2015 American Honey Queen
Gabrielle Hemesath
Dates to be Remembered

April 18th—CIB Annual Auction
The Central Iowa Beekeeper’s Annual Auction is being held on April 18th 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The auction located is on Hwy 141 on the north side of the road – just 1 block west of the hospital in Perry, Iowa.

For Sale: Starting January 1st, We will be taking pre-orders for Russian Nucs and Queens through our website. Come early as we tend to sell out very quickly on the Russian girls. Starting mid January we will be taking pre-orders for 3lb Carniolan Packages, and starter hive kits in Pine or Red Aromatic Cedar wood. For concerns with the website or large volume orders you call us at 515-991-4666. Otherwise please visit us on the web www.RussianBee.com

For Sale: 3lb. packages with unmarked Italian queen.

Pick-up in West Chester, IA
Load 1: March 21, 2015 (experienced beekeepers only due to early install date)
Load 2: May 13th, 2015

Price:
1-9 $110 each
10-99 $105 each
100+ $100 each
(no cage deposit or refunds)

Also available: complete cypress hive kits (fully assembled) $225 each

Call Tim Wilbanks 319-321-2494 or order through website: www.kalonahoney.com

Kalona Honey Co., 2104 Hemlock Ave, West Chester, IA 52359

FOR SALE: 3 # packages W/Italian or Carniolan queens.
Price:
1-10 - $106.00
11-99 - $100.00
100 + - $97.00
Plus cage dept of $6.00 each
Pick-up mid-April in Goodell, IA
For more information, call Pat @ 641-444-4767 4/15

FOR SALE: 5 frame Nuc and Singles W/Italian or Carniolan queens.
Nuc : $135.00
Single: $175.00
Nucs and Singles will be ready for pick-up around mid May from Goodell, Iowa
For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767 4/15

FOR SALE: I will have Queens available mid-April, Carniolan or Italian.
Price: $30.00
Pick-up is in Goodell.
For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767 4/15

FOR SALE: Beekeeping Equipment, honey, beeswax, and bottling supplies - Goodell IA
Offering reasonably priced new and some used beekeeping supplies & equipment.
For more information, please call Pat @ 641-444-4767 4/15

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

FOR SALE: Package Bees. 2#, 3#, and 4# package bees arriving in April for pickup in Lynnville, Iowa.
Choice of Carniolan or Italian.
Please visit our website for pricing: www.EbertHoney.com

FOR SALE: $140.00
5 frame 9 5/8 nuc includes 1 marked queen (Italian/Carniolan/Russian cross)
5 frames 9 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life) Our bees are breed for Honey production and Iowa winter hardness. Nucs will out produce 4 or 5 lb. package bees.

For Sale - 6 5/8 9 frame wooden box with bees: $163.00
9 frame 6 5/8 box includes 1 marked queen (Italian/Carniolan/Russian cross) (no lid or no bottom board) in a 10 frame Hive.
9 frames 6 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life)
Our bees are breed for Honey production and Iowa winter hardness. You may add a lid, inner lid, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for $47.50.

For Sale - 9 5/8 9 frame wooden box with 1 marked queen & bees: $175.00
9 frame 9 5/8 box includes (no lid or no bottom board) in a 10 frame hive.
9 frames 9 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life)
Our bees are breed for Honey production and Iowa winter hardness. You may add a lid, inner lid, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for $47.50.

Queens for sale $37.00
1 marked queen (Italian/Carniolan/Russian cross)

New Complete assembled painted Hive Kit $350.00
Includes 2 - 9 5/8 hve bodies
20 - 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell
2 - 6 5/8 supers
20 - 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell
Telescoping cover with inner lid
Bottom board with reducer AND How to get started FREE
No Bees (You will want to get this so you are ready when your bees arrive.)

Bees will be available April 15th 2015 (depending on weather)
Deposit of $75.00 when you place order. (Place order early before we’re sold out)

Curtis Barnhart
PO Box 70
Monticello, Iowa 52310
319 480-4209
autumn49@yahoo.com
February President’s Message

February is usually a cold month and a good time to set back and make some plans for spring. Do inventory and get your orders in for the things you'll need. It could be new frames so you can change out some of your older ones to help keep your hives healthy, new supers or whatever you may need, but don’t forget, if you want bees, now is the time to order them. The last two or three years has been a shortage of bees and I think this year will be the same, but with one change, the price, it looks like a 3 # package of bees will cost you in the ballpark of around $110.00, maybe a bit less or a bit more depending on where you purchase them. So if you need them, order early if you can.

