



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



June 2010

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Dates To Bee Remembered



June 26, 2010 Field Day at Ebert Honey Lynnville, IA

June 26, 2010 IHPA Board Meeting following the Field Day

August 12-22, 2010 Iowa State Fair

September 19, 2010 Board Meeting 2 pm Heartland Inn, Des Moines

November 4, 2010 Board Meeting 7 pm Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA

November 5th & 6th Annual Meeting Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown

For Sale: new crop honey \$1.75 lb. in five gal. bucket plus new bucket exchange. Don't let your customers run out of honey, or they will get it from someone else.

Curt Bronnenberg (515) 465-5939
www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com

For Sale Bees with one story hive: Painted used equipment in good condition. The hive will consist of one bottom board, 9 5/8 - 10 frame hive body with bees and 9 frames, entrance reducer, insulated inner lid and metal outer lid. The queen will be one year old or less. The total for this hive package will be \$125.00 a \$30.00 deposit is required. Ready to be picked up around June 1st.

Curtis Barnhart, Monticello, IA
319 480-4209

FOR SALE: Queen excluders--\$2;
feeder buckets--\$1

Contact Dick Blake at 712-246-3412

FOR SALE: 4 Frame Nucs for summer expansion--available late June to early July. Call for pricing, Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

For Sale: Honeybees in one-story hives with ten frames of good comb, reversible screened bottom board and a cover. \$125.

Contact Josh Sommers
641-658-2213

Asian honey bee watch extends to Townsville

North Queensland Register
nqr.farmonline.com.au

SURVEILLANCE teams looking for the unwanted Asian honeybee (*Apis cerana*) have arrived in Townsville. Biosecurity Queensland Asian honeybee surveillance manager Wim De Jong said there were concerns the exotic pest had hitched a ride all the way from Cairns. "This expanded surveillance effort is an opportunity to roll out a new honeybee trap," he said. "This week surveillance teams are visiting communities, port areas, major transport corridors and heavy transport premises between Cairns and Townsville searching for any signs of the pest bee. "They are working closely with Queensland Rail to keep a close watch on trains, stations and depots."

Mr De Jong said the recent detection of a nest of Asian honeybees in Innisfail

was possibly the result of the bees using transport corridors along the coast. "So far our intensive surveillance in the Innisfail area has not found any further nests or swarms," Mr De Jong said. "We hope this is good news. But if bees have travelled to Innisfail via transportation, then it is possible they have gone even further afield. "The surveillance is a precautionary measure to monitor any possible spread from Cairns.

"A team of four will operate weekly between Cairns and Townsville until we are satisfied that rail and road transport are not potential carriers." Mr De Jong's trap consists of a tray containing a sticky sugar-based attractant with a cap sheltering the lure from water. "Once a bee is caught in the trap, they cannot escape, allowing for prompt identification," Mr De Jong said. Asian honeybees are slightly smaller than the European honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) and its abdomen has more distinctive brown and yellow stripes. They tend to fly more erratically than the European honey-bee.

Asian honeybees have been targeted for eradication since they were first detected in Cairns in 2007.

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 of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers, Weather sure does change in Iowa. I have received several phone calls from people with swarms in yards and buildings. They would like to have them removed without killing them. I can only give them beekeepers listed in our directory that live in the same vicinity. I am sorry that I don't know all Iowa beekeepers so that I can tell them who is interested in swarms and who isn't. We have a large membership and really would benefit from a listing of beekeepers interested in removing swarms. I have tried to get a listing started, but I need your help. You need to tell me if you are interested in doing this service or if you even have time to do it. I apologize if you receive a phone call and are not interested.

Please attend the IHPA Field Day which is going to be held at Ebert Honey near Lynnville on Saturday, June 26th. The information is listed in another article. It is very important that we have members at events. No matter how much a person knows about a subject, each time a gathering takes place more information is learned and passed on to others. Maybe the information is passed on by you, maybe by presenters, maybe by just talking with other beekeepers enlightens and makes a person think about the best way to make an idea work. See you on the 26th.

Don't forget to download exhibit information to enter honey and beeswax items for the Iowa State Fair. Go to www.iowastatefair.org to get the forms and the instructions for entering. If you have questions, contact Melanie Bower, Iowa State Fair Apiary Superintendent. Her phone number and email address are listed on the back page of the BUZZ.

