



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



January 2012



Package Bee Ads Pg2
Iowa Honey Queen Pg4
Beekeeper of the Month Pg5



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!



Package Bees for Sale

Spring Valley Honey Farms
2 pound or 3 pound Italian or Carniolin. We will be shaking packages out of our own hives with California Queens from April 5th through April 30th depending on weather and Queen Availability.

Also we will bring in a load Mid April from California. Prices are not set but approximately \$75.00 No deposit to book packages or on cages. To book packages call 515-465-5939.

Beekeeping Supplies Spring Valley Honey Farms will be keeping a fairly complete line of Beekeeping supplies from February through June. No set business hours so call with your needs. 515-465-5939

FOR SALE: Package bees We will have 2#, 3# and 4# pkgs with your choice of Carniolan or Italian queens. The 4# can come with either one or two queens. Available in April. Check our web site for dates and current pricing. www.eberthoney.com

Call 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

FOR SALE: 2 or 3 pound packages of Italian bees with queen. Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, Iowa in mid-April. Bees from Hill-Ward Apiary in California.

All orders must be received by February 28. Contact Douglas Child 319-634-3682. 2/12

FOR SALE: Small steam generator without heating element. Also available--the inner tank for a 20 frame Betterway Wax Melter.

Contact Ike Pfantz in Newton
641-792-6032

HONEY SWEET POTATO COOKIES

Printed from COOKS.COM

1/2 c. shortening
1 1/4 c. honey, divided
2 eggs
1 1/2 c. cooked, mashed sweet potatoes
2 1/2 c. flour
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. nutmeg
1 1/2 c. raisins
1 1/2 c. chopped pecans
4 tsp. baking powder
Cream shortening and 3/4 cup honey. Add eggs. Mix sweet potatoes and remaining honey together, then combine with creamed mixture. Blend in sifted dry ingredients. Fold in raisins and pecans. Chill for 30 minutes.

Drop by tablespoonful onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Frost with vanilla frosting when cool. Makes 6 dozen cookies.

VANILLA FROSTING:

2 c. powdered sugar
1/4 c. softened butter
1 tsp. vanilla
1-2 tbsp. milk
Sift powdered sugar. Cream together butter, vanilla and sugar. Add milk until frosting is of a spreading consistency.

2012 IHPA Membership and The Buzz

The Iowa Honey Producers Association will be publishing a 100th anniversary membership directory in February 2012. Dues are still \$10 for the primary member and \$5 for each additional family member at the same address. To ensure that your name is included in this issue of the directory, please send your dues to: IHPA, Melanie Bower, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, Iowa 50315-5227.

Melanie Bower
Treasurer

THE 2012 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE IHPA

I think it would be nice to have a Beekeeping 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

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

I hope the holidays have treated you all well. I think the bees should be doing fine if they were heavy, healthy and had a low mite count. This has been one of the mildest winters of the past 25 years so far. Things may change later in the winter but hopefully the trend will continue. With all these warmer late December and early January days, you should be seeing plenty of flight around the entrance of most any live hives. If a hive is in the sun and out of the direct wind on a 50- 55 degree day you should see flight activity at the entrance or you likely have a very weak, starving or already dead hive. It is easy to check these hives with the unusually warm weather. I wouldn't be afraid to open up hives to check them at these temps. You just need to use good common sense and don't tear the hive apart but simply check for cluster size and physical weight of the hive or by looking for capped honey at the top of the frames by removing the cover. It may be hard to tell the strength of the hive from the top of the hive because the cluster will be in the lower part in the hive. I feel it is OK to pop the brood chambers apart but only for a short time to see the size and location of the cluster of bees. Most likely, by doing this, you will be splitting the cluster, but at these temps the cluster should have no trouble getting reformed. It is best to do this earlier in the afternoon to allow the bees time to gradually move and tighten up the cluster of bees as the day cools. It is also best to do this if at least another day of warm weather is expected before an extreme cold snap. Sometimes a group of bees will cluster away from the main cluster but will move back to the main cluster if the next day is warm enough for movement. That temp is usually 45-50 degrees and up. An extremely strong hive will have more activity and have an easier time with thermoregulation. The weaker the hive the less activity you will get so these generate less internal heat and it is harder for them to reform their cluster. If you had good strong hives with plenty of food you really don't need to

break into the hives at all but seeing the activity at the entrance can give you at reassurance that they are still there. If you feel some specific hives were lighter and may be in danger of starving if we have a colder late winter and cold spring, then this kind of weather gives the opportunity to get some feed inside of the hive. Many options are available in the 45-50 degree weather. Candy boards, commercial feed patties, or liquid syrup placed directly over or beside the cluster preferably toward the top of the cluster.

