



# The Buzz

*Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association*



September 2013



**Apiary Exhibits Pg5**  
**IHPA Annual Meeting Pg8-10**  
**Bee Informed : Varroa Control**  
**Survey Pg 11-13**



September 29th IHPA Board Meeting, 3pm at DMACC/Ankeny  
 October 31 IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm at Marshalltown prior to the Annual Meeting  
 November 1 & 2 IHPA Annual Meeting in Marshalltown, IA



## Thank you!



We would like to express our gratitude and say a HUGE thank you to everyone who offered and volunteered their time to work at the IA State Fair IHPA honey booth last month; to our producers, suppliers, state fair staff; also to those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes during the past few months to make this all possible.

This is our main fund raising event every year, which is needed to help support our various educational programs.

None of this would be possible without your generous support.....thank you!

We had a great turnout and wonderful time working with everyone and hope those who participated did too! It was nice seeing new and familiar faces of all ages helping at the booth. The IA State Fair was blessed with some lovely weather too, which always helps attract more people to come. We hope to see you again next year!

Many thanks

*IHPA Honey Booth Fair Committee*

*Eli Kalke, Pat Ennis, Connie Bronnenberg, Rhonda Heston*



## Congratulations!

The IHPA float entry in the Iowa State Fair parade tied for most creative / original non-commercial entry.

Julie Swett

**FOR SALE:** Approx 18 cases of new 9oz hex jars with lids-\$6/cs or \$5/cs if you take them all. Also for sale: 4cs of new 12oz hex jars--\$7/cs with lids included.

Contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

**FOR SALE:** Husky 10 cu ft. 2 wheel wagon, used very little, \$110.00 (new \$140) Great for moving hive bodies/supers around avoiding heavy lifting over long distances.

Bee Blower with new hoses. Same as shown in Dadant catalog page 68 (M00780 - MRP \$529), only with Tecumseh engine. \$225.

Fieldstone Farms  
 Call: 641-477-8521.

**FOR SALE:** Clean five gallon buckets with lids-\$3 each. Contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639 or e-mail at ehoney37@netins.net

### The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex` Ebert by email to [TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com](mailto:TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com) (also alex.ebert@eberthoney.com) or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 10th 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.

## President's Message September 2013

I'm too busy!! Have you ever felt that way? Last month life got so busy and I felt that way. I didn't have time to write the President's Message, so I would like to apologize to the membership for that. Life doesn't always go according to plan. In light of this, in getting people to work at the Iowa Honey Producers booth during the state fair, I had people tell me they were too busy to volunteer to work a shift at the fair, and I understand that. **But we did have enough people to help out at the booth this year, and all the shifts had enough people.** We had 3 people at the lemonade and another making the lemonade; 2 at each register; 1 giving samples of the creamed honey; 2 at the observation hives to talk to the fair goers for a total of 11 people during each of the morning and afternoon shifts and 6 during the evening shift. It worked out really good, **thank you to all who volunteered your time to work and help support the Iowa Honey Producers.** I also have to say thank you to Eli (Dale), Ronda (Steve), and Connie (Curt). These ladies worked together for the Iowa Honey Producers - getting the booth ready for the fair and keeping everything organized. And thanks to the gentlemen for your support and help. We also had a great turn-out of new members and first time volunteer workers, with some coming back wanting to work another shift! One of our youth from the mentor program, Claire Whalen from Pilot Mound, talked to people at the observation hives, doing a great job. Her dad worked at the lemonade stand and her mom ran a register. Our current honey queen, Hannah and honey princess, Rachel, and Joy worked as well. Great to see our former honey queen Renae Beard with her family there helping too. I know this year was a transition for our organization, as far as the fair booth goes, but we had many new people volunteer this year, as well as many seasoned members. I want to say "thank you" again to the many volunteers for helping, and hope your experience at the IHPA booth was positive and fun!!

(11 days of talking about bees, life is good!!) The sales totals from the fair

are not available to me as of now, but I do believe it looks as if we will exceed last years' sales!!!

We are trying to get new honey vendors to sell their honey at the IHPA fair booth. This year we offered a set price on the one pound glass jar. This added 3 new vendors; with some supplying 2 cases and others 3. We also had several new vendors selling liquid honey, creamed honey, comb honey and Ross rounds. Please consider placing a bid next year for the fair. We would like to see a representation of products from across our state.

This year we had a shortage of comb honey, as one vendor's bees didn't produce what was planned. Life works that way sometimes. This issue caused us to try to find more suppliers of comb honey or Ross rounds for the fair. We had smaller suppliers step up and help us out and a few that couldn't this year, but could help us out for next year. Thanks to those who help us out on such short notice. Comb honey is always in big demand at the fair, if you produce comb, from 50 squares or 200; please keep us in mind next year.

