Central Iowa Beekeeper’s Annual Auction Pg. 6
Beeyard Report Pg. 4
Beekeeper of the Month Pg. 8
April 16 CIB Auction Perry Ia
April 23 Advanced Beekeeping class ( must pre. register) Splitting hives and Diseases
June 18 Advanced Beekeeping class ( must pre. register) Queen production and honey production
July 6 filed day @ Spring Valley Honey Farm Perry
July 6 Board Meeting after field day
August 11-21 Iowa State Fair
September 11 Board meeting @ DIC conference room at DMACC Ankeny
November 3 Board meeting at Marshalltown Bestwestern
November 4 - 5 Annual Meeting at Marshalltown Bestwestern

For Sale Package Bees
The package will consist of bottom board, 9 5/8 - 10 frame hive body with bees and 9 frames, entrance reducer, insulated inner lid and metal outer lid. New Italian queen. This is not new equipment. It is painted used equipment in good condition. The total for this hive package will be $145.00 I will need a $45.00 deposit when you order and the package will be ready for you to pick up June 1st at Monticello Iowa barring weather conditions. Our bee yards are inspected by Iowa Bee inspectors. I will only be selling 30 package hives this year. I have 40+ years experience in beekeeping. Send deposit to Curtis Barnhart, P. O. Box 70, Monticello, IA 52310 with your name, address and phone number that you can be reached at. I am out of town until March 24. You can call and leave a message at my office (American Supply) Or autum49@yahoo.com Thank you. Curtis Barnhart 319 465-6655 (6/11)

For Sale: 3lb. packages Minnesota hygienic Italians $65. Pick up, Saint Charles, Ia.
Larry Soder 515-462-4489 soderapiaries@gmail.com 3/11

For Sale: 5 frame Nuc with an Italian Queen - $100.00 Also a few singles also with an Italian Queen - $135.00. For more info, call Pat Ennis @ 1-515-293-2601. 5/11

FOR SALE: 2# and 3 # package bees. (Tentative) Delivery date April 14th. 2# package $65.00 3# package $75.00 $6.00 returnable cage deposit.
Choice of Italian or Carniolan Queens. I will be shaking packages from my own bees with Olivarez and Koehnen Queens from April 15th through May 1st.
I now have a complete line of basic beekeeping equipment from complete hive kits to smokers, suits, hive tools, medications, mite treatments, and honey containers. Please see our website www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com for complete list and pricing.
Contact: Curt Bronnenberg Home # 515-465-5939 Cell # 515-480-6075 Pat Ennis Home # 641-444-4767 Cell # 515-293-2601

For Sale: 2lb. Carniolan or Italian. Drakesville area, S.E. Iowa.
Contact: Charles Newton Phone: 641-682-8333 641-799-9266

FOR SALE: Package Bees--2#, 3# and 4#. The 4# can come with either 1 or 2 queens. Your choice of Carniolan or Italian queens. Prices won't be available until some time in January. Bees will be arriving in early to mid April. Pickup is in Lynnville, IA or Hamilton, Il.
Contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639, e-mail ehoney37@netins.net or check our web site www.eberthoney.com

HELP WANTED
Full or Part Time Bee Keeper or Wanna bee Beekeeper to work for Spring Valley Honey Farms. Willing to train, only requirement is a willingness to be stung frequently.
Contact Curt @ 515-480-6075

Contact: Josh Sommers (641) 658-2213

For Sale: 40 Mann Lake to (4 gal) feeders $7.50 ea.
Larry Soder 515-462-4489 soderapiaries@gmail.com 3/11

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
Greetings from the President
Hello Beekeepers,