Now as I stop and think about it I'm talking about a lot of hypothetical and the bottom line is with the weather we had this fall. If you haven't dealt with a feed problem by now, it's probably not going to happen now.

Hopefully this winter will provide us with lots of live colonies and the packages and replacement bees can't be in less demand this year. You may want to try to think about getting Queens lined up to make splits from the nice strong live hives we will have in the spring. I had one hive that did not make it to California so I will be wintering one hive in Iowa and it is heavy and extremely strong hive so I think it has an excellent chance.

Again I feel like I haven't talked a lot about IHPA activities and things that have been accomplished on behalf of the IHPA membership but this just seems for me to a "busy time of the year" away from the bees.

One chore that is ongoing is what you are reading. The Buzz still gets out every month "Give or Take a Day or Two". Alex is trying to get caught up and back on schedule and I'll have to try and help him by trying to make the deadline.

Bee Prepared and Work Hard

Curt Bronnenberg

Bees Teach Investors Handy Lessons

Is there a connection between how a honey bee collects its nectar on a summer's day, and the performance of your investment portfolio?

Bees make investment decisions every day, expending much time and effort searching for returns, which in their case is nectar from flowers. The link between investment and bees was explored by ecologist Leslie Real of Indiana University back in 1991 in a study that monitored honey bees' behaviour to better understand attitudes to risk. This study will be unknown to most investors but offers some valuable insights.

During the experiment bees were given their own investment choice to make: Either feed from blue flowers which always contained 2ml of nectar without fail, or gorge on yellow flowers, which were randomly mixed so that one in three contained a triple payoff with 6ml nectar.

Theoretically, the bees were tempted with the same payoff - either drink from blue flowers with 2ml or from every third yellow flower with 6ml nectar. But the blue flowers paid the same reward each and every time while the yellow flowers only gave the nectar sporadically and were therefore more risky - much the same dilemma regularly faced by investors.

The experiment showed that bees initially "invested" evenly in both colors. But they quickly learned to stick to blue flowers, which always contained 2ml of nectar. In fact, they preferred the reliable blue flowers over the yellow flowers 84 per cent of the time.

For bees the consistency of the gain became more important than the amount of the gain. Bees thus have a strong preference for a reliable supply of nectar over an irregular reward.

(continued on next page)

Human behavior when investing is vastly more complex but neuroeconomics, a relatively new field which combines economics, neuroscience and psychology, aims to understand what drives investment behavior and decisions. It considers basic biological functions along with the theoretical and practical level of investing revealing the role that emotions play.

Neuroeconomics has found that intangible motives like avoiding regret or achieving a reward influence investment decisions more than you might think. Scientists have discovered that the brain processes a financial loss in the same area where a mortal danger is processed. Perhaps strong emotions related to survival, such as fear and greed, are hard-wired into our investment brains after all.

Similarly, how we experience a gain or loss is relative. Investors must evaluate how a financial gain varies relative to the total amount that is at risk. Our risk tolerance level is not consistent. We don't have a single level of risk tolerance but multiple levels that can change and emotions can easily impact our attitude toward risk. Even small changes in our mood may change how we perceive risk. When the difference is high people generally gravitate away from risk to more certain outcome and most people will prefer a smaller steadier payoff over a highly variable one.

Before investing we should understand something about how we make those decisions and what impacts our decision making. Why not take some time out and think about the bees and the blue flowers before making an investment promising a triple return. There may also be some empty flowers on the way.

Andreas Rosenau is a senior equity analyst for Prime Value Asset Management

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/ipad/bees-teach-investors-handy-lessons/story-fn6ci2hr-1226229356116>

Greetings Beekeepers!

I hope that you all had a fabulous holiday season. December brought southern Iowa mud instead of snow, with beautiful sunny days and several opportunities for the bees to venture out.

In November, my Mom and I enjoyed traveling to Fort Madison to participate in the One Stop Holiday Shop. I spent the day speaking with the general public about bees, using the Bronnenberg's observation hive as a resource. I also had the delight of taking photos with little kids and listening to all of their adorable questions. One little boy took a look at the observation hive and very seriously looked up and me and said, "So that's how they make peanut butter, huh?" There was a great turn out and we had a wonderful time.