Andy Joseph also did a good job as superintendent of the Apiary Division with the fair entries. It would always be nice to see more people enter in the categories. If you know of a way for the IHPA to promote or encourage more state fair entries, please share your ideas. I enjoy the friendly competition and receiving that blue ribbon. But I also like to support the IHPA fair booth and fill the area with entries.

This is also the time of year that life gets busy. Probably top on your list is to get your honey off and extracted. Market price for honeys keeps going up, right now it's at \$2.30 in a 55 gallon barrel, so don't sell yourself short. A worker at the booth who was originally from Seattle Washington, she thought we were giving our honey away!! She stated "out there a 1 lb jar of honey sells for \$10.00; your booth is selling it for 1/2 that price". (They were sold at the fair booth for \$6.00) I know we're not in Seattle Washington, but don't undersell

your product.

As soon as getting your honey off, you should do a mite count in your hives and decide if you need to do any mite control treatments or not. Talking with Andy Joseph and Boyd Palmer, the mite counts are going up just like normal and you need to do something to control them as soon as possible. Get two or three cycles of healthy bees in, and now is the time to start your winter preparations. Take care of the bees that take care of the bees.

A plug for our annual meeting set for November 1-2 being held in Marshalltown Iowa. Try to make plans to attend. Eli has a great line of speakers for this year. Coming we have Randy Oliver of California, a contributor to the American Bee Journal and outstanding speaker on current beekeeping topics. We also have Jackie Parks Burris, a queen breeder from California, raising Italian queens, and also a founding member of "Bee Informed". Eli will keep us posted with more details coming.

Again, thanks to everyone who could help at the fair, I know your time is a precious gift, spending it with the Iowa Honey Producers was very much appreciated.

BEE HAPPY!!! Pat

**Trivia Question:** How many different types of honey is there in the United States?

Answer on page 13.





## Thanks to all the Honey Queens and Volunteers

I would like to say "Thank You" to our Iowa Honey Queen, Hannah VanWyk, for all the long hours of candle rolling, presentations at the Knapp Center and Agricultural building, cooking demonstrations, help at the sales booth, and also the great media exposure.

Also "Thank You" to Rachel Stika for helping at the sales booth, rolling candles, and helping with a presentation at the Knapp Center.

"Thanks" to Joy Westercamp, SE Iowa Honey Queen for helping at the sales booth and sampling products and

"Thanks" Jeralyn Westercamp, E Central Iowa Honey Queen for helping out at the sales booth. You all did a Great job!! I would also like to say "Thank You" to all the many volunteers for the entire State Fair for helping, you were all Great and helped make our primary money making event a Huge Success!!

Connie Bronnenberg

## HANDLING BEES!

GLEN L. STANLEY  
908 N, HIGHWAY 69  
Huxley, Iowa 50124.

I never cease to be amused at the suits of armor that is worn by Beekeepers and potential Beekeepers these days as they proceed to work with their bees. To avoid the major portion of all that regalia just trade it for a good cool smoke from the smoker.

To obtain a good smoke for the bees just use some wood chips, the best coming from a chipped stump. They are available in

many places and Nurseries generally have a good supply. If not, go to a source of limb choppers. With paper get a hand full of chips on fire, load the smoker and it goes for hours.

Wearing the suit of armor, which is sting proof, tends to make the person working the bees more careless and handles the bees in a rough manner. Keep in mind the bees remember and they are apt to sting other people or animals in the area.

Over the past 35 years there has been a significant change in the breeding of bees. That change was to a much gentler type of bee. This was accomplished in almost all Breeds and Strains of bees.

Any good beekeeper can expect a few stings occasionally under the best of conditions. The first few stings will likely burn and swell for a while. Later additional stings smart for a few seconds but no swelling or other effects. Only one person in 1000 is really allergic.

Over the last 35 years we had bees, we would enter the apiary and on nice days and the bees were working we did as the saying goes "rolled up our sleeves and went to work". We did just that and wore a veil just to protect the eyes and ears. I generally wore short, tight fit, gloves of tan color, to protect my fingers from getting sore handling frames. In early April when we began equalizing Brood to make additional colonies we occasionally would create a robbing situation. To prevent that, we would just remove all covers from all colonies and leave them uncovered until our work was finished. No more robbing.

If it was May or June, SWARM MONTHS, We would enter the apiary of 25 colonies, light the smokers and proceed by tipping the hives back on their backs and checking for swarm cells from the bottom, by leafing through the frames from the bottom. We would smoke the bees a bit at the bottom and they would move up to where we could see any swarm cells. If all are good combs most of the swarm cells will be near or on the bottom portion of the combs. The 25 colonies would take us

about 30 minutes to work.

In early years of major honey production we used fume boards to drive the bees from the surplus honey supers. At the time we were using full depth hives for surplus honey, so it didn't work to well as it didn't clear the bees from the very bottom of the combs. That left more bees attached to the combs than desired.

The fumigant used was Carbolic acid. It was dangerous to have and handle as a drop would blister the skin.