We had a very nice spell of nice weather the 2nd and 3rd week of February. This has given the bees excellent opportunity to get out and take those cleansing flights so badly needed. I hope that most of you got a chance to at least take a look at your hives to see if you had flight activity or at least some house cleaning activity at the entrances. If you don't see any activity at all you should check further to see if you have lost the hive. If the hive has died it is best to clear out the dead bees and move the equipment inside to a storage area. If the equipment sits around outside with dead bees packed in between and in the comb, the comb will become soggy, smelly, and moldy. I don't always practice what I preach and have had plenty of experience in the part with soggy, wet, and moldy dead hives. It is best to avoid this situation but if and when it happens the equipment can be saved fairly easily. Simply pull out a few frames and brush off all the loose bees parked between the comb and move the equipment to a dry area preferably a warm area with some air movement through the comb. If the comb is in good shape you may be ready for some new bees and a queen to replace the hive. Oh, wait, not so fast. When you first discover a dead hive, try to analyze why it died. Was there any honey left in the hive and if there was how far away from the cluster of the dead bees was that honey? How large was the cluster of dead bees? Do you see any signs of dysentery (spotting of fecal matter) around any entrance areas of the hive or inside the hive on top bars or actually on the comb? Do you see any dead capped brood? Is that dead capped brood away from the cluster of bees? Is the dead capped brood spotty with just a few capped cells here and there? Is there a patch of capped brood in the middle of the dead cluster of bees? If there is any brood, is it showing any signs of American Foul Brood? Is there no sign of brood at all? Are there many cells without honey full of dead bees stuck in the cell head first? Is there a mouse nest in the hive? Does the comb show evidence of a mouse or shrew chewing out the pollen and honey? Is the capped brood large and protruding out above the cells (indicating a drone laying queen)? Is there spotty capped brood scattered around an area much bigger than the cluster would have been able to cover? (Indicating a likely high varroa mite infestation causing to shrink earlier in the fall.) I've just asked a lot of questions about your dead hive and provided only a few possible reasons for the questions. You will have to analyze your own specific situation to come up with a best guess at cause of death. The more you know about why your hive died the more you can do to prevent it from happening again. If you are a new bee keeper you can better describe the situation to another beekeeper who may be able to help you analyze it.

I have spent a lot of time on dead hives, hopefully you are able to concentrate more time on live hives. Honey stores are critical this time of year as the queen starts ramping up her egg laying. It takes a frame of honey to feed and incubate a frame of brood (probably more if the weather turns cold and windy). There are many easy ways of getting feed to the bees, take your pick but don't neglect you bees in the spring after they have made it this far. Depending on Mother Nature, if the weather seems normal to good I think a protein supplement will do a great deal to help the bees build and avoid spring dwindling.

Remember to be thinking of ideas for the 2012 100th Anniversary celebration. Donna has met with her committee and they have come up with some great ideas. The suggestions that came up at the business meeting at the annual meeting were helpful in getting started and any suggestions you have for this committee or any other part of our organization can be directed to the committee chairs. If you don't know exactly where to direct your suggestions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact me. We are planning to get a new cookbook out as soon as possible, so get those honey recipes gathered up to share with others who can enjoy them.

Have Fun but Work Hard,
Curt Bronnenberg

Iowa Honey Queen
Hello Everyone,
I hope this letter finds you well. Life has been a little hectic at home for me so I am a little behind on things and I do apologize. Please remember to keep me in mind if you have anything I could help with. I am excited that spring is just around the corner so things will hopefully start picking up. I can’t wait for the 50 degree temperatures again haha. It will soon be parade season and I am excited for all the opportunities that I might have there.

Have a wonderful month,
Ellie Johnson

The Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa
The Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa ("FBI") has changed our monthly meeting location. The club will meet the 4th Thursday of each month at the Annette Nature Center, 555 118th Ave, Indianola, Iowa.

The contact information for Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa ("FBI") is:

Judy Spence
515-988-8397
jspencejr44@gmail.com
Please Help Us Celebrate the Iowa Honey Producers Association 100th Anniversary !!!
(1912-2012)
Yes it has been 100 Years that we have all tried to keep the Honeybee safe, healthy, alive and profitable. IHPA and their members have held meetings, classes, workshops and had speakers come to help us through the learning process of keeping Honeybees.

We have a request of all beekeepers. We are looking for copies of photos, stories, and recipes you would be willing to share with us. We would like to use them at the state fair, in the cookbook, and in advertisement to promote Honey and the honey booth at the State Fair, and field days. We would like to show the public what we do.

(Then and now.) How about a farmers market photo or your local fair photo?