Congratulations to Doris and Vern Ramsey. They will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 12th. We send best wishes and hopes for many more. Doris has been the past historian for the IHPA and helps with

registration at many annual meetings. Vernie is doing bee emergency training with area firefighters for the IHPA and has been a past IHPA director.

I am taking names and phone numbers of IHPA members that are interested in working in the IHPA booth at the Iowa State Fair. The fair will run from August 12-22, 2010. It seems that each year it becomes more difficult to recruit workers to man the booth. We need around 25 people each day. The money that is raised during the eleven days that the Iowa State Fair is in operation funds most of the activities of the IHPA. Without member support, it becomes nearly impossible to accomplish this task. Please help. The shifts run from 9 am until 1:30 pm; 1:30 pm until 6 pm; 6 pm until 9 pm. Please either email me or call me to set up your working schedule. Tickets to get into the fairgrounds will be sent to workers the end of July because they are unavailable until then. Thank you for your help.

Don't forget the deadline for submitting bids to sell honey products at the Iowa State Fair. June 30th always approaches quickly. Look for the information printed in this issue.

I haven't received any art designs for the IHPA 100th Anniversary Celebration. Please submit designs so that we can vote on them during the state fair. The IHPA board has authorized \$100 for the winning design. The winning design will be used for special promotional items for our celebration. There are many talented artists among the Iowa beekeepers, let's see your designs.

I'd like to send a Happy Father's Day wish to all fathers in our organization. Enjoy your special family time. Children grow up and move away all too quickly. BEE HAPPY!

Sincerely,
Donna Brahms, IHPA President

IHPA Art Contest

The Iowa Honey Producers Association board would like to announce an art design contest to the entire membership. Someone in the organization could win \$100 for the winning design that will "bee" used for memorabilia to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Iowa Beekeeping. The Iowa Beekeeping group was established in 1912 making it 100 years in 2012.

The winning entry could be used for print material, bumper stickers, belt buckles, ball caps, bolo ties, etc. Please submit your entries by August 1st, 2010 to Donna Brahms. We will have the design on display during the Iowa State Fair. Fairgoers will get a chance to vote on their favorite design August 12-22 while the 2010 Iowa State Fair is being held. Put your artistic thinking cap on and submit that winning design.

IHPA Cookbook

The "new" Iowa Honey Recipe cookbook was created in 1999. Many great honey cooks have joined our membership since that date. It is time to publish a new cookbook. If you would be interested in helping create our new cookbook, please contact Donna Brahms.

The board has suggested several names of people that might be willing to work on the cookbook, but we don't want to overlook anyone that would be interested in helping. The sales of the current cookbook have increased dramatically, so a new cookbook seemed like the thing to do. We will let you know the schedule, the categories, and the submission form as we progress with this committee. Start sorting your favorite honey recipes now.



Renewals, Address Changes, Mail Returns

There are still a number of members who have not sent in their renewals for 2010. Your renewal date is above your name on the Buzz. We would appreciate your attention to renewing your membership as your dues pay only 66% of the cost for the editing, printing and mailing of your Buzz each year.

A couple of other items that need to be mentioned are address changes and mail returns. We are charged by the Post Office for all returned issues of the Buzz because of an address change or because a member is "temporarily away". If an issue is returned because of an address change, an effort is made to re-send it to the new address which means additional postage has to be paid to re-send it. This also means your issue will be delayed in getting to you.

If an issue is returned because the member is "temporarily away", that issue will not be re-mailed as it may be returned again resulting in more postage being paid. If you are going to be "temporarily away", please notify me when you leave and again when you return. I will hold your issues until your return and send them in one package.

Thank you for your renewal and for providing updated information so that your Buzz can be delivered in a timely manner.

Melanie Bower
Treasurer/Membership

Iowa Honey Queen June

Hello beekeepers! Boy has this spring been one wild ride. We go from really warm to really cold, really dry to really wet. I'm starting to think that Iowa is even more unpredictable than I first thought.