Have you heard the great exciting news yet?? Our own Gabrielle Hemesath is the New American Honey Queen!!!! What a blessing it is to have such a talented and well prepared young lady who represented Iowa so well, and now she’ll be on the national level promoting honey and beekeeping!!! We are so proud of you Gabrielle!!! I can’t thank her enough for helping promoting beekeeping and the amount of time she spends doing it. We could keep up with her when she was our 2014 IHPA queen on her Iowa Honey Queen Facebook page and now we'll keep up with her on the national level on the American Honey Queen Facebook page.

I just got back from California and the bees, for the most part, looked good. The California trip is a lot of work, but it helps us know what the bees look like and helps us make decisions for this spring and what we need to have ready when they get back. We start sending the bees to California in mid to late November and try to have them all there by the 1st week in December. We then take some time off work, usually December and the first half of January. In mid January we head west to California. We haul all the equipment needed for 6 to 8 workers. You can drive straight out in about 32 hours.

The plan was to leave for California on Friday, January 10th at 5 am, but we had a couple inches of snow and 30-40 mph winds the day before on Thursday. I made it out of the house at 4:30 am, but to move snow drifts. It only took me 4 hours to move the snow and was close to 9:30 am before I made it down the road. I picked up another worker, Tom, at Early IA and another, Riley, who works with me all year who was in Colorado with friends. I think Riley has been enjoying his time off ice fishing and snowmobiling since the bees where shipped in end of November.

We drove through Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and on into California. We arrived at our destination after driving 32 hours at Chowchilla, California on Saturday around 3 pm. We all crashed and took a long needed nap. Sunday we wanted to take a drive about and look at a few bee yards, just to see how the girls fared on their trip out here and then spent the rest of the day getting ready for Monday morn-

ing. We worked Monday thru Friday grading the bees for hive strength and feeding before their placement in the Almonds. When we work the bees, we work from 8:00 am till about 5:30 pm, trying to work about 2 semi loads of bees a day, and a semi load is about 408 hives.

Overall the bees looked in pretty good shape. The Almond growers’ tell the brokers - the brokers tell us - the requested strength of the hives (how many frames of bees per hive) needed to be able to be placed in Almonds. That’s where the grading comes in. Most all of the bees were in good enough shape that they will be placed in almonds. At this point, it’s always a relief, by now, we knowing what kind of shape the bees are in, and what the almond growers want and what we have to do. It felt good having my head back in a hive!!

The weather was in the 30’s at night and in the 60’s during the day. Most of the days we had a heavy dense fog in the mornings, you could only see 2 – 3 car lengths ahead. Do you know they still drive 70+ mph on the interstate in that kind of weather out there! They’re crazy!! I stayed off the interstate as much as I could after we got there and just took the back roads to the bee yards. If you have never experienced California driving, you’re not missing much!! I don’t much care for it, too busy and fast for me.

Overall, the trip was uneventful, – good weather going out and back, got to see some beautiful scenery, but glad to be back in “slower” Iowa.

Bee Happy, Bee Faithful, Bee Yourself

Pat

Trivia: When was beeswax foundation first invented and by whom?

Answer on page 13.
Mark Your Calendar for the CIB Annual Beekeeping Auction!

The Central Iowa Beekeeper’s Annual Auction is being held on April 18th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The auction located is on Hwy 141 on the north side of the road – just 1 block west of the hospital in Perry, Iowa.

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg have graciously offered the Central Iowa Beekeepers the use of their “in town honey house” again this year. There will be a restroom available, as well as hot coffee, hot chocolate, bars, and rolls.

WE ARE IN NEED OF CONSIGNERS AND BUYERS!!

Now is the perfect time to clean, sort, and sell your extra beekeeping equipment, or to purchase good beekeeping equipment!

Please e-mail me your list of items you would like to consign.