We Thank You in advance for your help with the chance to celebrate our 100 years organization with the public. We would like your information by August 2011 so we can pull it all together to start celebrating as soon as possible. A form will be printed in the Buzz and online for recipes. So please get looking through your papers and photos.

Please send your information to: Peggy Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767 or Flat_Lander@Lycos.com

Committee members are Donna Brahms, Pat and Peggy Ennis, Deb Nielson, Curt Bronnenberg, Louise Johnson, Julie Sweet, Larry Boernsen.

BEGINNER BEEKEEPING COURSES SCHEDULED FOR 2011

The Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) will conduct beekeeping courses in several locations across the state to help those interested in keeping get started.

For 2011, course locations and details are listed as follows:

**Washington, Kirkwood Center** -- Classes to begin March 28th and will meet for four consecutive Mondays, 6:00 – 8:00. Instructor: Ron Wehr. Contact Ron at 319-698-7542.

**Spencer** – Classes to begin in March. Contact Larry or Marlene Boernsen at 712-735-4205 for details.

To enroll, interested individuals are asked to call the contact for the course in their area.

Early enrollment is important so courses can meet minimum enrollment numbers. Fees will vary by location and are expected to range from $30 to $60.

For more information, please refer to the IHPA website and online monthly newsletter at

www.abuzzaboutbees.com or contact

Andrew Joseph, State Apiarist, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship at (515) 725-1481 or andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov.

**Advanced Beekeeping Class**

Through many suggestions, I am offering an Advanced Beekeeping Class. Requirements are at least one year’s beekeeping experience. These classes will be ‘hands on’.

There will be 2 classes. The first class will be April 23, at Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry on 'Splitting Hives and Diseases'. The second class will be June 18th, at the Pat Ennis home in Goodell, on 'Queen Production'. The time is 9:30 - 4:30 for each class. For noon break, we will have a pot-luck. Registration will be limited to 20 people. Pre-registration is required. The cost is $25 per class.

Please call 515-293-2601 to register or with question.

We have been asked to have such a class and this is a testing of the waters to see if there is a need or demand for such a program.

BEE HAPPY!!
Pat Ennis 6/11

THE BEEYARD REPORT

This is the second time I have started this article. My original opening lead was "Winter losses continue to mount." Things have improved since then. Our yards in Lucas County, the last ones we looked at, have almost no loss. One yard had 20 colonies—all alive and with bees in both boxes. There were drone pupae almost ready to emerge. That meant the eggs were laid during the 40 degree days at the end of January. The other Lucas County yards weren't quite that good but they are going to be all right.

Our yards to the north of Lynnville and to the west of Grinnell are pretty well wiped out. There was heavy nosema. The frames were covered with feces. My rule of thumb has always been that February losses will be doubled by the end of March. However, I think the warm spell we have had will help mitigate this. The bees have had a chance to move to food. We have seen this in some of our colonies. There would be a patch of dead bees at one end of the box and the live ones were at the other
end where the food was.

We always have small clusters that die late in the spring. Something happens to them early in the winter where they lose the bulk of the cluster. The remaining bees cluster in the top of the box. Quite often they do this at the top of frames filled with food. They eat up everything around the cluster and die. The last group of bees starves but that wasn't the original problem.

Most of the colonies we made up from the queen yard are still alive at his point. The clusters are small but they are holding on.

In my mind the severity of the stress factors are related to the size of the Varroa mite load. While nosema was a problem in some of our yards, was it the cause of the problem or the result. We have two yards near Montezuma that the boys gave two Apigard treatments six days apart. I went in there 10 days after the second treatment and found there was no brood left whatsoever. I was worried at the time but it turned out to not be a problem. It was still August. That gave the bees time to recover. Because there was no brood, all the mites were exposed. That gave us a good kill. We have almost no loss in those yards. Logic does not prevail when it comes to winter survival. Sometimes the big good looking colonies that appear to have no problems are the first ones to die.

Alex has put together 100 nuc boxes for Adam to mate queens in and an additional 300 cut comb frames. We still have some hive bodies to put together. There are lots of old boxes that need repair.