May has been slow for honey events so far. I have been working with my bees

and just recently checked on them to see how the queen was doing. The weather has been so rough on them I was worried and asked Andy Joseph to come take a look at them. Hopefully there has been no permanent damage done from the poor weather and everything will look okay. I will be having multiple people with me when Andy comes out including my cousin Kelsey, my aunt Lanita, and my friend Marcus. They are all interested and bees and beekeeping so this will be a great learning experience for all of us.

My cousin Kelsey was selected to be Mahaska County Honey Queen in April and recently was asked to attend a field day in Ankeny hosted by her area club, The Back to Basics Beekeepers. I hadn't planned on attending as I had to work but I got off just in time to hitch a ride with her to the event. I have to apologize to the group I was underdressed and unprepared but in all it was real fun, I met a lot of people, and learned some new things. It was really fun to watch Kelsey get excited about beekeeping. She really liked seeing the baby bees emerge from their cells and even let out an over ecstatic, "Awwwww." She will be a great beekeeper and queen.

I have many weddings and graduations to get to this spring, as well as starting my job up at Iowa State. Right now I am open for your events, as my only honey event scheduled thus far is for ACF in July with Melanie and Donna. Hopefully I will be having more events getting scheduled as summer gets closer so please contact me with those events! Try and stay warm and dry in the coming weeks!

Amber Connett
aconnett@iastate.edu
515-460-9199

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Andrew Schulz, who is another of the 2009 Youth Scholarship Winners spon-

sored by the Iowa Honey Producers Association. His parents are Gary and Melody Schulz and they live in Burlington, Iowa. Andrew has 5 sisters and 5 brothers and attends Mediapolis High School where he is in the 10th grade.

Andrew says he likes making things out of wood, bees and reading. He is involved in FFA and 4-H. In 4-H he is the photographer and historian for his 4-H club. In FFA his supervised agricultural experience is trapping. He mostly trapped raccoon. He also had a swine project at the county fair.

Andrew got interested in honeybees when he was at a friend's house and they had bees. He took his beekeeping course through Kirkwood Community College at Washington, Iowa and helped at the Iowa Honey Producers booth at the Iowa State Fair. Dave Tull was his mentor. Andrew says in the future he might get a few more colonies going. When asked about interesting beekeeping experiences, Andrew said his dog got chased by some of his bees.

Good luck with your beekeeping Andrew!

Submitted by Ron Wehr

Honey Lovers Candies

Honey Lovers is a candy similar to jelly beans made with real honey. The candy is made by Gimbal's Fine Candies with 16 distinct flavors that resemble those found in Jelly Belly brand jelly beans. The candies were being sold at Wal-Mart.

In addition to producing a fine tasting candy, Gimbals is also donating 5% of the proceeds to the University of California Davis Honeybee Research. The package also notes Colony Collapse Disorder and the importance of honeybees to the food supply.

You can find Gimbal's Fine Candies on the web at gimbalscandy.com

Submitted by Trish Ebert



Dear Honey Producers:

We hope you will be able to help the Iowa Honey Producers Association with honey and lemonade sales at the 2010 Iowa State Fair. Dates of this year's fair are August 12th through the 22nd. Please bring any other helpers with you who may be interested in working. Children who are ten years of age and older enjoy assisting and are welcome.

We will send passes which provide free entry to the State Fair to all who assist with honey and lemonade sales.

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

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

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

Hope to see you at the Iowa State Fair!

Donna Brahms, IHPA Booth Manager
14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA 51535
(712) 778-4255-H or (402) 677-2460-C
E-mail: mbrahms@netins.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Date(s): _____

9:00-1:30 _____

1:30-6:00 _____

6:00-9:00 _____

Date(s): _____

9:00-1:30 _____

1:30-6:00 _____

6:00-9:00 _____

We always have a "Honey Of A Time" working at the Iowa State Fair!



Iowa Honey Producers Association 2010 Summer Field Day Saturday, June 26th



Ebert Honey Company
14808 S. 102nd Ave. E.
Lynnville, IA 50153
www.eberthoney.com

Enter the drawing
for a great
observation hive!