All items consigned will be advertised in the March and April Buzz Newsletter. (Please have your list to me by February 10 or March 10 to make the Buzz printing deadline)

To have an updated listing of the items being consigned, please e-mail me after April 1st and I will have one sent to you.

Consignment fee for members of the Central Iowa Beekeepers is 10% Consignment fee for non members of the Central Iowa Beekeepers is 15%

All drawn comb will be inspected by our State Bee Inspectors or State Apiarist.

For your convinence, there will be signs posted on Highway 141.

SOLD!

Pat Ennis
515-293-2601
Flat_lander@lycos.com

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!!

Tri-State Meeting Planning
Hello one and all. I need some help. Wisconsin and Minnesota beekeeping associations are pursuing a tri-state meeting. Iowa will be the other state here. The vice presidents of the three states will be planning this for summer of 2016. I have conflicts with being able to travel and plan this as it may have to be done on weekdays and not solely on weekends. I would like to see a small committee of members step up and represent IHPA in my place. You would report to me. Traveling to the Minneapolis area is where the meetings could be. Meetings have already started. If interested call me 515 293 2458.

Roy Kraft
IHPA Vice President

Vice President Message
Hello one and all. I have a couple of announcements to make. We will be going to Cedar Rapids for annual meeting in November 2015. Dates are 12, 13 and 14. Clarion inn is the place. I feel this place has the room we need and hospitality second to none. It will cost you very close to the same as Marshalltown. More here later.

Summer field day is looking like will be in that east, southeast part of Iowa. Have a lot of details to work out here but am confident it will work out nicely. Concentrating now on speakers and as of this writing I have some good leads but nothing committed yet. If you’re thinking its early what’s the hurry, well a lot of speakers are booked already and hotels are working 18 to 36 months out. One coordinator I talked to said she is working on an event for 2025! We are a good sized group as well. We must plan ahead. I will get it figured out.

December 13, 14th what temperatures we are having. Finished the winterizing of my hives finally. I have one dead already. I believe mites got it as some of my hives did not get mite treatment in till almost October, I think that may be the reason as ones that got treatment Sept 1 look great. Lesson learned the hard way. Hope you have strong hives going into 2015. January brings a new challenge to me as my first beginning beekeeping class will start January, 10th. I am very excited about the class I really like helping new people in beekeeping.

More later,
Roy Kraft
IHPA Vice President
TO: IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

RELEASE DATE: IMMEDIATELY

SUBJECT: 2015 AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN HAILS FROM IOWA

FROM: AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN PROGRAM
ANNA L. KETTLEWELL, CHAIRPERSON
10432 W. NORWICH AVENUE
GREENFIELD, WI 53228
414.545.5514

The American Beekeeping Federation is proud to announce that Gabrielle Hemesath was selected as the 2015 American Honey Queen at the North American Beekeeping Conference in Anaheim, CA in January. Gabrielle is the 19-year-old daughter of Mary and Russell Hemesath of Clermont, IA, and the granddaughter of Karen Hemesath of Castalia, IA, and Imedla Schmitt of West Union, IA. She is a freshman at Iowa State University, pursuing a degree in marketing. Gabrielle became interested in beekeeping at a young age and has been employed by Fassbinder Apiaries since 2008, assisting in managing 2,000 beehives.

Prior to being selected as the American Honey Queen, Gabrielle served as the 2014 Iowa Honey Queen. In this role, she promoted the honey industry at fairs, festivals, and farmers’ markets, via media interviews, and in schools.

Gabrielle will spend the next year promoting the beekeeping industry throughout the United States in a wide variety of venues. To schedule an appearance with American Honey Queen Gabrielle Hemesath, please contact American Honey Queen Program Chairperson Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514.
IHPA Outstanding Youth Award for Joy Westercamp

Joy Westercamp received a Youth Award during the 2014 IHPA Annual Meeting. Unfortunately the January issue featured Joy’s article as seen below with a photo of Jeralyn the 2014 Honey Princess. Please enjoy the article below with the correct photo of Joy and thank you to Vern and Doris Ramsey for keeping us updated with Joy’s many beekeeping activities.

Joy Westercamp proudly displaying an observation hive and a variety of beekeeping gear during an Ag day presentation.

Advertising Works!