My old horse has been lame for the last couple of weeks. She's 25 but still looks pretty good. She had an abscess in her foot last summer. Now she has had a second one. At least, that is what I think it was. The first one broke and came out over the crown on the front of the hoof. This one came out the back. There is a soft area right above the heel of the hoof and to the side of the frog. I can put my finger into the hole. She has been getting better since it opened. I am still soaking her foot in Epsom salts to draw out anything that is left. The pen is a sea of mud so I put a boot on her foot to keep the wound clean. I am no horseman. It has taken a lot of phone calls before I started to make progress. One of the places where we have bees is owned by a vet.

I am fairly confident are total winter losses aren't going to be too bad. March will tell the tale. I have been wrong many times. Think spring!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert

2011 Membership Renewal

May 2011 will be the last issue of the Buzz that will be mailed to members who have not paid their 2011 dues. The expiration date is located above your name on the Buzz. The first membership is still $10.00 and $5.00 for each additional family member that would like a membership and is living at the same address.

Melanie Bower, Treasurer

For Sale:

For Sale: A beekeepers manual, entitled Managing Colonies Through the Seasons. This is eight pages, with pictures, contrived from experience, personal research, research formerly conducted at Iowa State and from the various federal bee research labs. Each season of management is described in detail.

This could be well worth $100 to every beekeeper over the short term and hundreds of dollars in savings over many years. All yours for only $12.00 postage paid.

Contact:
Glen L. Stanley
2615 Aspen Road, Apt.#1
Ames, Iowa 50014
Tele: 515-292-3243

For Sale:
The Following bee & honey equipment in good condition is for sale

Extracting
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Band heater for 55 gal drum 240 volt
Scales, balance
Barrel truck
2 Observation hives

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Migratory covers 14
Inner covers 97
Queen excluders 34
Hive bodies 9 5/8 empty 22
Hive bodies 9 5/8 frames 2
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Black winter wraps free singles 11,
Bee hives 4 $130.00 each
Pickup truck crane & barrel clamp $325.00

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Cranberry powder $20.00 /LB
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Apricot powder $20.00 /LB
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This could be well worth $100 to every beekeeper over the short term and hundreds of dollars in savings over many years. All yours for only $12.00 postage paid.

Contact:
Glen L. Stanley
2615 Aspen Road, Apt.#1
Ames, Iowa 50014
Tele: 515-292-3243
IT'S AUCTION TIME!!!

I HAVE A GOOD LIST OF ITEMS TO BE CONSIGNED FOR THE "ANNUAL CENTRAL IOWA BEEKEEPERS AUCTION", BEING HELD ON APRIL 16TH IN PERRY IOWA.
TO DATE I HAVE 6 CONSIGNERS AND HERE IS A PARTIAL LIST:

1 ROOT COWAN HONEY EXTRACTOR (HAND OPERATED AND GOOD CONDITION)
2 PALLETS DEEP FRAMES
1 PALLET ILLINOIS FRAMES
40 BOTTOM BOARDS
40 INNER COVERS
20 ROSS ROUNDS
40 COVERS
40 DRIP BOARDS
2 BOXES 9 FRAME SPACERS
100'S OF NEW UNASSEMBLED 6 5/8 FRAMES
6 5/8 FRAMES, NO COMB
2 COMPLETE HIVES, INCLUDING FOR EACH SET:
   1 BOTTOM BOARD
   2 DEEP BOXES
   20 DEEP FRAMES, WOOD W/O FOUNDATION OR WAX
   1 QUEEN EXCLUDER
   2 SHALLOW BOXES
   20 SHALLOW FRAMES, WOOD, W/O FOUNDATION OR WAX
   1 INNER COVER
   1 COVER

25 DEEPS WITH 9 FRAMES W/ FOUNDATION
25 ILLINOIS W / 9 FRAMES W/FOUNDATION
25 WOOD BOUND QUEEN EXCLUDERS
20 INNER COVERS
20 COVERS
40 BOTTOM BOARDS
10 WOOD QUEEN EXCLUDERS
SEVERAL TOP HIVE FEEDERS
20 ILLINOIS SUPPERS
BEE BLOWER

THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE LIST, AS SOME CONSIGN THE DAY OF THE AUCTION.

TIME TO START IS 10:00 AM.
THE LOCATION IS IN PERRY IOWA, JUST WEST OF THE HOSPITAL OFF HIGHWAY 141.

