The Buzz
Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association
November 2011

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www.ABuzzAboutBees.com
Cover Photographer: Alex Ebert
January 1st, 2012 Happy New Year!
The 100th Anniversary of the IHPA!

Put on your thinking cap and be sure to let the IHPA board members know what great ideas you have for celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the IHPA. This is a unique opportunity to promote beekeeping and the IHPA throughout 2012 and during the Iowa State Fair. Let us know what you think!

BEGINNER BEEKEEPING COURSES SCHEDULED

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

For 2012, course locations and details are listed as follows:

**Winterset Library** – Classes to begin in March. Pat Randol, Instructor. Contact Pat at 515-210-7445 or pdrandol@gmail.com for details.

**Ankeny, Iowa Lab Facility** – Classes begin Thursday, January 19th and will meet for seven consecutive Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Instructors: John Johnson & Andy Joseph. To enroll, contact Andy at 515-725-1481 or Andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov. Course fee is $30.

**Marshalltown** – Classes held at Iowa Valley Jan 18 through Feb 29. This course will be divided into two parts: The first four weeks will be Beginning Beekeeping (Beekeeping I). The final three weeks will be "Advanced Beekeeping" (Beekeeping II), dealing with the 2nd year and beyond. Course fee = $40 for enrollment in both sections, or $25 for those who only want to take one part. Requirements for Beekeeping II are Beekeeping I or one year of beekeeping experience. Contact Sandy Supianoski at Iowa Valley to enroll: 800-284-4823. Instructors: Phil Ebert and Margaret Hala.

**Washington, Kirkwood Center** – Classes to begin February 6th 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.

**Mason City** – Classes held at NIACC, four consecutive Saturdays beginning February 4th. Course fee = $39.00. Instructors: Pat & Peggy Ennis. To register, contact NIACC Continuing Ed at 641-422-4358 or at 888-GONIACC ext. 4358.

**Knoxville** – Classes to begin January 17th at the Marion County Extension Office. Meetings will begin at 6:30PM for seven consecutive Tuesdays. Cost is $30.00. Instructor: Craig Greene. Contact Craig at 641-842-2112 for details.

**Oskaloosa** – Classes to begin January 19th at the Mahaska County Extension Office. Meetings will begin at 6:30PM for seven consecutive Thursdays. Cost is $30.00. Instructor: Craig Greene. Contact Craig at 641-842-2112 for details.

**Indianola Library** – Classes to begin January 19th, 6PM – 8PM, and continue for 8 consecutive Thursdays. Meetings held at the Trinity-United Presbyterian Church (Hwy 92, across from the A&W). Instructors: Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa. Contact Mike Wyatt at 515-961-0357 for details.

**Indian Creek Nature Center** – Classes to begin Thursday, January 19th at the nature center. Course meets for eight sessions throughout the year. Instructor: Bob Wolfe. Series Fee: $55/ Member $85/Nonmember $10/partner. For details and registration, view the website: http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org/basic-beekeeping?month=jan&yr=2012 or call 319-363-0664.

**Glenwood** – Classes to begin January 25th, 6PM to 8PM, meeting 4-6 consecutive Wednesday evenings. Course held at the Mills County Engineer’s Office. Instructor: Clarence Seale. Contact Clarence for details and registry at 712-310-7410.

**Peosta** – Classes held at Northeast Iowa Community College. Classes to begin January 24th, 6:00PM – 9:00PM, meeting for 6 consecutive Tuesdays. Instructors: Louise and Bill Johnston. Contact NICC Continuing Ed for details & registration at www.nicc.edu (click on continuing education), or by phone at 563-557-0354.

Early enrollment for many of these courses 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.

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

Another month, Another President’s message. I’ll let you figure out when this was written. I’m sure it won’t be too hard to figure though, because I am writing about the Annual Meeting.

The 99th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers Association is complete and I heard comments from many people saying this may have been the best one yet. I’m not sure about that because looking back there has been some pretty good ones. One thing that I am sure of though, when people attend as many meetings as Kim Flottum or Jerry Hayes say that “You have something Special here” or “Something to be Proud of” you can believe them.