Hosted by Ebert Honey Co. located at 14808 S 102nd Ave E, Lynnville, IA., 50153 The phone number is 641-527-2639. The e-mail is ehoney37@netins.net The location is approx 1 1/2 miles south of Lynnville on T-38 and then 1/2 mile back west on 102nd Ave. Parking is going to be pretty tight. You can park along the road or some of you will be able to park at my neighbors just to the east. **BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS. CHAIRS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED.** If you go to our web site www.eberthoney.com there are maps showing how to get to our place if you hit the location button on the left side of the home page.

Lunch will be pot luck with the IHPA providing the main course, table service and drinks. If you bring something with honey in it, bring the recipe to share.

Bring your veil. We will be looking at some bees in the afternoon--weather permitting.

PROGRAM

8:30 to 9:30 Registration--You are welcome to walk through our building after you register. One of the boys will be on hand to answer your questions. This is a low tech operation. Don't expect a lot of mechanized equipment.

9:30 to 9:40 Welcome and information for the day from an IHPA officer.

9:40 to 10:15 Melting and filtering beeswax successfully and safely---Phil Ebert.

10:15 to 10:45 Making lotion bars from your own honey and beeswax--Pat Randol

10:45 to 11:00 Spring inspection report--Del Nelson or Andy Joseph

11:00 to 11:45 Suggested treatment levels for Varoa Mites--Andy Joseph

11:45 to 12:45 Lunch

12:45 to 1:45 Spring management and splitting--why we do it the way we do--Adam and Alex Ebert

1:45 to 2:45 Small scale queen rearing--Pat Ennis

2:45 to 3:45 Tour of queen mating yard for anyone not already over the limit on information. We might put a cell builder together if time allows--Adam Ebert.

Program and time limits subject to change due to weather, illness or whatever.

Registration Information:

Registration cost for the field day will be \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Pre-registrations to : Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasure, 207 S. E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA. 50315. Phone (515) 287-6542. You can also register at the field day.





2010 BID SHEET FOR HONEY AND PRODUCTS
TO BE SOLD AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR SALES BOOTH

Bid on any or all items (state quantity you will supply and bid price)

- 1 lb. Jars--light honey
12 oz. Bears--light honey
2 lb. Jars--light honey
24 oz. Bears--light honey
5 lb. Jugs--light honey
1 lb. Skep--light honey
Gallons--light honey
50 or 60 lb. Pails (for lemonade)
4 oz. Antique Jars
Comb Honey
8 oz. Antique Jars
Honey Stix
Hard Honey Candy(assorted)
Creamed Honey-regular
Creamed Honey-flavors
Beeswax Candles
Other Beeswax Products
Beeswax Bars(1 oz., 1/2 lb., 1 lb.)

NOTE: We need a substantial supply of comb honey in plastic boxes and section comb honey. This item is usually in short supply and thus bidding doesn't make sense. We will accept cut comb in plastic boxes and wooden and round section comb containers. Quality standards for all comb honey are: clean cappings and all cells capped. Cut comb in plastic boxes must be well drained with little or no liquid honey. We will pay \$4.00 per unit for cut comb in plastic boxes or section comb honey which weighs at least 14 ounces. We will pay \$3.25 for comb honey in round containers that meet quality standards. Honey from all suppliers must be 2010 crop, Iowa honey with 18.5% of less moisture content and excellent overall quality. All of the containers need to be at a uniform fill line and free from foam. The IHPA booth manager has the right to refuse any containers not meeting this standard. Winning bids will be based on price, quality and ability to provide required quantity of product for the entire fair. All winning bids will remain in effect for the duration of the Iowa State Fair.

Bids must be received by June 30, 2010. Please sign the bid sheet and provide address and phone numbers. Suppliers of State Fair Honey will use their own business label on products supplied for State Fair Sales. Labels must be attractive with preprinted wording, which includes name and address of the supplier and net weight of item supplied. Include one sample of your label with the bid sheet. The IHPA booth manager may limit the number of flavored creamed honey for sale due to lack of adequate sales space.

NOTE: Arrangements need to be made to pick up any unused product between 9 p.m. & 10 p.m. Sunday, August 22nd or 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday, August 23rd, 2010.

Your signature _____ Name(printed) _____

Address, City, Zip _____ Phone &/or Cell _____

Return to: W. John Johnson 3422 Clinton Court. Ames, IA 50010 (515) 450-5606

Remember: This is the major money making event for the Iowa Honey Producers!!