Some BEE Escapes were used but required extra handling. SO, the advent of the Bee Blower seemed to serve the purpose much better.

When the Bee Blower was introduced our first thoughts were, they will make the bees angry and it will damage their wings. As we ventured to give it a try it did neither. When the honey was ready to harvest we uncovered all hives, places the supers of honey to the side of all colonies and then proceeded to blow the bees out of the honey supers.

I designed a rack to hold the supers of honey up in front of each hive about waist high and would blow the bees down in front of their own hive. The honey super would be blown free of bees. I believe Andy has the rack so maybe you could get a pattern. It is made of 3/4 inch conduit.

Placed on the truck the bees never bothered them as long as their hives were left uncovered. Once the load was secured and ready to move out the hives were again covered. In at the processing plant the honey was unloaded with virtually no bees present.

Again, with a little smoke in the right places at the right time no suit of armor was necessary as there were no angry bees. That was a great relief from the days we had mean bees and on hot days the heat was exhausting.

Thanks to the Bee Breeders they have made Beekeeping a pleasure.

## 2013 Iowa State Fair Apiary Exhibits

Thank you to everyone who exhibited at this year's state fair! I'm writing this as the fair is ongoing. We have a great apiary display again this year. The number of entries is down this year compared to last year's showing, but the competition was steep. The quality of the entries has been pretty amazing. I've really enjoyed working there these last couple years. I'd like to say thank you to Melanie Bower for all her work as Apiary Clerk this year. Many of you know Melanie worked as the Apiary Superintendent for several years and is thorough, organized, and precise in everything she does. Melanie worked with the judges to handle the entries, tally points on the entry scorecards, and award the ribbons. Also, I'd like to extend a big thank you to our Apiary Judges, Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney. They traveled to Iowa and spent many hours very carefully working together to grade all the entries. I am very impressed by their level of professional attention to detail and care they put into grading each individual entry.

### First Place Awards:

- Class 1  
Observation Hives – Pat Ennis
- Class 2 - Round Sections of Comb Honey -  
Mark Tintjer
- Class 3  
Cut Comb in Hard Plastic Box –  
Pat Ennis
- Class 4  
White Extracted Honey – Tom Swegle
- Class 5  
Lt. Amber Extracted Honey  
Marlene Mogle
- Class 6  
Amber Extracted Honey – Pat Ennis
- Class 7  
Dk. Amber Extracted Honey  
Pat Ennis
- Class 8  
Chunk Honey in Square Jars  
Mark Tintjer

Class 9 - 12 Oz. Plastic Bears  
Mark Tintjer

Class 10 - Creamed Honey in Hex Jars  
Pat Ennis

Class 11 - Flavored Creamed Honey in Hex  
Jars – Eli Kalke & Dale Fields

Class 12 - Frame of Honey, Sealed  
Eli Kalke & Dale Fields

Class 13 - Frame of Comb, Empty  
Eli Kalke & Dale Fields

Class 14 - Block of Beeswax – Pat Ennis

Class 15 - Beeswax Art – Mark Tintjer

Class 16 - Photograph, General Beekeeping  
Mike & Donna Brahm

Class 17 - Photograph, Specific Subject  
Alice Grimm

Class 18 - Beeswax Candles, Dipped  
Mark Tintjer

Class 19 - Beeswax Candles, All Others  
Mark Tintjer

Class 20 - Gift Basket  
Eli Kalke & Dale Fields

Class 21 – Window Display  
Pat (Peggy) Ennis

### Youth Classes:

Class 22  
Queenline Jars of Extracted Honey –  
Nathan Elsbernd

Class 23 – Beekeeping Photo  
Ryan Farrell

Class 24 – Beeswax Candles  
Jack Brahm

Congratulations to Pat and Peggy Ennis for earning the Sweepstakes Award. This award is presented annually by the IHPA to the exhibitor with the most Blue Ribbon entries.

Between the fair responsibilities and a quick trip my family made to Ohio, I've only done a few apiary inspections these last couple weeks. What bees I've seen are looking good. Once the season finally got going, the bees have

been quite productive. This spring and early summer showed a lot of EFB, some heavy cases of chalkbrood, and struggling package colonies ... bees were definitely under stress in many parts of the state. For the majority of us, that's a memory. The temperatures warmed, the weather dried out, the bees began bringing in plenty of pollen and nectar, the hives brooded up, the stress levels reduced, and the health issues have mostly cleared up. Some yards have yielded better than others, but overall I think most of us are in for a good crop.

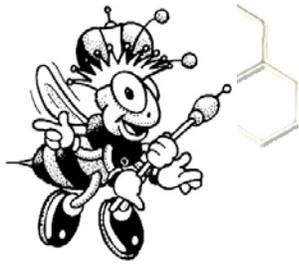
We're into the time of year for removing the supers, and extracting the honey. Varroa treatment probably should be the next responsibility in mind. Varroa levels were low for most of us this spring which was a great help to our bees, but the Varroa numbers have climbed. I'm starting to see averages of 10 – 15 mites in ether roll tests (of about 300 bees or so). Boyd Palmer has seen some higher numbers in some apiaries. Most of us are at levels where treatment is recommended. Don't procrastinate. Knock the mites back now while there's still plenty time for a couple generations of good, mite-free bees to be reared. Send healthier bees into winter.