A couple weeks ago, my grandparents had the excitement of cutting down a dead tree for wood, only to discover it was the habitat for a colony of bees. They cut off the ends of the elm tree, careful to leave the bees alone, but not before covering up their entrance (a woodpecker hole). We are now, literally, the owners of a bee tree (well, a bee log). Though we are unsure if they will make it through the winter or not, as there is definitely not seventy pounds of honey in there, we welcomed some new bees to our farm just in time for the holiday season!

January has me looking forward to attending the Central Iowa Beekeepers Meeting and a potential visit to a local beekeeping club. I will also be giving a presentation to the local 4-Hers in Lucas County.

Again, please do not hesitate to contact the Queen Chair, Connie Bronnenberg to schedule me into one of your events. I would love to come and "bee" helpful in any way possible.

Best wishes in the New Year!

Renae M. Beard
2012 Iowa Honey Queen

THE BEEYARD REPORT

The holidays are approaching as I write this. There is really not much to talk about. The bees have been in bed for the winter since before Thanksgiving. The barrels of honey are stacked up in the warehouse. The horses have been turned out for the winter. We are easing into winter work. December is the month when I work when I feel like it.

I have worked my way through the "not good enough to use but too good to burn" pile. Most of it got burned. I still have about 50 sets of lids and bottoms that were salvaged. We prefer to use 4-way clip pallets but this will be for backup in case our winter losses are light. This probably will not be the case but I like to be prepared for all scenarios. We always assess the best case and the worst case. Usually, we hit somewhere in the middle but we need to be prepared both extremes. Thanksgiving was a flying day. I am hopeful winter losses won't be too bad.

I have a four frame nuc that I put inside out steel building. It was a leftover. We have never had much luck keeping nucs or single story colonies alive. There wasn't any other choice for this one. It was winter it as is or dump it out on the ground. It had a good looking queen so I decided to try to keep it. December 18 was another flying day. It got up to 55 degrees. I set the nuc in the doorway and let the sun shine on it. About 2:00 in the afternoon the bees became active.

There were a lot of fliers. I am hoping that the opportunity to go out and dump their load took some stress off them. A few years ago I had a queen and a frame of bees that I had gotten from Tim Laughlin. I can't recall why I had them. I must have borrowed his observation hive.

Anyway, I added another frame of bees and wintered them as a two frame nuc. For some reason, they survived. It defied logic.

We have run all of the cut comb frames (105 boxes) through the Better Way

wax melter to remove the wax residue from the grooves. They are ready for new foundation. We are beginning to get the garage cleaned out so we can work in there. We are working on yard rent. We don't have a very big operation but it still takes a significant amount of time to bottle and delivery honey to 35 locations. Most of the landowners want to visit if they are at home when we arrive. Alex went out one day at noon. He returned home at 9PM after making eight stops. He did a lot of visiting and, I assume, ate a lot of Christmas cookies.

As I drove around delivering yard rent, I saw a lot of ditches and fence rows being cleared out. In some places you can see clear to the horizon without seeing a tree or a bush. Many farms have no buffer area along the creeks. Everything goes right into the water. I am afraid to eat fish anymore. Chemicals are being used that pretty much stay in the ground forever. It's efficient but it scares me to death.

I raised the price of honey we are charging the stores. I always wonder where the price point is where people will stop buying it. We don't seem to be

there yet. I am getting a few calls for package bees but we won't have pricing until late January. We removed the chimney when we put a new basement under the house this fall. This left a big hole down through the house. That will be one of my winter projects. We also need a stairway down into the basement. It's time to do my Christmas shopping.

I better get after it.

Happy Holidays!!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Our featured beekeeper of the month comes from Bonaparte, Iowa in the southeast corner of the state. Her name is Tommee Pelky. She and her parents Curt and Carolyn live on a small farm with many pets and farm animals.