Beekeeper's Record & Journal

The following was reprinted with the permission of the estate of Richard Taylor. The material is from the book, "Beekeeper's Record & Journal", text by Richard Taylor, and designed and illustrated by Cynthia Diamond. This book (among other items) was donated to the youth during the 2009 IHPA annual meeting in October at the Best Western Regency Inn in Marshalltown. After the meeting, this book was not taken and is now the property of the Iowa Honey Producers Association, Historian. I have enjoyed reading it, and thought the membership would also. As stated by Kim Flottum, Editor of the *Bee Culture*; "*We have a Gem*".

Peggy Ennis, IHPA Historian

June

June is the month of sudden completion. Even through May life seemed like a struggle. The bees worked feverishly to enlarge their colony, to bring it to a strength adequate to any adversity, and to the point where it could safely divide itself by casting a swarm. In June it achieves this, and from now on we see hives of bees settled into the routine of honey gathering-provided, of course, we have anticipated their impulse to swarm, and taken steps to prevent it. In June the foliage, too, has completed its fullness. A few days ago, it seems, the trees were budding, and it was as though summer would enter casually. But then with a rush it was over, and summer was unmistakably here. Gone are the trillium, columbines, violets and hepaticas of spring, replaced by the sweet clovers, mustard and sumacs that promise honey in the combs.

June is a time for supering up. The first supers went on in May, but the first spectacular gains recorded on the hive scales are likely to be in June. June also marks the height of the swarming season. Not matter how you tried, or how timely you were in taking precau-

tions, it will be strange indeed if none of your colonies swarms. Besides this, calls will come from far and wide, summoning the beekeeper to come deal with swarms of unknown origin, clustered in unlikely places. Do not be afraid of bringing bee diseases back to your apiary with wild swarms. It rarely happens, in spite of a widespread superstition of the contrary. More than one person has suffered dreadful injury by climbing after a swarm, though it is almost never really necessary to climb at all. If you can get a comb of unsealed brood up into contact with a clustered swarm, then within an hour or so the bees will cluster upon that, and it can be lowered, swarm and all, to the safety of the ground. And if you keep on hand a few simple screened boxes, about the size of a hive body, you can keep stray swarms in these for several days at a time, in a cool place, then hive them at a time and place of your choosing. To get a swarm into such a box, you can dump into a large funnel, thence through a hole in the side of the box. That is far easier and simpler than hiving them on the spot, than being obliged to move the hive later on.

Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor was born 1919 and passed away October 30, 2003 in New York. He earned his PhD at Brown University and taught principally at Brown University, Columbia, and University of Rochester. He was an American Philosopher, renowned for his dry wit and his contributions to Metaphysics. Although it is well known he was a philosopher – he was far better known as a beekeeper. It is often said – “I have never met a beekeeper who has not heard of Richard Taylor”. He owned 300 hives and from 1970 produced mostly comb honey. His significant contributions to beekeeping are - authoring many books on beekeeping - among these are the two; "The Comb Honey Book" and "The Joys of Beekeeping", and regularly writing articles for bee journals. His near legendary honey stand at the roadside in front of his country home operated on the honor

system, secured only by gentle solicitations to honesty posted on its walls.

To “bee” continued next month.....



THE BEEYARD REPORT

Things are really rolling in the beeyards. Pollen has come in steadily since the beginning of April. There was a great dandelion bloom. Add that to hot days and we have had the perfect storm for bees. We have made up our death loss, expanded our numbers and still had bees left to sell. It has been a real horse race to get around fast enough. At this writing, we only have about 2/3 of our yards supered. Some of them are storing honey already.

We have been melting old combs for the last couple of years. Both years were really bad for drawing wax. Last winter we wintered quite a few colonies as a story and a half. We wanted to get them into doubles so we have been putting lots of frames together. I like to get the frames preassembled but there weren't going to be any available until mid summer. I'm not a big fan of plastic frames even though they are cheap. So, we had to get out the staple gun. I have been torn as to whether to super or give foundation. There is honey coming in. Finally, we gave most of the colonies foundation. This may be the best chance we have all year to draw wax.

Most of the bloom has been way ahead of schedule but the sweet clover is gong to be about normal. It is just showing in the road ditch. The temps hit 90 on the 21st. The dutch clover really opened up that day.