Don't forget we have a new apiary inspector in the western side of the state. Erik Wray has been working hard and has now met several of you. His number is 402-658-1241. I've received a couple calls from beekeepers now reporting that Erik has been by and is doing a great job. Thank you for the feedback. If you'd like to request an apiary inspection by Boyd, Erik, or myself, don't hesitate to contact us.

See you,  
Andy

Andrew.Joseph@IowaAgriculture.gov  
515-326-5765 cell





## Iowa Honey Queen

Hello Everyone,

I am writing to you while in between classes here at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. My first day started the day right after the Iowa State Fair, and is going good so far.

This year at the Iowa State Fair I kept busy as a bee with different activities. I rolled candles almost every day with little kids of all ages, and seeing their smiles helped me push through the sore feet, and deteriorating voice. I made many guest appearances on 1040 WHO Radio, Lazer 103.3, Star 102.5, Kcci News channel 8, and many more. Some of my favorite moments at the fair were when; I met and rolled candles with Bill Northey our Secretary Of Agriculture, when my blender broke on me during a cooking demo, and having my Queen's Royal Basswood Honey go to Las Vegas, Nevada.

Now let me get into the broken or exploding blender. I had just done a cooking with honey demo the day before, and it went well. The only thing that went wrong was I forgot the honey. Do not worry I rebounded when the audience pointed it out by saying it was a test of how well they were paying attention. Connie and I got all the supplies back up to the booth to wash it. Alright, the next day was going to be better right? Wrong. I put all my ingredients in the blender, even the honey. I did not notice a small leak from the bottom of the blender. I set my blending time and walked over to the other side of the table to talk about products. All of a sudden a weird blending noise accrued and everyone was pointing at the blender. I had a reverse volcano of banana-strawberry hon-

ey smoothie. The jar was not tightened all the way onto the blade part so of course we had this little volcano. For the rest of the fair the gentlemen at the Vita-mix blender booth teased me and had fun with my poor luck to sell more blenders.

Every day I went over to the Animal Learning Center to give talks about Happiness Is Honey Bees as the week progressed we (Rachel, Pat, Dale, and a few others) got creative with passing out honey sticks that everyone got a stick, and we got tons of questions to the point that we had to cut it short for the next performance. The next performer was Rhonda Ross from Thank A Farmer. She would educate people about agriculture through magic. Rhonda and I got to

Do not hesitate in contacting Connie Bronnenberg at 515-480-6076 or at cbronny823@aol.com. You can also contact me directly at hannah.vanwyk93@yahoo.com if you have an upcoming event, farmers market or youth oriented day that Rachel, Joy or I could attend.

Until then, may the bees keep buzzing in your favor.

Safe travels and happy buzzing,

Hannah L. VanWyk  
2013 Iowa Honey Queen

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## How Do We Say Thank You?

How do we say thank you to someone who has served our organization for 14 consecutive years? Who joined IHPA in 1993, served as secretary in 2000 & 2001, vice president in 2002 & 2003, president from 2004 to 2010, past president in 2011 & 2012, and has managed the State Fair Sales Booth for the last 13 years. Donna Brahms has been such an integral part of our organization that it's hard to know where to begin.

talking and I soon found out that she is a honey collector. With all her traveling around the nation she purchases honey and takes it home, to Las Vegas, as a souvenir for her friends. She recently ran out of Basswood Honey, and was looking for some more. Well, if you have been reading past articles you would know I had bottled some and was not to faun of the taste. I sold her a gallon of Queen's Royal Basswood Honey, and that is how my honey is going to Las Vegas.

Donna became a member of the IHPA in 1993, alongside her husband, Mike, and his father. In their early years, Mike and Donna served the Association through involvement at the State Fair and meetings of state and local associations, earning them a Distinguished Service award in 1999. As an officer, Donna was diligent and willing to work. In 13 years, she rarely missed a board meeting and consistently followed through on her commitments. She helped with the reorganization of the Honey Queen Program, including the re-writing of the guidelines, establishing the auction and candle rolling fundraisers, and outlining steps for the new selection process. Donna has always been helpful and encouraging to our honey queens, espe-

I have so many stories to tell you all but so little time and space here in the Buzz. Thank goodness the annual meeting is upon our heels and I will be seeing many of you. I will most defiantly fill you in more about my experiences at the Iowa State Fair.

cially at the State Fair.

