or encouraged beekeeping, someone outside our industry of producing honey.

6. **Youth Award**- for a young person who has shown commendable involvement in such things as helping the the state fair, successfully keeping bees for at least one season including wintering, writing, making a float for a parade, speaking, etc.

If you would like to nominate someone, please send the information to me by the deadline of September 30th.

Louise Johnson
34147 310th Street
Guttenberg, IA  52052
(563) 252-2340
louisej@alpinecom.net

**THE BEEYARD REPORT**

The first lot of bees coming out of the apples was super. We expected the same from the second lot. After selling off half of our queens, we didn’t think we were going to have enough. It was a mad scramble to find more. When we actually got the second lot of bees back home, they were crap. We wound up knocking them down into small units just to use up the queens.

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We always have a lot of ticks but this year they seem to be gravitating toward my private parts. It’s a little disconcerting.

We expected to have the addition to our building completed by now. The reality is that we had the footings poured by June 15th. The weather has the builder...
Be Part Of The Fun At The Iowa State Fair!

Dear Honey Producers:

We hope you will be able to help the Iowa Honey Producers Association with honey and lemonade sales at the 2008 Iowa State Fair. Dates of this year’s fair are August 7th through the 17th. Please bring any other helpers with you who may be interested in working. Children who are ten years of age and older enjoy assisting and are welcome. We will send passes which provide free entry to the State Fair to all who assist with honey and lemonade sales.

Days, dates and times for which help is needed are listed at the bottom of this letter. Please return the work schedule, call or e-mail, if you prefer, indicating the dates and times you will help. Also, if possible, please list a first or second choice of dates and times you can be available to help with sales. Please state the names of all those coming with you who will be helping with State Fair sales.

I already have dates filling up. Thanks to those who have asked for a specific date at this early time. Remember that we need approximately 21 people per day to fill the necessary shifts. The building is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for each of the 11 days that the Iowa State Fair runs. This is the main money making project of the Iowa Honey Producers Association. Please help us maintain adequate money to provide the necessary programs of the association.

We had a fantastic year last year and hope to continue the large amount of sales this year. Please consider helping your association.

Name:_________________________________________________________
Address:_______________________________________________________
City, State, Zip:__________________________________________________
Telephone:______________________________________________________
Date(s):__________________________ Date(s):_____________________________
9:00-1:30_________________________ 9:00-1:30____________________________
1:30-6:00_________________________ 1:30-6:00____________________________
6:00-9:00_________________________ 6:00-9:00____________________________

Donna Brahms, IHPA Booth Manager
65071 720th Street
Cumberland, IA 50843-8125
(712) 774-5878-H or (402) 677-2460-C
E-mail: mbrahms@netins.net

Have a great summer. It has finally arrived.

Submitted by Phil Ebert
This month our featured beekeeper is Jim Tennant. He and his wife Jean live with their two sons, Chance and Chase, at West Point, Iowa. Jim has 12 hives and is aiming for 25. They sell several sizes of honey in jars and some comb honey. Jim says he likes being outdoors working the bees, watching the hives grow, extracting and eating honey. Best of all his sons help smoke the hives, hold frames, and extract so he can pass on the family tradition. Jim is planning to raise a few queens of his own sometime and keep his sons interested in bees.

Here is Jim’s story:

I started my first hive in 1998. I started keeping bees because I was raised around it and I wanted to try and keep something going that I had done with my grandparents. I remember being little and going to some of the bee yards with my grandpa, cleaning frames in their garage and always helping extracting and filling jars. At one time at his busiest my grandpa had 500 hives and still held a full time job. To me it was something I was bound to do. At an auction of my wife’s relatives, I bought some bee equipment which included a couple of hives. I then called my grandpa who lived in Ohio and told him I had bought a couple of hives and asked him how to get started. He seemed a little bit irritated and asked me why it had taken me so long to get started because I was now 28 years old and hadn’t been around beekeeping since I moved with my family from Ohio in 1985 to SE Iowa. He then proceeded to give me some advice on getting started. I bought a package of bees for one hive but it ended up dying out.

In the spring of 1999 my grandfather passed away and that kind of pushed me into it with both feet so I bought 6 packages and started more hives. I swore I would never buy store bought honey ever.

Now 10 years later and with 12 hives my whole family is involved. My wife Jean designed our labels and business cards and sells our honey at our local Hy-Vee in Ft. Madison, IA. She puts up with me doing it and has never tried to get me to stop. My sons, Chance and Chase help when they feel like it because I don’t want to force them to do it and end up pushing them away from it.