In the spring of 2011, a small notice about upcoming beginning beekeeping classes was published in our local county paper. Steve has always been interested in social insects, and I told him about the classes. He and our 11 year old daughter Joy Westercamp decided to attend the 4 week session. Joy attended the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers meeting, and she told them why she wanted to start beekeeping and be a mentor kid. The club got her set up with a hive complete with bees, a veil, gloves, and a smoker, and most importantly Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey as her mentors! She also traded rabbits for used woodenware and purchased an Beemax hive and a package of Minnesota hygienic bees and a package of Carnolians her first year. For 4-H, Joy gave an educational presentation about honey bee castes. In September 2011, Joy gave a talk to the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers comparing and contrasting different types of beekeeping equipment.

She was so excited to learn all she could about bees, so the next year, Joy and I (her mom) took the beginning beekeeping classes again. She was down to two colonies in the spring of 2012, and through making splits and catching a few swarms, she built up her apiary to nine colonies and nucs. In June 2012, Joy was named the Southeast Iowa Honey Princess. She gave an educational presentation to her 4-H club, the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers, the county fair, and state fair called “Increase Colonies” explaining the advantages and disadvantages of swarms, packages, and splits. She earned a gold seal of excellence at the Iowa State Fair. She produced her first honey crop in 2012 – 28 sections of Ross Rounds comb honey. As Southeast Iowa Honey Princess, Joy helped the Ramseys sell honey and educate the public about bees, beekeeping, and honey at Harvestville Farms and at Morris Park, she volunteered for two days at the Iowa Honey Producers booth at the Iowa State Fair, she attended local parades; she volunteered at HoneyFest in Cedar Rapids; and she spoke at Mediapolis junior high and to Washington Elementary kids. In 2012, Joy also experimented with raising her own queens by the notched brood method.

In January 2013, Joy was promoted to Southeast Iowa Honey Queen. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey asked Joy to help teach the beekeeping classes in Jefferson and Van Buren Counties. She loves giving presentations during the classes and answering questions. She lost 6 colonies over the winter, but she went on lots of swarm calls and increased her apiary to 10 colonies. As local Honey Queen, she participated in ag days at Cardinal and Van Buren Schools; walked in the Amana Parade with Iowa Honey Queen, Hannah VanWyk and Princess Rachel Stika; promoted honey at Harvestville Farms and Morris Park; volunteered at the Iowa State Fair, and helped teach classes at the Ag Learning Center at the Iowa State Fair. She gave her “Life Cycle of the Honey Bee” talk to her 4-H club and the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers. She was also selected at her county fair to advance to the Iowa State Fair and earned a gold seal of excellence on her talk. She also did a working exhibit at the county and state fairs about beeswax candle rolling. Joy was also interviewed by Country Life magazine in 2013 to focus on her online public education and her enthusiasm for beekeeping.

Nine out of ten of Joy’s colonies survived the brutal 2013-2014 winter. She made several cut down splits so she would be ready for comb honey. She harvested over 120 sections this year. Joy helped Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey teach beginning beekeeping classes again in Jefferson and Van Buren Counties. She again volunteered at the Iowa State Fair booth for the Iowa Honey Producers and promoted honey at Harvestville Farms. Joy used a queen castle to hatch out several swarm cells so she was always ready to replace a missing or failing queen. She gave her educational presentation about varroa mites to the local beekeeping club, her 4-H club and at the county and state fair. Mr. Ramsey asked Joy to teach the 2015 Van Buren County beekeeping classes, so Joy is working on revamping some of the curriculum and preparing to lead the classes next spring. Joy’s apiary is up to 24 colonies in 2014!

Submitted by Joy’s parents Steven and Christine Westercamp
On May 25th Craig Greene broke his lower back and had emergency surgery to put in two rods and eight screws. He continues the slow and painful recovery. So just for you, Craig, with our Best Wishes for a full recovery:

Bee-Bee-Be sure to put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.

Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)

Outstanding leadership for Red Rock Beekeepers and Back To Basics Bee Clubs Jerry Murphy and Craig Greene.

Jerry Murphy is Facilitator of Red Rock Beekeepers and can be reached at 641-218-4814.