While Donna was serving as Secretary and Vice President, the IHPA was in a major battle with Patty Judge and IDALS to keep the Apiary Department and our State Apiarist, Bob Cox, from being eliminated. Donna and John Johnson spent countless hours meeting with and educating legislators on the importance of our State Apiarist. And then when the department was cut and Bob's position lost anyway, Donna shouldered the responsibility for most of Bob's educational talks across the state. She also helped get the Buzz newsletter transferred from IDALS to the IHPA in order to maintain this valuable resource for the beekeepers of Iowa. When Donna was President, she led the way to create a working relationship with Bill Northey and our current Ag Department which resulted in our State Apiarist being reinstated and the hiring of Andy!

Donna and her husband Mike have also played a vital role in our Youth Partnership Program. The guidelines were es-

tablished by Teresa (Jurchen) Brandenberg, who moved out of state shortly after the program started. Donna and Mike worked closely with Teresa to make sure the program got off the ground by helping to find mentors for all of the kids (serving as mentors themselves), delivering equipment, and answering countless questions. After Teresa moved, they assumed leadership of the program and continued its success. Over 50 families have joined the IHPA as a result of our Youth Partnership Program!

As many of you know, the IHPA was in a serious situation with the IRS a few years ago. This was a potentially devastating crisis for the IHPA and could have cost us years of work and money, not to mention loss of many programs. As president, Donna gave freely of her time and effort, coordinating with Melanie, the IRS, the lawyer, and the board. Donna and Melanie deserve most of the credit for the fact that this disaster was successfully averted and our 501(C)5 designation established.



Whether it was serving on the National Honey Board nomination committee, chairing the IHPA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, helping to establish new beekeeping classes across the state, or working with aerial sprayers to update and reestablish the Bee Rule, Donna has always done everything this organization has asked of her and more. More than once, Donna agreed to stay on another term as President because there was not one single person willing to step up and take on the job. THANK YOU DONNA BRAHMS; for your hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours, for your selfless effort for the good of this organization, and for your fearless leadership during one of the most challenging decades in IHPA history.

Submitted by Teresa (Jurchen) Brandenberg, Diane Jurchen, Amber (Connett) Sampson, and Regina Hoy

### The Buzz Quilt at the Iowa State Fair



The quilt won an Honorable Mention at the State Fair. Thanks again for the participation. The next quilt will be in blues. Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer.

### A honey of a lesson



Jefferson County Farm Bureau Women, assisted by other Farm Bureau board members, helped with an Ag in the Classroom event at the county fair on June 27. Joy Westercamp of Farmington, SE Iowa Honey Queen, presented a program to many children on beekeeping. She also talked about the different type of bees, the bee life cycle, cost of raising bees and the cost of purchasing queen bees, different kinds of honey and its coloring. She told them that the honey bees is becoming an endangered species. Bee stings can be dangerous and she told them about the protective gear she wears. As a matter of fact, Joy is allergic to bee stings.



## GUEST SPEAKERS

for our

# 101<sup>st</sup> Iowa Honey Producer's Association Annual Meeting



and on his website: [www.ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://www.ScientificBeekeeping.com).

**Randy Oliver** owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He and his two sons manage about 1000 colonies for migratory pollination, and produce queens, nucs and honey. He has over 40 years of practical beekeeping experience, plus holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biological Sciences. Randy researches, analyzes, and digests beekeeping information from all over the world in order to not only broaden his own depth of understanding and knowledge, but to develop practical solutions to many of today's beekeeping problems, which he then shares with other beekeepers through his various articles in bee magazines, his speaking engagements worldwide,



**Jackie Park-Burriss** is a second generation queen breeder from Northern CA. Her Uncle Homer Park, started playing with honey bees at a very early age; he later became one of the most prolific queen breeders in the country. In 1960 he helped his youngest brother Jack start his own bee business. Jackie purchased the queen rearing portion of her parents business after her father's untimely death.

Jackie markets her Park Italian Queens throughout the US while also chasing honey production and pollination contracts in CA, OR, and MT. She is currently serving as Chairman of the CA State Apiary Board. Jackie has been on the CA State Beekeepers Association's board of directors for over 20 years and is currently the Legislative Chairman. She has served as President of the CA State Beekeepers Association, CA

State Bee Breeders Association, and the Shasta Beekeepers Association.

Jackie is a proud member of the Bee Informed Tech-Transfer Team that was a vision of Dr. Marla Spivak. The Bee Informed Team has come to be through a great collaboration with Dr. Dennis VanEnglesdorf and many other great researchers. They have been doing continuous monitoring of her outfit for mites, nosema, viruses and other bee diseases. They also help her with hygienic behavior testing of breeder queens in the very busy spring time. All of which helps her with her quest to produce the healthiest queens possible with the diverse challenges the bee industry has today.



**101st Annual meeting of the  
Iowa Honey Producers Association  
November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013  
Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA**

It's meeting time again!! The annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers Association will be held Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Marshalltown, IA at the Best Western Regency Inn (641-752-6321), located at 3303 South center Street.