Having an exceptional meeting like the one that just took place, doesn’t just happen and it can’t be attributed to any one person. It is the collective effort of a lot of good people. An Efficient Registration, Interesting Silent Auction, Well Run Program, Informative Speakers, Productive Youth Program, Delicious Cooking and Photo Contest, Entertaining Banquet, Appreciative Awards, Lucrative Queen Auction, Entertaining Banquet, Appreciative Awards, Lucrative Queen Auction, Interesting Silent Auction, Informative Speakers, Productive Youth Program, Delicious Cooking and Photo Contest, Entertaining Banquet, Appreciative Awards, Lucrative Queen Auction, Entertaining Banquet, Appreciative Awards, Lucrative Queen Auction, Interesting Silent Auction, Informative Speakers, Productive Youth Program, Delicious Cooking and Photo Contest, Entertaining Banquet, Appreciative Awards, Lucrative Queen Auction, Entertaining Banquet, Appreciative Awards.

The Annual Meeting, to me seems to be kind of the end of the year for IHPIA activities, but that means it is time to look forward to hopefully the biggest year yet.

THE 2012 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE IHPA

I think it would be nice to have a Bee-keeping Question and Answer section in the Buzz, so if you would like to submit a Question please e-mail to cbronny823@aol.com and use the Subject line Buzz Question and Answer. It will help me with ideas for subjects to write about for my Presidents Column.

Thank You,
Have Fun, Work Hard, and Bee Involved.

Curt Bronnenberg

2011 IHPA Awards

Sweepstakes was presented to Pat and Peggy Ennis. Herman Bickle Award was presented to Pat and Peggy Ennis. Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Beverly Powell, Doris Ramsey, and Duane and Melanie Bower. Education Awards were presented to John Johnson and Pat Ennis. Outstanding Youth Awards were presented to Renae and Greg Beard.

New IHPA Cookbook!

The cookbook is becoming a reality! I have received several recipes from members, so keep them coming. We will be accepting recipes until the end of January. Ideally this is a “slower” time for beekeepers, so we decided to extend our deadline to accommodate everyone having time to gather them, print them out and send them to us. The recipe form is on the website for your convenience or you can make copies of the form that was printed in the BUZZ. Please submit lots of recipes so we will have the best cookbook ever to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Iowa Honey Producers Association. Send recipes to Donna Brahms, Peggy Ennis, Julie Swett, Regina Hoy, Louise Johnson or Deb Nielson.

[Recipe form is on page 8 of this issue.]

Honey Lemonade

Honey lemonade is a huge draw for any event. If you are interested in serving honey lemonade at your event, the IHPA has lemon juice to help you bring in the customers. The board decided that a case of 12-30 oz. cartons is $50.00 or if you prefer just a couple of 30 oz. cartons, the price is $5.00 each. The recipe is one-30 oz. carton of lemon juice, 26 to 28 oz of honey and enough water to make two gallons of lemonade. If you want to purchase some lemon juice, please contact Donna Brahms, (712) 778-4256 or (402) 677-2460 for phone numbers or email: mbrahms@netins.net. The lemon juice is being stored in Mike and Donna’s freezers. We could use the room!
Iowa Honey Queen Program

I would like to Thank all of you that donated items for our Queen Auctions and for all of you that bid on these items to make this a very successful fundraiser for our Queen Program. We raised $3025.00 from our silent auctions and live auction at our Annual Meeting, November 4th and 5th in Marshalltown. The money that we raised from these auctions is there to benefit members by having our Honey Queen attend their functions such as Farmers Markets, Craft Shows, Grocery Store Promotions, etc. This money raised will pay for their expenses to attend your event.

We had two very qualified Candidates this year and I am happy to announce that Renae Beard daughter of Randy and Jackie Beard of Chariton, Iowa was crowned our 2012 Iowa Honey Queen. Since we had two qualified Candidates for our 100th Year Anniversary, we felt both these young ladies would benefit our Association, so we decided to Crown Hannah Van Wyk daughter of Neal and Cathy VanWyk of Otley, Iowa our 2012 Iowa Honey Princess.

If you would like our Queen to attend one of your functions, please call me (515)480-6076 or e-mail me cbronny823@aol.com and we will get it arranged.

Remember, every time I mention the Queen, because we had another exceptional candidate this year, we have available Hannah, the Honey Princess available to fill in if there is a scheduling conflict or at larger events we will be able to utilize both young ladies.