Jerry Murphy announces that Red Rock Beekeepers has changed their venue to the Marion County Extension Office, 210 N. Iowa St., Knoxville. Meeting times are 6:30 the 2nd Tuesday of each month year round. They previously met at the hospital in Knoxville. Everyone interested in keeping bees is invited with no membership fees. To be placed on Sheila Weldon’s email address list to be reminded of monthly meetings and special announcements, feel free to email Jerry and Sheila Weldon at weldonjs@windstream.net.

Back-to-Basics meets at the Mahaska County Extension Office located at 212 North I St. in Oskaloosa just off Hwy 92 on the west end of town. Their meeting times are 6:30 on the second Friday of each month from September thru May each year. Eve Vanden Broek is Facilitator and is pictured with Jeremy Van Donselaar’s group discussion following his presentation for over-wintering nucs -- article found in the January issue of the Buzz.

CONTINUING GET WELL WISHES TO CRAIG GREENE DURING HIS LONG RECOVERY

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS
Back To Basics members enjoy fellowship and refreshments following their always educational and interesting meetings facilitated by Eve Vanden Broek in coordination with many volunteer leaders. Elaine Finarty is at the registration table and hands out door prizes; Sheila Weldon manages the lending library; Craig Greene handles the youth scholarship program, along with securing the meeting room at the extension office and is the last one out the door. Craig is a strong backbone for both Red Rock Beekeepers and Back To Basics.
A NEW QUEEN BEE HAS ARRIVED AT THE SUTTON BEE FAMILY

Chris and Angie Sutton are notable volunteers within the Back to Basics club for Oskaloosa and surrounding counties. Congratulations to their new little Queen Bee Morgan Jade who arrived April 7, 2014. What a cute little honey of a bee she is. She will do great at helping Mom and Dad with setting up refreshments; emailing notifications and reminders of meeting dates and subject matter to all for whom she has email addresses; handling phone calls; keeping records; building and displaying booths and observation hives, along with many bee-related projects and activities. Anyone from anywhere is welcome to contact Angie at her email, jsutton686@gmail.com, if you would like to have your name added to her email address book. Everyone interested in learning more about beekeeping or would just like to collaborate with fellow beekeepers is most welcome to attend meetings for which there are no membership fees.

IHPA Queen Program

I did not do a very good at getting an article written for the Buzz and sent to Alex but I wanted to “Thank” everyone who helped support our Queen program by donating and bidding on items at our annual meeting in November. The totals for our silent auctions were $404.00, live auction $3625.00, quilt raffle $510.00. Louise Johnson was the winning bidder on the quilt that was auctioned at $400.00. Marcus Elsbernd was the...
winner of the quilt that was raffled. We appreciate all of your support! The money raised from these auctions helps to get the Honey Queen to your events, farmers markets, craft shows, or any event.

In January we sent Gabrielle Hemesath to Anaheim, California to compete for a crown at the National Level, and I am proud to inform all of you that she was crowned the American Honey Queen! As I am writing this she is in Wisconsin for extensive training.

Gabrielle will be very busy traveling to many states and promoting honey and honey bees, hopefully she will be able to attend some our major events.

We put a gift basket together to donate to the American Honey Queen program, the cost of the gift basket was $160.00 dollars and auctioned for $600.00. Gabrielle had a lot of support from Iowa as her mom and dad, Russel and Mary Hemesath, her bosses, Bob and Cathy Fassbinder, Bill and Louise Johnson, Manley and Linda Bigalk, Curt, myself, and her body guards Ciera Bronnenberg and Starlette Love also attended the meeting.

I would like to invite all of you to follow Gabrielle on Facebook, American Honey Queen Program (https://www.facebook.com/AmericanHoneyQueenProgram). The American Honey Queen and Princess also keep a blog – buzzingacrossamerica.com which is aimed at elementary aged students and teachers to help support honeybee education in the classroom.

Thanks again for all your support, Connie Bronnenberg

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**Featured Beekeeper of the Month**

This month our featured beekeeper is David Hayes. He and his wife, Darlene, live on the eastern coast of Iowa at Maquoketa. Dave began beekeeping in the early 1980’s because he wanted to pollinate his garden and fruit trees and pasture. Managing 10 colonies means a honey crop to harvest. His business is Prairie Creek Honey where he sells extracted honey and wax.