Tommee is in the eighth grade and is home schooled. She belongs to the St. Wenceslaus Home School group, V.B.C. Players Club and Town and Country Garden Club. Her hobbies are volunteering weekly for the Salvation Army, gardening and going to local

farmers markets, sewing for herself and others, showing chickens and spending time learning about honeybees. Tommee started 4-H as a Clover Kid when she was 7 and is now in her fourth year of 4-H. She is vice-president of her club, The Jolly Trio and junior 4-H leader for the Clover Kids ages 5 to 8. She shows beef, dairy cows, dairy goats, poultry, rabbits, swine, dog and cat at the county fair and poultry and dog obedience at the Iowa State Fair. She also did an educational presentation about nicotine bees and the county fair.

Vern Ramsey was doing a live bee demonstration at a garden and flower show. That is where Tommee met Vern. Because of her interest in bees, Vern and the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers are now mentoring her. She also took the beekeeping class at V.B.C Extension.

She has a funny story. It seems her dad was recording Tommee smoking her bees to send to a fourth grade teacher for her students to see. Her father kept telling her to be careful and remember to keep still if the bees landed on her. Suddenly she heard him screaming and running towards the house. Come to find out he had gotten stung on his head pretty bad. Tommee says, "I guess he didn't remember to stay still. Ha, ha."

When she graduates, Tommee plans to go to college and become a veterinarian, specializing in large dairy animals. She has started her own Jersey herd. Tommee says she hopes to get more kids involved in beekeeping because bees are an important part of our world. We wish her well.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



Tommee plans to go to college and become a veterinarian, specializing in large dairy animals.



IHPA 100th Anniversary and the Iowa State Fair 2012

Hi All.

Pretty good start to the winter season so far. I'm writing this on December 15th. I got home last night around 7:30 and noticed a honey bee flying around "arrested" by the porch light. Considering it's been getting dark around 2:30 in the afternoon these days ... she'd been out there a good while. I guess we're all making the best of this mild, March-like, weather.

We're still a good while away from the state fair, but maybe the winter months are a good time to make goals and plans for entries. Please let me know if you have any questions. It'd be great if our IHPA 100th anniversary could be, in part, celebrated by a big showing at the fair (complete with lots of volunteers in the booth). Here are the details for each of the 24 classes of entry:

BEES, APIARY PRODUCTS

CLASS1: Observation Hive of Bees and Queen - Any Race - ½ story, deep brood comb with medium or shallow frame or sections on top

Score Card

Uniformity of Color & Markings for Breed,15; All Stages of Worker Brood, 15.

QUEEN: Size and Shape,15; Color and General Appearance,15.

HIVE: Brood Comb Attachment, and Frame of Honey,15; Overall General Appearance,25. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 2: Six Round Sections - White Comb Honey

Score Card - Cleanliness of sections (plastic) 10; comb attachment to section, 20; CAPPING: uniformity of color and finish, 30; no stain and absence of pollen, 10; honey color, 10; moisture content, 20. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 3: Six Cut Comb in Hard Plastic Box, 4 1/2 inches x 1 1/8 inches

Score Card - Accuracy and neatness of cut edges of comb, 20; uniform depth and filling of honey cell, 20; complete, uniform and clean cappings, 20; quality, quantity and uniformity of honey, 20; freedom from leakage and general appearance of pack, 20. TOTAL 100.

Jack's Scale will be used

for color placement in Classes 4, 5, 6 and 7.

CLASS 4: Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline Jars White Extracted Honey

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 5: Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline Jars Light Amber Extracted Honey

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 6: Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline Jars Amber Extracted Honey

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 7: Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline Jars Dark Amber Extracted Honey

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 8: Three 2 1/2 lb. Square Wide Mouth One Piece Lid Jars Combination Chunk and Strained Honey

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; cleanliness and general appearance, 20; freedom from impurities, including foam

and granulation, 20; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 5; moisture content, 20; quality and neatness of comb honey, 25; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 5. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 9: Six 12 oz. Plastic Bears

Score Card - Container: free from defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 10; color of honey, 20; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 15; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities including foam and granulation, 15. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 10 and 11 - Plain lids only. Lids must not be decorated.

CLASS 10: Six 12 oz. Hex Jars Creamed Honey (A pure honey developed by controlling the process of natural granulation. Noted for its fine texture and ease of spreading at normal room temperature.)