I would also like to Thank Ellie Johnson for her time and effort as the 2011 Iowa Honey Queen and wish her much success for her future.

IHPA Honey Queen Chair,
Connie Bronnenberg

2011 Iowa Honey Queen

Hello All!
I hope this finds you well. As the leaves change and the weather grows colder I keep you in my thoughts. I'm working very hard at my jobs, the ISU dairy farm and the Ames haunted forest while powering through my classes. So far October has not given me very many opportunities. The last appearance I had was at the Clay County Fair and the people were lovely. I enjoyed my hours at the fair and wish I could have stayed longer. Soon my reign as queen will come to an end and it's hard to believe it is here so fast. Though I am glad that the annual meeting is coming up because it will give me a chance to visit with all of you.

See you very soon

Ellie Johnson
2011 Iowa Honey Queen

2012 Iowa Honey Queen

Greetings Iowa Honey Producers,

My name is Renae Michelle Beard and I am your 2012 Iowa Honey Queen. My parents are Randy and Jackie Beard and my siblings are Greg Beard and Emily McDonnell. We live on a farm near Chariton, Iowa where we primarily raise beef cattle (along with a menagerie of other livestock), and care for our five beehives.

I am a senior at Chariton High School where I stay involved in Senior Steering Committee, Student Council, Talented and Gifted, National Honor Society, School Improvement Advisory Committee, Future Business Leaders of America, Varsity Cross Country, and Varsity Track. I am also an active member of the Chariton Challengers 4-H Club, Lucas County 4-H Youth Council, Iowa State 4-H Youth Council, and Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Committee. My future plans include attending the University of Northern Iowa next fall to double major in Psychology and Education, pursuing my dream of becoming a School Psychologist.

My first upcoming adventure as Iowa Honey Queen will be on November 19 in Fort Madison where I will appear in
Chelsa Bronnenberg’s One Stop Holiday Shop. I will possibly attending The Healthy Cedar Valley Coalition’s presentation: *Vanishing of the Bees* on November 30 at the University of Northern Iowa campus.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of the Iowa Honey Producers and distinguished sponsors for the experiences and opportunities that I have been granted through my participation in the Iowa Bee Scholar Program thus far and am very excited for all the new experiences this year will bring. I am extremely honored to represent Iowa as their Honey Queen and look forward to continuing to endorse the beekeeping industry, the value of the honeybee, and promoting the consumption of honey. It is my hope that I can help to inspire other people to be just as passionate about honeybees and beekeeping as I am.

Please, don’t hesitate to contact the Iowa Honey Producers Association Queen Chair, Connie Bronnenberg if you would like me to attend an event. I would love to come help support the beekeeping industry with you and would be more than happy to be of service in any way possible. Enjoy the holidays and don’t forget to “bee happy”!

Renae M. Beard
2012 Iowa Honey Queen

**2012 Iowa Honey Princess**

Hey everyone, my name is Hannah VanWyk, and I am the 2012 Iowa Honey Princess. It is an honor to be given this title. I know that there has not been a princess here in Iowa for over eleven years, so I would love to thank all the members of the board, the Bronnenbergs, my family, and Regina Hoy for this opportunity.

Just to get to know who I am. I am a senior at Pella High School, in Pella. My parents are Neal and Cathy VanWyk, I also have a younger brother, Benjamin, and he is in seventh grade. I am very involved in all I do. Some of my favorite hobbies are; 4-H, FFA, shooting sports, showing rabbits, and of course beekeeping. I am an active shooter on the Oskaloosa High School Shooting Team, where I am on varsity. I’m involved in Youth Hunter’s Education Challenge (YHEC) out of Eddyville, Iowa. I am also an active participant in the 4-H shooting sports program. I mostly shoot shotgun, but I have acquired a taste for muzzle loading. As anyone can tell I love the outdoors and everything that involves being outside.

The reason I ran for Iowa Honey Queen was, and still are to help the IHPA get a stronger media base. My idea is to get a hold of the Iowa Public Television Programming during the Iowa State Fair to get a clip into the Iowa State Highlights. Also I want to get a special episode during the month of September, for that is the National Honey month. I was possibly thinking of getting the Iowa Honey Queen, and or Honey Princess on more radio talk shows throughout Iowa, especially during the agriculture talks. The Queen or Princess can tell listeners about honey, and the benefits honey gives to society.