Dave likes assisting new beekeepers, promoting pollinator friendly habitat and educating people and groups about the important role honeybees play in our environment. He is involved in the Great River Bend Beekeepers group. It is a group of 15 members who meet quarterly in Maquoketa. Their goal is educational, being a support group for area beekeepers and public speakers on the subject. They have no dues and encourage any beekeepers in the area to attend their meetings. Contact Dave at prairiecreekfrm@netins.net for further information.

Dave is an active member of the Iowa Honey Producers Association. He volunteers at the state fair, attends field days and was just elected as District 2 director for the IHPA. He also helps as a youth scholarship mentor.

Dave wants to encourage others to become active members of the Iowa Honey Producers Association and investigate memberships with the American Honey Producers Association and the American Beekeeping Federation.

Good luck with your bees this winter Dave and thanks for your story.

Submitted by Ron Wehr
Matt Stewart received the Sweepstakes award at the 2014 Annual Meeting. The Sweepstakes award is given for the most points awarded for exhibits judged at the Iowa State Fair. Each year Matt submits many entries to the Apiary department to help make a wonderful and interesting display at the fair.

Julie Swett was presented with an award for the first place showing of the IHPA float in the 2014 Iowa State Fair parade. Julie is instrumental in coordinating the help of many other volunteers to help make the IHPA float look spectacular! Rain or shine the IHPA float is a great invitation for fair goers to come visit us in the Ag Building.

Connie Bronnenberg received the Distinguished Service Award at the 2014 IHPA Annual Meeting. Connie heads up the IHPA Queen Program coordinating with beekeepers and beekeeping events across the state to have the Honey Queens in attendance. The Honey Queen is a very important outreach to the public and promotion of bees and beekeeping. In addition to a variety of events throughout the year, the Iowa State Fair and the American Beekeeping Federation Convention are two big events for our Honey Queens. Radio and TV interviews also help get the word out about bees, honey, and the IHPA. Connie’s efforts help make the Iowa Honey Queen Program a great success. We are also very proud to have our own Gabrielle Hemasath crowned the 2015 American Honey Queen!

Connie has also been a standard of help volunteering at the IHPA Booth during the fair. In addition to coordinating presentations for the Honey Queen at the fair, Connie volunteers many, many hours each year to help make the booth a success. It is not uncommon to find Connie at the booth in the days before the fair starts in addition to her time during the fair itself.
AN EDITORIAL

Proposed Single Federal Agency To Oversee All Food Safety. FDA and FSIS to Merge. Honey Definition and Oversight to be Included.

Back in January we reported in the BUZZ that the ERS has sent a Report to the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration as Required by the 2014 Farm Bill on “How an Appropriate Federal Standard of Identity for Honey Would be in the Interest of Consumers, the Honey Industry, and U.S. Agriculture”.

The report was generated by tallying comments posted to the ERS web site commenting on the Standards FDA had come up with in response to requests by the beekeeping industry since 2006. FDA wanted to know how those standards might affect consumers and the honey industry.

In Summary, AMS found that 1) the preponderance of comments across multiple regions and organizations support the establishment of a standard; and 2) there are divergent opinions on the content and wording of such a standard, and its relationship to existing international standards.

Who is this preponderance of commenters? 85 comments posted. 76 supported the proposed regulations. You can read the entire proposed regulations here which are included within the joint comments made by the ABF, AHPA, National Honey and Packers and Dealers, Sioux Honey, and the Western States Packers and Dealers groups. Combined, these groups represent more than 90% of the US Honey Industry. Read their comments...they make good points about a lot of what needs to be said about this subject. And, since they have a loud voice, maybe you should know what they are saying. I’ll get back to this in a minute.

Other groups and people make comments too. Here are a few.... The Texas Beekeepers Association had more than anybody, Food and Water Watch, an environmental advocacy group submitted a petition to establish regulations (specifics not listed) signed by every one of their 20,000 members. Monsanto voiced a positive opinion, Vaughn Bryant, the pollen expert from Texas A&M who writes here on occasion had a long and detailed comment on the pollen aspect of what was being said, and Amina Harris, the Director of the Honey and Pollination Center in Davis, CA suggested the Codex Standards be adopted.