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; color, 10; firmness (not runny but spreadable), 25; texture of granulation (smooth and fine), 20; uniform and accurate volume of honey in all containers, 10; absence of impurities, including froth, 15; flavor: free from burnt taste or other off flavors, 15. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 11: Six 12 oz. Hex Jars Flavored Creamed Honey with the Flavor Specified on the Container Lid

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; color and appearance, 10; flavor, 25; firmness (not runny but spreadable) 20; texture of granulation (smooth and fine), 20; absence of impurities, including froth, 10; uniform and accurate volume of honey in all containers, 10. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 12: One Frame of Honey, sealed, ready for extracting, wrapped in clear plastic wrap

Score Card - Cleanliness of frame, 5; completeness of comb attachment, 10; uniform and completely filled honey cells, 25; uniformity of color of honey (comb, cappings, honey), 25; thickness of comb for ease of uncapping

ping, 10; completeness, uniformity and cleanliness of cappings, 25. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 13: One frame of empty extracting comb wrapped in clear plastic wrap

Score Card - Cleanliness of frame, 10; comb attachment and finish, 25; uniformity of cells, 25; uncapped finish, 30; color of wax, 10. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 14: Block of Beeswax - 3 pound minimum.

Bulk beeswax as prepared for the commercial market. (Wax that will be used for making candles, cosmetics, floor waxes and numerous other products.) Entry will be a plain block of wax without design or added color.

Score Card - No cracks, 20; color, 30; cleanliness, 20; aroma, 20; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 15: Beeswax Art

Entries are to showcase the natural beauty of beeswax. No added color will be allowed.

Score Card - Workmanship: No cracks or bubbles, wax color and cleanliness, 20; design, 20; originality, 20; difficulty, 20; aroma, 10; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 16: Photograph - General Beekeeping

(maximum size 8x10 inches, unframed, but matted with a maximum two inch border) Subject of photo must be honey or beekeeping and may depict harvesting, processing, marketing or packaging bee hive products.

Score Card - Technique, 30; composition, 30; impact, 30; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 17: Photograph - Specific Subject

(maximum size 8x10 inches, unframed but matted with a maximum two inch border) Subject must be honeybees and must not have people in the photo.

Score Card - Technique, 30; composition, 30; impact, 30; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 18: Two Beeswax Candles (dipped)

any size - Entries are to showcase the natural beauty of beeswax. No added color will be allowed.

Score Card - Color (natural) 20; uniformity of appearance, 20; cleanliness, 20; workmanship, 20; odor, 20. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 19: Two Beeswax Candles, all others

(e.g. molded, various shapes, rolled, etc.) - Entries are to showcase the natural beauty of beeswax. No added color will be allowed.

Score Card - Color (natural or artificial), 20; uniformity of appearance, 20; cleanliness, 20; workmanship, 20; odor, 20. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 20: Gift Basket, maximum size 12 inches x 20 inches

- A basket full of honey and other beehive products and beekeeping-related items attractively displayed. Items that are not honey or beeswax do not have to be a product of the exhibitor. Honey and beeswax must be from the exhibitor's apiary but may have one (1) item of honey (example: honey sticks, bundles of five or less) from another source and must be identified as such with the name of the Apiary or source it is from. Failure to do so will disqualify the entry.

Score Card - Quality of products, 20; packaging of products, 20; originality and creativity, 20; variety and sales appeal, 30; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 21: [Limited Class, see details for entry] Window Display

(four feet wide by four feet high by two feet deep) depicting most attractive way to promote honey, wax and beekeeping. Materials used in this display may not be used in any other class. Two shelving tracts (total of three shelves) and fluorescent lighting provided on inside of window display box with a locked, glass front. Entry must be prepared and placed by the exhibitor. The exhibitor must do the majority of the work on the window but may have some help with the display. Each window must contain a minimum of 21 items. Honey and beeswax must be from the exhibitor's apiary but may have up to three (3) honey or beeswax items from another source. Each must be identified with the name of the Apiary or source it is from. Failure to do so will disqualify the entry. **Limited**

to first four entries. Contact Superintendent for more details.

Score Card - Originality and suitability, 25; educational aspects, 20; variety and sales appeal, 20; economic importance of bees (value of products and pollination services), 25; lighting, 10. TOTAL 100.

YOUTH CLASSES - Open to ages 18 and under.

CLASS 22: Three 1 lb. Queenline Jars of extracted honey - Youth class

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; color of honey, 20; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 20; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 23: Beekeeping Photo - Youth class

(maximum size 8x10 inches, unframed but matted with a maximum two inch border) Subject of photo must be honeybees, honey or beekeeping related.

Score Card - Technique, 30; composition, 30; impact, 30; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.