Alex had a big swarm hive itself in

some boxes he had on the truck. That is a first. It took two boxes to hold it all. It sure beats climbing a tree to shake them down. The boys have been pulling a frame or two of brood out of the big colonies when they super. It really seems to hold down swarming. Of course, now that I have said that, the bees will probably make a liar out of me.

The Field Day is pretty much going to be about how we do things. The way we do it may be totally wrong for you. I would still encourage you to come and see if you can pick up an idea that would fit your system. I'm not real creative. Most of my good ideas were stolen from someone else.

I am good at recognizing things that will fit my system. You are welcome to walk through the building during the registration period. The boys will be around to answer your questions. We will try to give you some idea of what the flow is. Understand, though, that no building is ever big enough.

I went to the Small Food Manufacturers Conference put on by the University of Nebraska. It was well attended. I think the economic development people may have outnumbered the producers. There were some illuminating sessions on dealing with brokers and distributors. There were also some good sessions on internet marketing. I'm not much of a techie. We have web site but Alex deals with that.

Let's hope for a good summer.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



Honey Bee Genetics and Characteristics:

Glen L. Stanley
Iowa State Apiarist (emeritus)
2615 Aspen Road
Ames, Iowa 50014

It was in the late 1930's and up until the declaration of war that a young fellow by the name of Gladstone H. (Bud) Cale from Illinois enrolled as a student at Iowa State College. He majored in entomology which included the study of Honey Bee Genetics.

He earned his degree under the supervision of Dr. O. Wallace Park who for many years directed the investigations of Honey Bee research at Iowa State College. He also enrolled in classes on beekeeping taught by Professor Floyd B. Paddock who was Iowa's State Apiarist from 1919 until his retirement in 1960.

I had the good fortune and the great privilege of getting to know Bud Cale while he was at Iowa State. Occasionally we would get together for short visits. Then came the declaration of WW II and we both entered the military service.

A short time later after serving in the military Dr. G. H. (Bud) Cale was employed by Dadant & Sons bee supply company to direct their beekeeping operation. While serving in that capacity I made it a point to occasionally visit Dr. Cale and the Dadants. During the ensuing years Dr. Cale developed a strain of Honey Bees called the Star Line which were somewhat resistant to American Foul Brood. That strain became widely used throughout the country.

It was always a pleasure to get information about bees and beekeeping from Dr. Cale and he was always straight forward and willing to pass along a bit of his knowledge.

It was during one of those visits that he told me that whether bees are kept in

Louisiana or in Minnesota along the Canadian border the bees were inclined to swarm during the months of May and June. After keeping bees from that day until the present I find that to be so true.

Dr. Cale also told me and even demonstrated how to determine the age of larvae that was ideal for grafting. Dr. G. H. Bud Cale had become one of the outstanding Geneticist of that era.

The major problem among beekeepers today, particularly in the Midwest is wintering of colonies. Far to many are having to deal with tremendous losses. Those that do winter their colonies well tend to split them apart in small units to eliminate swarming. This can be done but in doing so they are also eliminating an even reasonable honey crop. Prof. Paddock once said in that regard, "Bottom boards do not make Honey."

No matter where you reside throughout the Midwest just SIX weeks before you anticipate the main honey flow to begin, colonies should be equalized and have four combs of brood or approximately 400 square inches of brood. Certainly, such colonies will be inclined to swarm but most can be prevented in doing so by the elimination of swarm cells. This can be accomplished and fairly quick and easy. Our swarming was reduced to less than two percent. Any colony that has no tendency to swarm is not up to par and certainly not up to average or above in honey production.

Dr. Cale's teachings as well as those of DR. O. W. Park and Professor Paddock have likely been the difference between success and failure in my many years of beekeeping beginning in 1938 to the present.

Glen L. Stanley



Beekeepers must focus on Varroa mites to beat CCD

By Dick Lehnert, Assistant Editor
Vegetable Growers Network
www.vegetablegrowersnews.com

Some vegetable growers are very dependent on beekeepers for the pollination of their crops, so they have been concerned about the current scourge of the bee world, Colony Collapse Disorder, which struck bees in 2006 and has caused devastating losses since.