Sometimes when I’m working my bees I feel like my grandpa (Pap) and grandma (Gram) are watching me and I’m always hoping I made them proud by keeping something going that we had shared when I was little. So thank you Pap and Gram and thank-you Jean, Chance and Chase for being a part of the beekeeping family.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

HONEY GLAZED BABY CARROTS

Printed from COOKS.COM

2-3 cups small baby carrots (pre-peeled)
1/2 cup butter
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1 tablespoon honey
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
fresh minced parsley and/or chives

In a medium skillet, melt butter. Add brown sugar, honey, nutmeg and cinnamon; mix together. Add Carrots. Cover; cook on medium low to medium heat for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. When finished cooking, the carrots should be firm, not mushy.

Remove from skillet and sprinkle with fresh parsley and/or chives. Serve.
“No Spray” Sign Request Form

You are receiving this letter because you have registered on the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Sensitive Crop Directory. In order to minimize the potential for pesticide drift damage and to protect your crops, a “No Spray” sign has been designed. We are providing these signs at a much reduced cost to you due to additional funding provided by an EPA grant, as well as contributions from Iowa Aerial Applicators Association, Syngenta, Bayer, and BASF. The sign will be 12” x 18” in. and made of aluminum. This sign is available to only those that have registered, and only 2,000 signs have been ordered initially. At this time, we are only able to accept orders for 2 signs, so please make your check for the $10 amount. Sign delivery is anticipated after June 9th.

We will order additional signs if necessary, depending on demand. If reorder is possible a notice will be sent on how to order additional signs.

Please check the box below if you want to order signs.

☐ 2 Signs for $10

Please indicate the number of additional signs you would like to purchase if they come available.

________ # of additional signs requested

Name_________________________________________________

Address_______________________________________________

City_____________________ State_____   Zip ______________

Please send order form and check to:

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Attn: Emily Wadle
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, via phone, email or fax.

Email: emily.wadle@iowaAgriculture.gov
Phone: 515-725-2078
Fax: 515-281-6178

Make Checks Payable to Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)
Bayer pesticide causes bee deaths in 11,500 colonies in Germany

(AFX International ProFeed 06/16 04:15:19)

FRANKFURT (Thomson Financial) - Bayer AG.'s seed treatment Poncho has been linked to bee deaths at 11,500 bee colonies in southwestern Germany since May and 700 beekeepers have filed damage reports, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung reported, citing the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Poncho, containing the active ingredient clothianidine, is used on seeds to protect the growing plant against insects.

Bayer said the seed treatment companies that use Poncho may have handled the product incorrectly, allowing particles containing the insecticide to blow away during the sowing of corn to nearby areas where it was ingested by the bees.

German state-run crop research institute Julius-Kuehn Institut last week said clothianidine caused the bee deaths.

Germany's Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety in May suspended the sale of Poncho and seven other seed treatment products after clothianidine was first linked to the incidents.

The temporary ban so far has not led to a drop in sales at Bayer's crop chemicals unit because it came after the end of the corn sowing season, company spokesman Hermann-Josef Baaken said.

However, if the ban is continued into August it will affect the sowing season for canola, he said.

The state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, which is coordinating compensation payments, will announce at the end of the weak how much Bayer must pay to

WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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Agenda Highlights
Sunday August 17: "Bee Buzz" Social – Meet and Greet
Monday August 18: HISTORY OF BEEKEEPING
Tuesday August 19: THE MEDICINAL USES OF BEE PRODUCTS
(Speakers TBA)
Wednesday August 20: TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE
Thursday August 21: Special Guest Speaker

Full details are available at the WAS website:
http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/Conference_Information/

Bee Presentation at Humeston Library

Renae and Greg Beard gave a bee presentation at the beautiful new Humeston Library for the summer reading program “Catch the Reading Bug” on Monday, June 09, 2008. Renae (14) and Greg Beard (13) are first-year bee keepers as part of the Iowa Honey Bee Scholar program. Jackie Beard (their mom) served as the bee-suit model and assisted as Renae and Greg explained how they became bee-keepers, the equipment used, and gave general information about honey bees. The audience consisted of about 15 kindergarten through 6th grade students. The children were very interested in the tools, especially the smoker, and the slide show of bee photos.

After Greg finished explaining that the drone, is like a ‘couch potato’ because it doesn’t do much work, one little boy promptly declared “I would be the drone!”

Submitted by Jackie Beard
beekeepers, Baaken said.

Germany is the only country so far in which clothianidine has been suspended, so said.

Bayer said in May it was working on a certification system with seed companies to avoid faulty seed treatment in the future.