I have more ideas popping up into my head every day. My goal as Iowa Honey Princess is to assist in helping Renae, the 2012 Iowa Honey Queen, and the IHPA, in spreading the word about honey and all the glories about bees. Thank you for reading and I hope I will see you all very soon.

Hannah VanWyk
2012 Iowa Honey Princess
Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Chance Nye. He is a friendly, energetic member of the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers Association who lives at Ft. Madison with his mother, Heather, his brother who is 17, and sister who is 14.

Last year when he was in 4th grade, Chance was inspired to take a beekeeping class Ron Wehr was teaching in Washington, Iowa. It seems Chance was selling pizza at a farmers market and met Dave Hay who told him all about beekeeping and Chance thought it looked like fun.

When he started beekeeping Chance thought bee stings didn't hurt. He and Dave attended Ron Wehr's field day and he tried to get stung. The bees finally showed him they needed some respect and he got stung in the eye. "I quickly changed that bee stings don't hurt," said Chance. He is currently in the 5th grade at Denmark Elementary School. He likes math, and his hobbies are beekeeping, driving everything and farming. He is also a 4-H member. At this point Chance would like to open his own airline business when he grows up. His mentors are Dave Hay, Kerwin Woodroffe, the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers, and his mother.

His future plans in beekeeping are to sell honey and teach people the importance of bees. He is a willing student and has a lot of energy so he will OK. Good luck with your bees Chance.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers

On September 24 the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers held a field day at Vernie and Doris Ramsey’s home. There were 30 in attendance. Topics discussed were winterizing colonies, checking for mites, uniting colonies, and questions and answers.
**What a Fall!**

Here’s hoping your bees are looking good. All this nice weather has really provided opportunity to get the colonies well-prepared for winter. …it also means the bees have been eating lots of stores and you’ve probably needed to supplement them a bit to keep the hives good and heavy.

The annual meeting was really something. Thanks to Pat Ennis and everyone involved for putting together such a great program. The speakers provided a mix of info and enthusiasm. So often beekeepers get together and end up focusing on our troubles and wrongs. I enjoyed hearing so much about how to get our bees in better shape, grow our businesses, and provide quality products for top prices. Fresh air…

As we’re entering the “off-season” with our bees, it might be a good time to consider neighbor relations regarding potential pesticide applications near our bee yards. ISU extension has an informative pamphlet covering some basic strategies for avoiding / minimizing exposure.

The pamphlet can be found online at [https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=13123](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=13123)

At this site, you can view the publication as a pdf and even order a number of copies at no cost. Some beekeepers have handed these out to farming neighbors as a “positive” way to approach the subject of keeping bees safer from accidents during spray season.

I’ve been getting a good number of calls and emails from those wanting to learn how to get started with bees. I think we’re in for another big year in our beekeeping courses around the state. Interest and attendance has been way up – this is hardly news to anyone, but it sure looks like the trend continues.

See you. Happy Holidays.  
Andy Joseph, State Apiarist

**THE BEEYARD REPORT**

Monsanto has purchased Beeologies. They want the RNAi marker. It's a virus inhibitor. It was described to me as the cop that arrests the bad guys. I don't think this is a positive development. A couple of years ago there was talk that Monsanto wanted to develop a "Roundup Ready Bee."

Whether that is in their game plan or not, I don't know. They probably want to engineer RNAi into plants. Historically, Monsanto owns you if their modified genetics drift over onto your neighboring field. They have an army of lawyers to carry this out. It is disturbing. We don't need this in the bee business.

Some months ago in Bee Culture, Kim Flottum recalled his days working in a gas station. He spent a lot of time washing bugs off windshields. His observation was the he seldom saw bugs on his windshield any more. This got my attention. I started watching my windshield. He is right. There aren't any bugs. Anything that moves gets killed.

The production year is drawing to a close. We are getting ready for winter. The mite load appears manageable at this point but there is always a yard or two where they get ahead of us. We started treatments in late August and early September except for one yard we forgot to pull. Alex went to apply mite treatments what he thought was going to be the second mite treatment in October only to find the honey boxes were still on the hives. The yard had been pulled earlier so there wasn't a huge amount of honey to be gained. I think it was about 2/3 of a barrel.