THERE WILL BE SIGNS POSTED ON HIGHWAY 141.
ANY QUESTIONS, CALL PAT ENNIS @ 515-293-2601 OR FLATLANDER@LYCOS.COM

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!!
Working with Bees
Most beekeepers have bees and work with them for the pleasure of being with the bees and watching their progress. From others it is a dreaded chore. There are things that can be done to continue making it a pleasure.

Some dress in suits of armor to prevent the possibility of being stung. That is OK, but on hot days that’s one thing that makes the job uncomfortable. Most bees today are quite docile compared with those before the 1960s. After that there was quite a trend for the queen breeders to select and provide more gentle bees.

With a little experience beekeepers get to the point where they can handle bees quite handily without getting them riled up to the point of being so defensive.

The common means of keeping bees calm is using smoke. How the smoke is applied and the material used can be the big difference. I had worked with bees for 25 years before I joined the State Inspection Service in 1949. One of my early assignments was to inspect some bees for Duane Griggs of Washington County. I was aware that Mr. Griggs knew his bees as he had worked as an inspector the year before for the State. So being a rather nice day we began the inspection, he at one part of the apiary and I at another. The inspection was going fine but it seemed to him that his bees weren’t as quiet as usual. So, he suggested that maybe the smoker material I was using wasn’t keeping the bees quiet. The fuel I was using was greasy waste from oil filters. So he suggested I dump that and use some of the chunks of wood he had in his truck. I made the switch and sure enough the bees remained much calmer. And since that very day I have continued to use wood chips in my smoker. I have tried other things but nothing compares to the wood smoke.

The best wood chips can be found where a tree stump has been chipped away. They are the right size and thickness. Wood shavings are too thin. Next best is old bark from a dead tree.

Lighting the smoker seems to be a problem for some. Just take a sheet of newspaper, wad it up, get it on fire, place it in the smoker, get it to burn good. Put in a small handful of chips, continue to puff until some of the chips are burning, then fill the smoker with chips and you will have lots of good white smoke. Use a little smoke with nearly every move but not to excess. Your bees will stay calm.

If you have several colonies and have combs of honey exposed for any length of time some robbing may begin. Then bees get cross. If the work is to be continued simply take the lids and inner cover off of all colonies and the robbing will cease. This works really well during the time honey is being harvested.

Submitted by Glen Stanley

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Asian honey bees an export issue?
Matthew Cawood
http://sl.farmonline.com.au

AUSTRALIA’S honey bee industry is small and its resources are few, which appears to be a primary reason for the suspension of the Asian honey bee eradication program in Cairns.

Lindsay Bourke, the Tasmanian beekeeper who heads up the Australian Honey Bee Committee, said the funding split for the $5 million eradication program is 40 per cent Federal money, 40 per cent State, and 20 per cent industry.

Despite statements from the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries that the eradication program was suspended on technical advice, Mr Bourke understands that Queensland Biosecurity, which runs the program, simply ran out of money.

To date, only the honey bee industry has been contributing to the "industry" component of the funding. The honey bee industry's contribution is a mere $100,000—and even that tests the limits of the industry's 1800 members to pay, Mr Bourke said.

The industry has a "nest egg" built up to respond to an incursion of varroa mite, but members are determined not to tap into these emergency funds.

"We really need money to come in from the pollination-dependent industries," Mr Bourke said. "We're an industry that works with millions, but they work with billions."

CSIRO's Dr Denis Anderson notes that lots of industries, not just those connected with agriculture, should have an interest in keeping out Asian honey bees.

The bee is fond of swarming and nesting in machinery, and it is attracted to sweetness. If it spreads Australia-wide, Dr Anderson suggests that the bee's habits may drive up the cost of exports for commodities like cars and fruit, because of a need for extra inspections.
Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Jay Mc Coskey. His parents are Gary and Kari and they all live at Jewell, Iowa.

Jay has an older sister who is in college. He is a senior in South Hampton High School. Activities he participates in are football, track, FFA, band and choir. His hobbies are sports, animals for 4-H, and FFA and hanging with friends. Jay is the president of the Lyon King 4-H Club and vice-president of his South Hamilton FFA chapter. After graduation he plans to attend Iowa State University.