There were others of course, mostly all supporting the adoption of some kind of standard, but offering little in the way of guidelines. That, I suspect, is what most of us would do. But not all of us.

This is the Standard people commented on.

Standard for Honey

1. Scope. This standard applies to all honey produced by honey bees and covers all styles of honey presentations which are processed and ultimately intended for direct consumption and to all honeys packed, processed or intended for sale in bulk containers as honey.

2. Description. 2.1. Definition: Honey is the natural sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants or excretions of plant sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store and leave in the honey comb to ripen and mature. 2.1.1. Blossom Honey or Nectar Honey is the honey which comes from the nectars of plants. 2.1.2. Honeydew honey is the honey which comes mainly from excretions of plant sucking insects (Hemiptera) on the living parts of plants or secretions of living parts of plants.

2.2. Description: Honey consists essentially of different sugars, predominantly fructose and glucose as well as other substances naturally derived from the collection of nectar by honey bees for conversion into honey. The color of honey varies from nearly colorless to dark brown: the consistency can be fluid, viscous or partly to entirely crystallized. The flavor and aroma vary, but are derived from the plant origin.

3. Essential Composition and Quality Factors. 3.1. Honey sold as such shall not have added to it any food ingredient, including food additives.

3.1.1. Styles of Honey: 3.1.1.1. Filtered – Filtered honey is honey of any type defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Extracted Honey that has been filtered to the extent that all or most of the fine particles, pollen grains, air bubbles, or other defects normally found in suspension have been removed. 3.1.1.2. Strained – Strained honey is honey of any type defined in the United States Standards for Grades of extracted Honey that has been strained to the extent that most of the particles, including comb, propolis, or other defects normally found in honey have been removed. Grains of pollen, small air bubbles, and very fine particles would not normally be removed. 3.1.1.3. Unfiltered/Unstrained – Unfiltered/Unstrained honey is honey that has not been filtered or strained as described by United States Standards for Grades of Extracted Honey and may include extracted or non-extracted honey and whereas most whereas most of the fine particles, pollen grains, air bubbles, comb, propolis and other defects normally found in suspension may be present.

3.2. Honey shall not be filtered to less than 1.0 microns. 3.3. Chemical or biochemical treatments shall not be used in the packaging or processing of honey. 3.4. Moisture content: Honey Shall not have a moisture content exceeding 23%. 3.5. Sugars Content. 3.5.1. Fructose and Glucose Content (Sum of Both). 3.5.1.1. Honey not listed below – not less than 60g/100g. 3.5.1.2. Honeydew honey, blends of honeydew honey with blossom honey – not less than 45g/100g. 3.5.2. Sucrose Content. 3.5.2.1. Honey not listed below – not more than 10g/100g. 3.5.2.2. Lavender (Lavandula spp), Borage (Borago officinalis) – not more than 15g/100g 3.6. Water Insoluble Solids Content 3.6.1. Honeys – not more than 0.5/100g.

You can probably imagine why some groups would have difficulty adopting this standard. Moreover, when consid-
er there are already nine state standards, none alike, the babble from the regulatory front would be deafening. Utah for instance has a definition that isn’t legal in the other 8 states with regulations...make that work in a grocery store.

In the US today, food safety oversight is divided among fifteen federal agencies. The USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service, or FSIS and the FDA, a part of the Department of Health and Human Services are the most important. FSIS inspects meat, poultry and eggs and FDA everything else.

So ERS (a part of USDA) sends FDA (Health and Human Services) a document that has comments from, (considering the one sent from the ABF, AHHPA et al), more than 90% of the honey industry, plus many others, that want some kind of oversight regulation on honey, which is under the watchful eye of FDA. Why isn’t FDA doing something? Well, consider...

Every year contaminated food makes 48 million people sick. Of these 128,000 of them are hospitalized, and 3,000 die. Salmonella alone infects more than a million Americans each year, sending 19,000 to the hospital, and kills more than any other food borne pathogen.