Well, you can pass on this piece of advice to your beekeeper: Be vigilant, and do everything you can to control Varroa mites.

May Berenbaum, professor and head of the Department of Entomology at the University of Illinois, offered that management tip. She and a team of researchers there published a paper recently offering a complicated explanation of the cause of CCD. And while Varroa mites can't be said to be the cause, they are a key part of the equation.

The researchers found that bees that were susceptible to CCD contained fragmented ribosomes, so they were less able to manufacture protein. Bees need to make protein for food, for disease resistance and to resist stresses caused by travel and insecticides in the environment.

The team of scientists offered an explanation for why the ribosomes were fragmented: The bees with CCD were infected by more viruses than were found in healthy bees. These are picorna-like viruses that "hijack" the ribosome, taking over the cellular machinery. The data suggest that the more viruses bees carry, the more susceptible they are to CCD.

And that's where mites come in. Varroa mites carry viruses that infect the bees.

The fact that bees travel around a lot,

moving to pollinate crops from Florida to California to upper Midwest, likely exposes them to more viruses, Berenbaum said. Finally, what may happen is that the last virus becomes "the straw that breaks the camel's back," overcoming the bee's capacity to repair ribosome damage, she said.

The team's work didn't get quite as much publicity as might have been expected for a significant advance in understanding CCD. That's probably because the team did not find a simple explanation. There is apparently no single cause of CCD. Varroa mites aren't the cause either, but they are a critical link in the chain.

She also thinks the discovery of the overabundance of ribosome fragments could lead to development of a simple molecular diagnostic tool that would allow beekeepers to detect CCD in its early stages. They would get an idea which hives are most susceptible. One member of her team, Jay Evans of the USDA Bee Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., is working on developing a diagnostic tool.

Berenbaum agreed that suppressing Varroa mites isn't easy, given that they are increasingly resistant to the two major insecticides beekeepers can use. Still knowing that Varroa mites are a key place to focus might help.

Beekeepers should be pleased to know that other things are not causes. There had been concerns that CCD might be caused by a virus, especially a new one called Israeli acute paralysis virus. But she considers it no longer the "primary cause"; it is just one of several picorna-like viruses.

There have been concerns that insecticides might be the primary cause. But they, too, are merely one on a list of stressors and are not the primary cause. Nor are cell phone towers, a "cause" that made the news about the same time of her team's discovery.

There work was reported in a paper

published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Reed Johnson, University of Illinois, is the lead author. Gene Robinson, entomologist and neuroscience professor, is co-principal investigator, along with Berenbaum. VGN



HONEY COOKIES

Printed from COOKS.COM

1 cup butter or non-hydrogenated vegetable shortening
1 cup honey (or to taste)
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. ea. cinnamon, cloves, allspice
3 3/4 cups white whole wheat flour

In a saucepan, cook honey and butter together until it reaches the boiling point. Remove from heat and set aside to cool.

Whisk or sift together flour, baking soda and spices until no streaks remain. Add sufficient flour to the honey and butter mixture to make a soft dough (about 3 3/4 cups).

If dough seems too sticky, add a tablespoon of flour at a time. If dough seems too dry or dense, add a tablespoon of milk until dough is of a good consistency.

Form the dough into thin rolls, wrap in wax or parchment paper and chill thoroughly in refrigerator for at least 2 hours.

Slice into 1/8-inch thick slices and bake in a preheated 375°F oven for about 10 minutes or until done.

Variation: Add raisins, Craisins, chopped dates, or nuts (about 1 cup) if desired. Vanilla or finely grated citrus peels may be added for extra flavor.

USDA begins survey of honeybee colonies in 13 states

By MICHAEL DOYLE
McClatchy Newspapers

Concerned Agriculture Department officials on Monday announced the start of an ambitious survey of honeybee colonies in California and a dozen other states.

Prompted by a worrisome decline in bee populations nationwide, officials hope the new \$550,000 survey will pinpoint the parasites and diseases responsible. It's a particular problem in regions like California's Central Valley, where farmers rely on honeybees for pollinating crops.

"There has been a disturbing drop in the number of U.S. bee colonies over the last few years, while the demand for commercial bee pollination services continues to grow," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said.

Lawmakers included the money for the honeybee survey in the 2007 farm bill, and Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Calif., has conducted two oversight hearings into the bee population decline.