The company said it is also working with the manufacturers of certain pneumatic corn-sowing equipment to avoid the drifting of pesticide particles during sowing.

Bayer's Poncho generated 237 million euros in global sales in 2007. The company's CropScience division, which markets Poncho, had 5.8 billion euros in sales last year.

Rent-a-Hive

How much does it cost to borrow a colony of honeybees?

By Jacob Leibenluft

Posted Friday, June 27, 2008, at 7:00 PM ET

Article URL: http://www.slate.com/id/2194424/

The House Agriculture Committee heard testimony on Thursday about the toll Colony Collapse Disorder was taking on bee hives nationwide. Growers complained that the skyrocketing cost of renting bees was forcing them to raise prices on crops. Just how expensive is it to rent a colony of bees?

Between $10 and $180, depending on the season. When you rent a colony of bees, you aren't just shelling out for the insects—the per-colony rental fee typically covers the cost of transporting the bees, setting up the hive and collecting the colony at the end of the contract. If you don't need a full hive's worth, you can buy (not rent) a package of bees and have them delivered via the U.S. Postal Service; three pounds of them might set you back $75.

Colony rental prices are highest from early February to mid-March, during the pollination season for almonds. The almond crops in California are entirely dependent on honeybees, and every spring they require more than half the commercial bee colonies in the nation. (Beekeepers as far away as Florida send their product to the West Coast to meet the demand.) This year, California almond farmers paid up to $180 a colony, and their appetite for the insects pushed up prices for growers all over the country. Rental fees can drop by more than a factor of 10 later in the spring, as beekeepers look for a place to leave their bees until a more lucrative season.

The price of a colony also depends on what you plan to do with it. In the Northeast, pumpkin and cucumber farmers pay more for hives because pollinating their patches isn't quite as nutritious for the bees and may limit the hive's growth. (Apple producers in Pennsylvania are reporting prices around $65 per colony this year, compared with $100 for pumpkin farmers.) But no matter what you're pollinating, prices are higher than they used to be:

Explainer thanks Keith Delaplane of the University of Georgia, Joe Traynor of Scientific Ag Co., Dennis van Engelsdorp of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and Shannon Wooten of Wooten's Golden Queens.

Jacob Leibenluft is a writer from Washington, D.C.
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Extracting Kits

**Junior Bench Extractor Kit**

- The Junior Bench Extracting kit is the perfect extracting set up for the beginning beekeeper. The kit comes complete with 1 Junior Bench two frame extractor and stand, 1 bottling bucket kit, 1 speed king electric knife, plastic uncapping tub and 1 capping scratcher.

**M00390KIT Extractor Kit**

- This ships in 4 pkgs.
  - 1 pkg @ 47#
  - 2 pkgs @ 35#

$499.95

---

**Little Wonder Hand-Extractor Kits**

**Little Wonder Extractor Kits**—A step up in size from the Junior Bench but the little wonder extracting kit is perfect for the hobby beekeeper. It is available in both hand and power styles. This four frame extractor comes complete with extractor and stand, 1 bottling bucket kit, 1 speed king electric knife, plastic uncapping tub and 1 capping scratcher.

**M00396KIT LW Hand Extractor Kit**

- This ships in 4 pkgs.
  - 1 pkg @ 78#
  - 2 pkgs @ 35#

$554.95

**M00403KIT LW Power Extractor Kit**

- This ships in 5 pkgs.
  - 1 pkg @ 78#
  - 2 pkgs @ 35#

$629.95

---

**Ranger Power Extractor Kit**

**Ranger Extractor Kits**—For those who prefer a radial extractor this is for you. The Ranger extracting kit is available in both the power and hand styles. It is capable of extracting 6 - 6 1/4” frames or shallow frames radially or three deep frames tangentially by using the optional baskets. The 6 frame radial extractor comes complete with extractor and stand, 1 bottling bucket kit, 1 speed king electric knife, plastic uncapping tub and 1 capping scratcher.

**M00400KIT Ranger Hand Extractor Kit**

- This ships in 4 pkgs.
  - 1 pkg @ 78#
  - 2 pkgs @ 35#

$639.95

**M00401KIT Ranger Power Extractor Kit**

- This ships in 5 pkgs.
  - 1 pkg @ 78#
  - 2 pkgs @ 35#

$896.95

**M00402 Optional Baskets, for Deep Frames, Ship Wt. 8 lbs.**

$84.75
The Buzz Newsletter
Iowa Honey Producers Association
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ISSUE 7 – July 2008

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Additional Links and Emails
IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

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Additional Links and Emails
IDALS website
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National Honey Board
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