**Room rates are:** The Best Western Regency Inn for double occupancy is \$73.00 plus tax.  
The Super 8 is \$60.00 plus tax.

**To get the above convention special rate, these rooms need to be reserved by October 10<sup>th</sup> (please mention the Iowa Honey Producers when reserving the rooms).** The telephone numbers to call are: Best Western (641) 752 6321, or Super 8 (641) 753-3333. For best availability, advisable to book early.

Our speakers this year are: **Randy Oliver**, commercial beekeeper, researcher and well known columnist in the American Bee Journal. **Jackie Park-Burris**, queen breeder from northern California and member of the Bee Informed Tech-Transfer Team; **Dr Marla Spivak** was instrumental in forming. **Amy Toth**, assistant Professor, *Iowa State University, Departments of Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology and Entomology.*

Please think about entering our photo contest, cooking with honey contest, mead contest, or bringing items for the queen and silent auction! Consider attending the banquet, enjoying fellowship with your fellow beekeepers.



***Rules for the Photo Contest:***

- Photo must be matted but not framed
- Any size photo will be accepted for this competition
- Please put your name on the backside of the photo

**Categories to be submitted will include:**

1. Bee on Flower
2. General beekeeping
3. Marketing or Promotion
4. Extracting Honey or Specific Photos pertaining to Honey

Entries could be judged on (Judges reserve the right to determine how to best judge the entries)

- Presentation of entry
- Best use of honey
- amount of honey used (compared to other entries in category)
- Flavor of entry
- Overall appearance of entry

***Rules for the Cooking Contest:***

- Honey is to be the only sweetener
- Please submit your recipe with your entry
- Judges will keep recipes to be included in the "Buzz"
- Put your name on the back of the recipe card

**Categories to be submitted will include:**

1. Desserts
2. Bars or Cookies
3. Drinks
4. Cakes
5. Breads
6. Appetizers or Snacks

***Rules for Mead Judging Contest:***

- Supply at least two bottles of Mead
- Mead will be judged on the rules of the State Fair
- Mead will be judged on alcohol strength, sweetness, carbonation, temperature, taste, and presentation

**Categories to be submitted will include:**

1. Traditional Meads
2. Molemel (Fruit Meads)
3. Metheglyn (Spiced Meads)

Bring extra bottles of Mead to share at the "Wine and Cheese" party by the pool Friday night.

**IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS 101<sup>ST</sup>  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA on NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2013**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO. OF COLONIES: \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS BEEKEEPING \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual:**

Registration after October 15<sup>th</sup> will be \$30.00 / Before Oct 15<sup>th</sup> \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Couple/Family Rate:**

Registration after October 15<sup>th</sup> will be \$45.00 / Before Oct 15<sup>th</sup> \$40.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: DEALINE FOR ANNUAL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION IS OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> (NO EXCEPTIONS).  
No refunds will be given after October 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Banquet –Friday night 6:30 PM (per person) Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Queen luncheon on Friday noon (per person) Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\* For door registrations, we accept the following payment methods: cash, check & all major credit cards. \***

**YEAR 2013 MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

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2<sup>nd</sup> Family Membership, same address Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**NOTE: Paid 2013 membership is required to vote at the business meeting.**

**Return this completed form, together with your payment to:**

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Rhonda Heston (IHPA Treasurer)  
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*Any questions about the annual meeting, please contact Eli Kalke (IHPA VP) at [fieldstonefarms@netins.net](mailto:fieldstonefarms@netins.net)  
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***Note:*** Members are responsible for sending in their own magazine subscriptions  
and national association memberships starting October 1, 2003.

When sending in your magazine subscription or national association membership, be sure to inform them of your membership with Iowa Honey Producers Association and give them the name of the treasurer.  
 There will be printed magazine ordering forms at the meeting. This should speed up your renewals and still give you the association rate on the magazines. There is no discount on membership to the national association.

# Varroa Control: National Management Survey

## 2011-2012

Posted on **August 8, 2013** by **The Bee Informed Team**

There is little doubt that varroa mites are a big problem for many beekeepers.

Simply put these parasites spread viruses and weaken colonies and are arguably the single most important contributor to colony losses over the last 20 years. So what's a beekeeper to do? A summary of 2011 -2012 winter losses suffered by beekeepers who used or did not use common varroa control practices are reviewed in this survey analysis.

Notable finds include:

Beekeepers who used a known varroa control product **lost 23.3% fewer colonies** than those who did not use a known varroa mite control product.

Beekeepers who used Apiguard, ApiLife VAR and Formic acid based products all experienced fewer losses than those who used another

known varroa mite product or used no known varroa mite control product at all.

Beekeepers who used screen bottom boards for 11 months lost fewer colonies than beekeepers who used screen bottom boards for some other duration.

### Varroa Control

The 2012 survey asked if beekeepers used a 'known varroa mite control product'. 'Known varroa mite control products' include ApiGuard, ApiLife Var, Coumaphos (i.e. CheckMite+), Fluralinate (i.e. Apistan), Formic Acid (i.e. Mite Away II ), Sucroside, and other products.