CLASS 24: Two Beeswax Candles - Youth class

Score Card - Color (natural or artificial), 20; uniformity of appearance, 20; cleanliness, 20; workmanship, 20; odor, 20. TOTAL 100.

Out of necessity at our place, this year's tree has lights only around the upper 2/3 and ornaments only on the top 1/3. Harlan is about 2 1/2 now and has really been enjoying the holiday decorations. I suppose it'll be 2012 by the time you read this. Hopefully everyone's had a great Christmas and New Year's. Any honey bee-related resolutions this year? One of mine is to write more for the Buzz ... I said this last year as well. The more contributors, the better the Buzz could be. It'd be great to see more members writing every now and then.

See you, Andy

515 725 1481

Andrew.Joseph@Iowaagriculture.gov



Collapsing Honey Bee Colonies: Blame The Parasites?

The honey bee population of North America is declining and new research may help answer why. It shows the bees can become hosts of a fly parasite, which causes them to become disoriented and leave their nests. Scott Simon talks with San Francisco State University's Andrew Core, who authored the study.

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SCOTT SIMON, HOST:

The honey bee population of North America is in decline. That fact has even acquired an acronym, CCD, Colony Collapse Disorder. A number of theories have been advanced as to why honey bees are dwindling, including viruses, mites and various fungi.

This week, researchers at San Francisco State University published a paper with a finding that bees on their own campus have been invaded by parasitic flies, who lay their eggs in the bees abdomen which causes the bees to become disoriented - falling down drunk disoriented.

Andrew Core is the author of the study. We reached him by phone in Oregon. Thanks for being with us.

ANDREW CORE: Thank you for having me.

SIMON: So you're a graduate student at San Francisco State when you started noticing this?

CORE: That is correct. It was actually discovered in I believe 2008. My advisor, Dr. Hafernik, was actually collecting these bees off of a landing under a light, to feed praying mantis that he collected on a field trip. Well, he left a vial of these bees on his desk, forgetting to feed the praying mantis with them. And when he got back to the vial, he found that the parasites were also inside the vial - the larvae of the fly were inside the files.

SIMON: Help us understand how the bees behave. I guess you refer to it as zombie-like behavior.

CORE: Normally when insects are attracted to lights at nighttime, when it

CORE: Well, coming up with an actual solution or a remedy to ridding the hives of the parasite will be one of the last steps, after really understanding how the parasites behave. One of the things that we want to look at is if the bees that are actually in inside the hive, if they are becoming parasitized. If a large number of bees within a hive became parasitized that could likely cause the collapse of a colony.

So, we have a lot of investigation to do as far as what bees within a hive are being parasitized, and what the overall effect is on the hive. So that's one of the many questions we have left to answer on this new parasite.

SIMON: Andrew Core, one of the authors of a study from researchers at San Francisco State University on one of the factors that might be driving bees from their hives.

Mr. Core, thanks so much.

CORE: Thank you for having me.

SIMON: This is NPR News.

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Fly Parasite in Honey Bees Could Explain Colony Collapse Disorder

SAN FRANCISCO, California, January 10, 2012 (ENS) - Honey bees can be invaded by a fly parasite that causes them to abandon their hives and die after a period of disoriented, "zombie-like" behavior, according to a new study by San Francisco State University researchers.

The phenomenon, first observed on the San Francisco State campus, may lead to better understanding of colony collapse disorder, the researchers say. This mysterious ailment has caused honey bee colony losses across the United States since it was discovered in 2006. San Francisco State biology professor John Hafernik, whose research team

becomes light again they usually disperse. Well, we found that many of these bees would stay on the ground under the lights and crawl around disoriented, unable to stand up on their legs. And most of them would eventually die in place.

That led us to actually look at when the bees were coming out. And so, to do that, we clicked enclosures over the hive and found that the bees were actually leaving the hive at night. And that's one of the most important findings of the study, is that it's very unusual for honey bees to leave the hive at night. And we found an association between this odd nighttime abandonment and this parasite.

SIMON: Mr. Core, what can be done?

discovered the fly parasite in bees, did not set out to study the parasitized bees. In 2008, he was just looking for some insects to feed the praying mantis that he had brought back to the university after a field trip.

He scrounged the bees from underneath the light fixtures outside the biology building.

"But being an absent-minded professor," Hafernik joked, "I left them in a vial on my desk and forgot about them. Then the next time I looked at the vial, there were all these fly pupae surrounding the bees."