The first treatment is applied the same time that the last of the honey boxes are pulled. It saves a trip

We are buying some new winter cartons. I have used colony quilt for years but it is time consuming to apply and I have to bend over to do it. That is becoming an obstacle as the years go by. We bought some cardboard cartons a few years ago. They proved to be worthless. They look great when they are new but the bottoms are not well sealed. As soon as they get wet, they assume some very original shapes. Sometimes it is impossible to remove them in the spring without cutting them off.

I went to Des Moines Custom Box. They are making some for us out of chloroplast. It is plastic that looks like cardboard. I got some of those from Bob Gunten years ago. They are still good.

The colonies we used MAQS on look great. I may be forced to revise my opinion of them. It remains to be seen if the colonies will be alive in the spring. My hope is that I will be able to use the rest of the strips that we have. I don't think I want to buy anymore. It appears to me that only huge colonies can deal with the fumes. Even in those colonies, the fumes kill lots of brood--both capped and uncapped. Experiences do vary.

I visited Bryan and Donna Davis who live to the north of me. They had used MAQS without suffering serious side effects.

Andy came and took some samples for a USDA survey. I had him take some samples for a Nosema survey also. The cost of treating for Nosema is almost prohibitive in my mind. It also needs to be done when the bees are utilizing the syrup you are feeding them. This time of year they are just packing it away in the syrup. I visit Bryan and Donna Davis who live to the north of me. They had used MAQS without suffering serious side effects.

Honey prices are higher than they were at this time last year. If you want to give it away, that’s fine but don’t sell cheap!! You have a unique local product with many health benefits.

Submitted by Phil Ebert
New IHPA Cookbook

Please use this form to submit your recipes for use in the New IHPA Cookbook. The form is also available at www.abuzzaboutbees.com. The form is on the website for download or make copies as needed. Send completed forms to:

Donna Brahms, 14922 535th Street, Griswold, IA 51535
(712) 778-4256, mbrahms@netins.net

Dear Friend,

Please submit your recipes to the committee within 5 days so we can meet our deadline. Thank you.

P.S. Please list your receipts for use in our cookbook. (2)

Name

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Your family at this time to be assured of receiving them. Your recipe is also available for your personal and personal use.

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INSTRUCTIONS

**This & That**
- Cookies & Candy
- Desserts
- Bread & Rolls

**Main Dishes**
- Vegetable & Side Dishes
- Soups & Stews

**Appetizers & Beverages**
- Your recipe should fit into the following categories:
  - The portion of the dish that is to be included
  - Any special items (flavors, ingredients, etc.)
  - The preparation time
  - The serving size
  - The number of servings

**Ingredients**
- Please list all ingredients per recipe.
- All ingredients must be listed.

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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
(515) 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) 778-4256
mbrahms@netins.net

District Directors
District #1 Regina Hoy
19295 165th Street
Eddyville, IA 52553
641-660-0772
ginajscoupons@hotmail.com

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

District #3 Dennis Nielson
6948 25th Ave.
Newhall, IA 52315-9620
319-223-5806
nielsondl@fbx.com

District #4 John Johnson
3422 Clinton Court
Ames, IA 50010-4371
(515) 450-5606
wjohnj@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@kdsl.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

IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

Iowa Honey Queen Program
Connie Bronnenberg 515-480-6076
cbronny823@aol.com

Iowa Beekeeper Clubs
Northwest Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Larry J. Boernsen
6724 200th St.
Ocheyedan, IA 51534
(712) 735-4205
Lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

Southwest Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA 51535
(712) 778-4256

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

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Contact: Larry J. Boernsen
6724 200th St.
Ocheyedan, IA 51534
(712) 735-4205
Lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

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

Iowa Honey Queen Program
Connie Bronnenberg 515-480-6076
cbronny823@aol.com

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
Mark Speltz
(515) 669-3266
mark.speltz@dia.iowa.gov

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
Mark Speltz
(515) 669-3266
mark.speltz@dia.iowa.gov

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Mark Speltz
(515) 669-3266
mark.speltz@dia.iowa.gov

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Connie Bronnenberg 515-480-6076
cbronny823@aol.com

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
Mark Speltz
(515) 669-3266
mark.speltz@dia.iowa.gov

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

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

Iowa Honey Queen Program
Connie Bronnenberg 515-480-6076
cbronny823@aol.com

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