Jay tells us he learned a ton about bees this year. “I came into it knowing nothing but now I know a lot. I have a few friends with bees and one told me about the scholarship so I applied. I trained with Pat Ennis in Mason City in March for 4 weeks. Dave Mechealsen helped me with everything at home including set up.” Jay tells us the night he first got stung the bees were mad and his dog was with him. His dog also got stung quite a bit! Such is beekeeping. Jay is planning to keep his beekeeping hobby going through college.

Good luck. Thanks for your story Jay and we hope you can make those bees pay for tuition.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

Jay and mentor Dave Mechealsen getting ready to inspect Jay’s bees.
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- 2 Assembled 6 5/8” supers
- 20 Assembled 6 1/4” Wood frames with waxed Rite-Cell® foundation or 20 6 1/4” Standard waxed plastic frames
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- 1 Assembled bottom board with reducer
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Central Iowa Bee Supply—Cash and carry bee equipment supplier of woodenware, tools, suits, medications and nutritional products from Dadant & Sons. Custom woodenware built by our own cabinetmaker is also available. Owners: Don Charleston & Susan Jones.

Our shop is located at 14535 NE 88th St., Maxwell, IA. Phone number is 515-387-8707 or go online to cibees.com or email us at cibees8707@gmail.com for your bee supplies.

We want to be your Central Iowa bee equipment supplier for your hives and all the supplies you need to get started in the wonderful world of honey bees!

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The Buzz Newsletter
Iowa Honey Producers Association
207 S.E. Diehl
Des Moines, IA 50315

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Officers
President: Curt Bronnenberg
1433 Hull Ave.
Perry, IA 50220
(515) 465-5939
CBronny823@aol.com

Vice President: Pat Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767
Flat_Lander@lycos.com

Secretary: Mary Ebert
705 Hwy. #1 West
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 354-6696
Mebert@netins.net

Treasurer: Melanie Bower
207 S.E. Deihl
Des Moines, IA 50315
(519) 287-6542
melrb@msn.com

Historian: Peggy Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767

Past President : Donna Brahms
14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA 51535
(712) 778-4255 home
(712) 778-4256 orchard line
mbrahms@netins.net

District Directors
District #1 Regina Hoy
District #2 Louise Johnson
34147 310th St.
Guttenberg, IA 52052
(563) 252-2340
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

District #3 Dennis Nielson
District #4 John Johnson
3422 Clinton Court
Ames, IA 50010-4371
(515) 450-5606
wjohnnq@aol.com

District #5 Jack Trowbridge
20041 235th Street
Decatur, IA 50067
(641) 446-3123

District #6 Larry Boernsen
6724 200th Street
Ocheyedan, IA 51354
(712) 735-4205
lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

State Apiarist
Andrew Joseph  (515) 725-1481
andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club
Contact: Eves Cadwallader
2420 285th St.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 673-3993
weic@kdsi.net

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association
Contact: Arvin Foell
30930 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA 50134
Home phone 515/597-3060
Cell phone 515/450-9494
ajfoell@huxcomm.net

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers
Contact: Julia McGuire
jcammcguire@yahoo.com

East Central Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Dave Ivie
2254 S. Riverside Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 351-6205

North Iowa Bee Club
Contact: Pat Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767
Flat_Lander@lycos.com

Northeast Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Louise Johnson
34147 310th St.
Guttenberg, IA 52052
(563) 252-2340
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

Northwest Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Larry J. Boernsen
6724 200th St.
Ocheyedan, IA 51354
(712) 735-4205
Lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Vernie Ramsey
22781 Route J16
Birmingham, IA 52535
(319) 498-4355
Vdramsey@netins.net

Southwest Iowa Honey Producers
Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA 51535
(712) 778-4255

Additional Links and Emails

Iowa Beekeeper Clubs
IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

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14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA 51535
(712) 778-4255

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa
Contact: Judy Spence
12839 Carpenter Trail
Carlisle, IA 50047
(515) 988-8397
jespencejr44@gmail.com

Robert Haxton
Food Processing Plants
Iowa Dept. of Inspections and Appeals
rhaxton@dia.state.ia.us