Currently, when the CDC identifies the cause of a food borne illness reported to them by doctors the responsibility to curb the problem points to which ever agency the offending food falls under...meat for FSIS, everything else for FDA. FSIS has a huge army of inspectors, checking meat production everywhere meat is processed. FDA has almost nobody checking and years may go between inspections at food processing plants. However, safety audits do occur at these plants conducted by private inspection services hired by retailers who what to know they are getting safe food. The cantaloupe/ listeria outbreak in 2011 fell under the oversight of FDA, but had been inspected by a private agency hired by retailers. Only when the CDC was able to identify the source of the contaminated fruit was something able to be done. Listeria is relatively rare, infecting about 1600 people in the US every year, killing 1 in 5 of them. Thirty three died from the 147 victims of the infected cantaloupe. There are no in-plant contamination limits on infected food, with the exception of E. coli in chicken because it is considered an adulterant, not a dangerous bacteria. Officials must use indirect methods to shut down a facility, like posting news of the violation on websites, or announcing it on TV and Radio. This is generally effective, but not always, and not very fast. When it works what you hear is the announcement of a voluntary recall by producers of the offending product...

Well, all that is supposed to change. The 2010 Farm Bill, now supported by the President’s new budget, proposed consolidating the USDA FSIS and HHS FDA into a new department within HHS. This new agency would work closely with state and local health departments, now mostly handled by CDC. The 2010 Food Safety Bill gives authority to the current FDA (whose Head is stepping down within the month) to inspect processing plants, order recalls, impose strict standards on imported foods and make, and enforce stricter standards on farms and manufacturing facilities. In effect, give some power to the food safety police and save lives. Imported honey will fall under their gaze, and their gaze will be meaningful. But your honey house and packing facility may I too, and all three may be able to be shut down by the Feds if the bill passes.

This budget proposal for even greater government oversight, it is assumed, will meet with significant resistance from the food industry, farmers and manufacturers, especially now in a Republican dominated congress. 

But the above definition of honey has measurable attributes that could change the labeling of the end product. By the above definition, it’s filtered honey if it doesn’t have pollen, and strained or unstrained if it does. Sugar and moisture content are both measurable by this definition, and that nothing should be added is mentioned. It is obvious these new rules were made to oversee honey’s problems with adulteration and tainting and country of origin label laws.

We can’t go on with 50 definitions of honey and appear anywhere near professional. And there needs to be some tools to use to stop illegal product from being sold. This new agency will fix the problems with the definition of honey, but may be able to open the door to your honey house. Will the beekeeping industry support this new agency?

Kim Flottum, Editor

www.BeeCulture.com
IHPA Budget for 2014
Revised: May 4, 2014

**Expenses:**

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<tr>
<th>Administrative</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Subtotals</th>
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<td>1. Insurance</td>
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<td>1. Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>2. Summer Field Day</td>
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**TOTAL EXPENSES=** $61,350.00

**Income:**

| 1. Membership Dues | $11,000.00 |
| 2. State Fair Profit | $35,000.00 |
| 3. Cookbook Sales | $5,000.00 |
| 4. Annual Meeting & Registration (cookbooks, t-shirts, merchandise) | $7,000.00 |
| 5. Summer Field Day | $2,000.00 |
| 6. Queen Auction | $4,250.00 |
| 7. Buzz Advertisements | $1,800.00 |

**TOTAL INCOME=** $66,050.00

**PROFIT/(DEFICIT):** $4,700.00

**Trivia Answer:** In 1857, a German Beekeeper, J. Mehring is credited with making the first comb foundation. In the early days, most of the foundation was made using flat molds or presses, and too often the cell bases and walls were not well defined. In 1875 A. I. Root with A. Washburn made the first practical wringer-type foundation mill that could produce comb foundation in quantity.

Source: ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture, forty first edition, Page 116-118
Honey Bee Ware in Hortonville, WI recently purchased Lapp's Bee Supply. Now more inventory than ever before!

Experience the best customer service around! Please visit our store or see us on the Web. We look forward to helping you with all your beekeeping needs.

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Owners: Susan Jones and George Jones

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Come check out our shop 7 miles northeast of Elkhart, or 5 miles southwest of Maxwell. When you need a Super immediately for honey production - we are the ones to call. When you need medication immediately - we are the ones to come to. Cash, credit card, debit card, check. No more waiting on FEDEX to show up in a week. You come and look at what you want and walk out with it. No more shipping cost to worry about. If we don't have it in stock, we will order it.
The Buzz Newsletter
Iowa Honey Producers Association
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