The fly, *Apocephalus borealis*, deposits its eggs in a bee's abdomen. Usually about seven days after the bee dies, fly larvae push their way into the world from between the bee's head and thorax.

After being parasitized by the fly, the bees that survive abandon their hives to congregate near lights.

"When we observed the bees for some time - the ones that were alive - we found that they walked around in circles, often with no sense of direction," said Andrew Core, an San Francisco State graduate student from Hafernik's lab who is the lead author on the study. The San Francisco State team surveyed local bee populations and found evidence of the parasitic fly in 77 percent of the hives they sampled in the Bay Area, as well as some hives in California's agricultural Central Valley and in South Dakota.

For his presentation of the bee research, Core won first place at the 2011 California State University Research Competition and the Geraldine K. Lindsay Award for excellence in the natural sciences at the annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Bees usually just sit in one place, sometimes curling up before they die,

said Core. But the parasitized bees that were still alive were unable to stand up on their legs. "They kept stretching them out and then falling over," he said. "It really painted a picture of something like a zombie."

Bees that left the hives at night were more likely to bear the parasite than those who foraged during the day, the researchers found.

Genetic tests of parasitized hives showed that both bees and flies were often infected with deformed wing virus and a fungus called *Nosema ceranae*.

Some researchers have pointed to the virus and fungus as potential culprits in colony collapse disorder. It may be time to consider how the fly parasite fits into the picture, Hafernik said.

The infected bees may be leaving the hive of their own accord, or they may give off a chemical signal that provokes their hive mates to throw them out, he said.

"A lot of touching and tasting goes on in a hive," Hafernik said, "and it's certainly possible that their co-workers are finding them and can tell that there's something wrong with them."

Genetic analysis of the parasites confirmed that they are the same flies that have been infecting bumblebees, raising the possibility that the fly is an emerging and potentially costly new threat to honey bees.

The possibility that this is an emerging parasite "underlines the danger that could threaten honey bee colonies throughout North America, especially given the number of states that commercial hives cross and are deployed in," Hafernik and colleagues write in the January 3 issue of the journal "PLoS ONE."

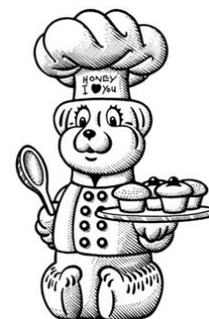
"We don't know the best way to stop parasitization, because one of the big things we're missing is where the flies

are parasitizing the bees," Hafernik explained. "We assume it's while the bees are out foraging, because we don't see the flies hanging around the bee hives. But it's still a bit of a black hole in terms of where it's actually happening."

The scientists will deploy tools, including tiny radio tags to video monitoring, to help them answer these questions and discover ways to protect the hives.

"Honey bees are among the best-studied insects in the world," Hafernik observed. "So at one level, we would expect that if this has been a long-term parasite of honey bees, we would have noticed."

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jan2012/2012-01-10-092.html>



CHEESECAKE BAKE

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Graham cracker crust in 9 inch spring-form pan

- 1 lb. cottage cheese
- 1 c. plain yogurt
- 3 eggs, separated
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- Rind of lemon, grated fine
- 1/2 c. honey**
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 c. flour (whole wheat or white)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Using blender, blend all the ingredients together until smooth. Pour into crust; sprinkle with nutmeg. Bake 30-50 minutes or until a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool thoroughly before removing from pan.

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The Buzz Newsletter

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



Officers

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

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

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

Treasurer: Melanie Bower
207 S.E. Diehl
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 Julie Swett
2005 North Dakota Ave
Ames, IA 50014

District #5 Pat Randol
2505 Carriage Trail
Winterset, IA 50273
(515) 210-7445
Pat.Randol@Randolphoney.com

District #6 Mike Divis

State Apiarist

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

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club

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

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

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

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

Contact: Julia McGuire
jcammcguire@yahoo.com



IDALS website
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National Honey Board
www.honey.com

Iowa Honey Queen Program

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

Iowa Beekeeper Clubs

East Central Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Dave Irvin
2254 S. Riverside Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 351-6205

North Iowa Bee Club

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

Northeast Iowa Beekeepers

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

Northwest Iowa Beekeepers

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

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers

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

Southwest Iowa Honey Producers

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

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa

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

Additional Links and Emails

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

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