"Whatever kind of research we can get, it's a good thing, because bees are such a valuable commodity," Janet Brisson, a Grass Valley, Calif., resident and treasurer of the Nevada County Beekeepers Association, said Monday when informed of the survey.

The survey of 320 apiaries, though, is not a census of the total bee population. Instead, it will focus on mortality and troublemakers.

Specialists from the Agricultural Research Service and Pennsylvania State University will collect bees and debris from selected apiaries. An acutely detailed, 22-page set of instructions specifies every step of the operation.

"You will need to open eight colonies

and ... shake the adult bees into the collection wash tub," the instructions state. "You will collect two one-quarter scoops of bees and these bees to go into (an) alcohol bottle and in the live bee box for that apiary."

The samples will then be tested for evidence of pests or pathogens, including foreign mites known as *Tropilaelaps*. Scientists and beekeepers already know there's a problem. Since 2006, they've been tracking what's called Colony Collapse Disorder. Adult bees abandon hives, never to return.

In some cases, beekeepers have reported losing between 30 percent and 90 percent of their hives. An Agriculture Department telephone survey last

So far, scientists have not identified a single cause for the population decline. Potential culprits include new microbes or viruses, pesticides and environmental stress. Agriculture Department scientists say cell phones aren't a problem, despite earlier speculation.

The new survey is slated to last through the end of the year.

WHO'S INVOLVED:

The survey will take place in the following states:

- Alabama
- California
- Georgia
- Indiana
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Michigan
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Washington

SOURCE: United States Department of Agriculture

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year found that apiarists reported losing nearly 29 percent of their honeybee colonies between September 2008 and April 2009.

Nationwide, there are currently about 2.5 million honeybee colonies.

"We need results," Visalia, Calif.-area beekeeper Steve Godlin told Cardoza's House horticulture and organic agriculture subcommittee two years ago. "We need a unified effort by all."

California's almond crop alone requires more than 1.4 million colonies of bees annually, amounting to more than half of all bees in the United States. The state's lawmakers have been at the forefront of the legislative effort to find out more about what's gone awry.

BLUEBERRY HONEY SAUCE

Printed from COOKS.COM

- 2 c. blueberries
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/3 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/2 c. honey
- 1/4 c. butter

In saucepan combine the blueberries, cinnamon, nutmeg, honey, butter and a pinch of salt.

Bring mixture to a boil, reduce heat, then simmer it, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes.

Serve the sauce warm over ice cream. Makes about 1 1/2 cups.

CINNAMON HONEY MUFFINS

Printed from COOKS.COM

1/4 c. honey
2 c. pre-sifted flour
3 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 c. melted shortening
1 egg, well beaten
1 c. milk

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease muffin cups. Put 1 teaspoon of the honey in each cup.

Into mixing bowl sift together dry ingredients. Add remaining ingredients. Stir only until dry ingredients are moistened.

Spoon batter into muffin cups filling them 2/3 full. Bake in preheated oven 20-25 minutes. Makes 12.



A Swarm at the Lowry's

It is that time of year again. After spending all spring trying to build up the honeybees after a long winter, they get the mind to swarm. Of course if they are "free bees" that didn't come from your apiary, well then swarm catching is much more fun.

These pictures were submitted to us by Denise Lowry. The picture on the top left shows this was a good sized swarm. The second picture has Phil Lowry up on the ladder to retrieve the swarm. It's nice when they land lower to the ground, but it doesn't always work out that way. And finally, after capturing the swarm, Phil shakes them into their new home.

Thanks for the pictures Denise!



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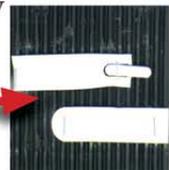
SHB Life Cycle

Eggs → Larvae → Pupae → Adult

Avoiding SHB Infestations

- Keep strong healthy hives by treating for disease and mites when appropriate.
- Feed syrup and pollen substitute to keep your hives strong when natural sources are not available.
- Use CheckMite+™ and GardStar® at the first sign of infestation.

TIP: To attract the beetles, spread a small amount of Bee-Pro® patty down the center of the square then attach the strip on either side of the patty



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- Remove strips after 42-45 days

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