Beekeepers who reported treating with a known varroa mite control product between April 2011 and March 2012 reported 6 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who did not report using a known varroa mite control product. In other words, beekeepers who reported treating

for varroa mites lost 23.3 % fewer colonies than those who did not report such use. Sixty-one percent of beekeepers reported that they did not use a varroa mite control product.

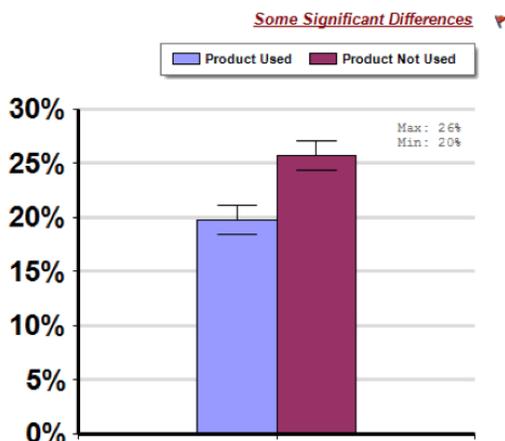
Looking at the data by Northern and Southern region, beekeepers in northern states that treated with a known varroa mite control product reported 6.1 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who did not use a varroa mite control product. In other words, beekeepers in northern states who reported treating for varroa mites lost 23% fewer colonies than those who did not report such use. There was no significant difference among southern beekeepers who used or did not use a known varroa mite control product.

We do not know if the responding beekeepers applied the products according to label directions. It is likely that some of those who reported using a product did so using concentrations and delivery methods that differed from the label directions. This may affect the results reported here. More detailed questions regarding doses and application method are planned for future surveys.

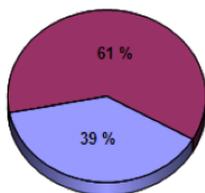
Beekeepers who reported treating with ApiGuard reported 6.7 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who did not report using a known varroa



### Know Varroa Mite Control Produce Use



### Respondent Ratio



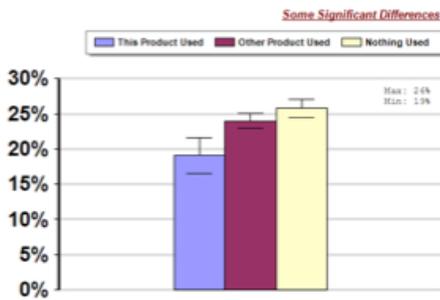
### Interpretation

Beekeepers who reported treating with a known varroa mite control product reported 6 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who did not report using a known varroa mite control product. In other words, beekeepers who reported treating for varroa mites lost 23.3% fewer colonies than those who did not report such use. 61% of beekeepers reported that they did not use a varroa mite control product.

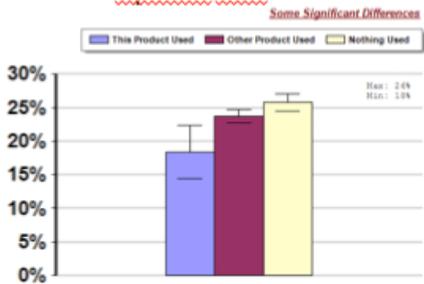
## Control products

### THYMOL BASED PRODUCTS

#### Api-Guard



#### ApiLife Var



mite control product. In other words, beekeepers who reported treating with ApiGuard lost 26% fewer colonies than those who did not report treating with any known varroa mite control product. Beekeepers who reported treating with ApiLife Var reported 7.5 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who did not report using a known varroa mite control product. In other words, beekeepers who reported treating ApiLife Var lost 29.1% fewer colonies than those who did not report treating with any known Varroa mite control product.

## COUMAPHOS AND FLUVALINATE

Beekeepers who reported treating or not treating with a

Coumaphos-based product (e.g. CheckMite+), at least once (44 beekeepers managing 1,624 colonies), between April 2011 and March 2012 did not lose significantly fewer or more colonies than beekeepers who used another product (3,565 beekeepers managing 231,634 colonies) or beekeepers who used nothing (2,217 beekeepers managing 27,915 colonies).

Beekeepers who reported treating or not treating with a Fluvalinate-based product (e.g. Apistan), at least once (116 beekeepers managing 1,762 colonies), between April 2011 and March 2012 did not lose

significantly fewer or more colonies than beekeepers who used another product (3,493 beekeepers managing 231,496 colonies) or beekeepers who

used nothing (2,217 beekeepers managing 27,915 colonies).

## FORMIC ACID BASED PRODUCTS

Beekeepers who reported treating with a formic acid based product reported 7.9 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who did not report using a known varroa mite control product. In other words, beekeepers who reported treating with a formic acid-based product lost 30.7% fewer colonies than those who did not report treating with any known varroa mite control product.

## OTHER PRODUCTS

Other products asked about include Sucroside, herbal products (eg.cinnamon, garlic, wintergreen), powdered sugar, and mineral oil. Few beekeepers reported using these products and no signifi-

**Table: Formic Acid Use**

		Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Number of Colonies Managed	Average Colony Loss			
				Mean	Standard Error	Mean(%)	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Formic	This Product Used	666	64,973	97.6	31.1	17.9	16.1	19.6
	Other Product Used	2,943	168,285	57.2	12.5	24.7	23.6	25.9
	Nothing Used	2,217	27,915	12.6	2.4	25.8	24.4	27.1



cant differences in losses where detected. Details on the number of beekeepers using the products and analysis of losses can be found in the appendix items below.

## **Integrated Pest Management Techniques**

### **DRONE BROOD REMOVAL**

Varroa mites are attracted to capped drone brood more than they are worker brood. Removing frames of capped drone brood does reduce the population of varroa mites in colonies, in controlled field studies. This technique was reportedly used by 658 beekeepers who managed 40,517 colonies. When compared to 2,441 beekeepers, managing 79,905 colonies, who did not use this technique, no statistical differences in reported winter losses were detected. Beekeepers use this technique in varying degrees (7% of beekeepers used this technique in 1-50% of their colonies, 4% used it in 51-99% of their colonies, and 11% used it in all of their colonies). No significant differences were detected between groups, but it does seem that using the technique in a higher percentage of hives helps reduce losses.

We did not collect data on how many times beekeepers removed drone combs

or on how much drone comb they removed. This would have a very large impact on drone brood removal's effectiveness as a varroa mite control technique. Also, Drone brood removal is not a stand-alone mite control technique, so multi-factorial analysis may demonstrate some benefits that are not evident here. We plan to collect this data in future years.

### **SCREEN BOTTOM BOARDS**

Using screened bottom boards instead of solid bottom boards is understood to reduce varroa populations in colonies by allowing dislodged mites to fall through the screen instead of being able to land and climb back onto bees. This is a popular technique with 93% or 2,898 responding beekeepers using this practice in at least some of their colonies. No difference in winter losses were detected between those who used or did not use this technique when analyzing all data or when comparing regional differences. However, beekeepers who employed screen bottom boards for 11 months lost fewer colonies, on average than those who employed screen bottom boards for any other amount of time.

### **SMALL CELL COMB USE**

Some beekeepers report the use of combs with worker cell sizes smaller than what is conventionally used reduces varroa mite populations in colonies. The beekeepers that responded they used this technique did not lose significantly fewer or more colonies over winter as beekeepers not using this technique.

### **DISCLAIMER**

It's important to note that this was a mono factorial analysis – so we did not look at the effects caused by using multiple products in combination had on winter survival. We hope to do this in the future as we collect additional data from many more beekeepers. This information is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names do not imply endorsement by the Bee Informed Partnership or its members. The results presented here are the summary of the population who responded. The sample may not be representative of the beekeeping population at large. These results simply highlight differences in the sample population. The results cannot be considered conclusive, causative, protective, or attest to product efficacy

Bee Informed Website : [www.beeinformed.org](http://www.beeinformed.org)

Varroa Control: National Management Survey 2011-2012

<http://beeinformed.org/2013/08/varroa-control-national-management-survey-2011-2012/>

**Trivia Answer:** The color and flavor of honey differ depending on the bees' nectar source (the blossoms). In fact, there are more than **300** unique kinds of honey in the United States, originating from such diverse floral sources as Clover, Eucalyptus and Orange Blossoms. In general, lighter colored honeys are mild in flavor, while darker honeys are usually more robust in flavor.

Source: The national Honey board [www.honey.com](http://www.honey.com)

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### Honey B Healthy

		Was	Now
M01909	16 oz.	<del>\$20.75</del>	\$18.75
M01910	1 gallon	<del>\$98.95</del>	\$94.00
M01911	5 gallon	<del>\$465.00</del>	\$441.75



### Winter Patties

		Was	Now
M0190010P3C	10 pack	<del>\$21.95</del>	\$18.95
M0190040P3C	40 lb. box	<del>\$44.95</del>	\$40.95



### Bee Cleanse

	Was	Now
M01918	<del>\$12.95</del>	\$10.95



### MegaBee Patties

		Was	Now
M0190010PH	10 pack	<del>\$26.25</del>	\$20.75
M0190040PH	40 lb. box	<del>\$70.50</del>	\$63.50



### Brood Builder

		Was	Now
M0014610H	10 pack	<del>\$19.50</del>	\$17.55
M0014640H	40 lb. box	<del>\$51.25</del>	\$46.50



### Amino Booster

		Was	Now
M01914	16 oz.	<del>\$20.95</del>	\$18.95
M01915	1 gallon	<del>\$99.50</del>	\$94.50



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# The Buzz Newsletter

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## National Honey Board

www.honey.com

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