www.ABuzzAboutBees.com
The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex’ Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com (also alex.ebert@eberthoney.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 10th of each month to be included in the following month’s newsletter. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.

### April 12th

**CIBA Annual Auction** Perry, IA 10 am

**May 4th**

**IHPA Board Meeting**, 3pm Ankeny DMACC location.

**Iowa State Fair Honey Booth**: Just a reminder that the bids for the sale items at the IHPA booth will be due in June. There will be the 1 lb jar category again this year so if you would like to see your honey for sale at the fair and can supply at least 24 jars then plan now to send in your bid sheet! The bid sheet will be printed in an upcoming issue.

### FOR SALE:

#### 3 pound Italian bee packages to be picked up April 18, 2014 (weather may change pick up date). Complete with mated queen and cage. $100 per package

Visit www.lyonsdenhoney.com or call (712) 423-9067 to reserve your packages today.

### FOR SALE:

#### Package bees in Western Iowa. We will have 2 pound packages available early, mid or late April. 3 pound packages will be available until mid to late April. 2 # packages will be $82 and 3 # packages will be $96. Choose from Italian or Carniolan bees.

Queen prices haven’t been decided yet, call for information. All packages will be picked up in Griswold. Order early, any orders received after March 1st will be charged an additional $15 processing fee.

Contact Mike Brahms, 3 Bee Farms, for deposit information and questions at (712) 778-4256 or mbrahms@netins.net

### FOR SALE:

#### 5 frame Nuc w/Italian queen - $125.00. Also a few singles w/Italian queen - $150.00

Nucs and Singles will be ready for pick-up May 10th from Goodell, Iowa. For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 515-293-2601

### FOR SALE:

#### I will have Queens’ available mid-April. Pick-up is in Goodell. For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 515-293-2601

### FOR SALE:

#### Beekeeping Equipment and supplies - Goodell IA

Offering reasonably priced new and some used beekeeping supplies and equipment. For more information, please call Pat @ 515-293-2601

### FOR SALE:

#### 3 lb. Packages with marked Italian Queens for Pick-up only in West Chester, IA (no deliveries)

Pick-up will be the week of May 12, 2014 (actual date will be determined based on weather in GA) $95/pkg. ($90/pkg. for orders of 10+); extra marked queens = $26/each

Email number of packages and contact info. to: kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com or visit our website www.kalonahoney.com and click on the “package bees” tab or contact Tim Wilbanks cell: 319-321-2494

### FOR SALE:

#### Beekeeping Supplies @ Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry IA, is offering a fairly complete line of new beekeeping supplies available February through June from their showroom. No set business hours, so call with your needs. 515-465-5939 or Connie @ 515-480-6076

### FOR SALE:

#### Package Bees

Spring Valley Honey Farms will have 2# and 3# packages W/Italian or Carniolan queens. Availability will be mid-April. Price not confirmed as of yet, to book please call: Home: 515-465-5939

Connie @ 515-480-6076

Pat @ 515-293-2601

Pick-up in Perry or Goodell

Prices of packages will be our web site as soon as we know @ www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com

### FOR SALE:

#### Package Bees

The package will consist of bottom board, 9 5/8 - 10 frame hive body with bees and 9 frames, entrance reducer, insulated inner lid and metal outer lid. New Italian queen. This is new equipment. The total for this hive package will be $195.00 This same package with used equipment will be $160.00 It is painted used equipment in good condition. I will need a $45.00 deposit when you order and the package will be ready for you to pick up mid May at Monticello Iowa barring weather conditions. We also have 4 frame nucs with new queen for $98.00. Deposit of $30.00 required. (No frame exchange) Our bee yards are inspected by Iowa Bee inspectors. I will only be selling 20 package hives this year. I have 40+ years experience in beekeeping.

Send deposit to Curtis Barnhart, P. O. Box 70, Monticello, IA 52310 with your name, address and phone number that you can be reached at. I am out of town until March 24. You can call and leave a message 319-480-4209 Or autumn49@yahoo.com

Thank you., Curtis Barnhart
President’s Message
April 2014

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather of Spring. It seems like it took so long to get here. Peggy and I took some time off and made a trip to Ohio to attend the Tri-County Beekeepers Association Inc., 36th Annual Spring Beekeeping Workshop held on February 28th thru March 1st in Wooster Ohio.

The workshop was limited to 1,000 attendees. This meeting was set up by the Tri-County Beekeepers Association Inc. of Ohio. The location was the Ohio State University Campus, Fisher Auditorium and the Shisler Center Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.

On Friday evening there were 34 vendors setting up – many of the larger beekeeping supply companies where there; Mann Lake, Better bee, Brushy Mountain, Dadant, Kelly, Blue sky, Queen Right Colonies, Maxant,( I was looking real hard at Maxant’s cash and carry special on an uncapper, but waited too long and it was gone. Maxant had a monster display of extractors, uncappers, ECT, and at the end of the workshop, NOTHING was left!), plus many other local and smaller vendors.

The workshop started Friday evening with Dr. Jim Tew giving a presentation on the “Evolution of Beekeeping”, (Peggy and I enjoy hearing Dr. Jim Tew speak.) followed by a social hour and shopping at the many vendors. If you didn’t want to listen to Dr. Jim Tew Friday evening, the Central Ohio Beekeepers’ Association had a Beginner Beekeeping class you could attend.

Saturday was jammed full of presentations to attend. There were 3 workshop session throughout the day with each having 7 topics to choose. And in each of the 7 topics, 2 topics were just for the kids and beginner beekeepers as; a Beginner Beekeeping Session by the Central Ohio Beekeepers’ Association and a Kid’s session, by the Lorain County Beekeepers Association. There was also a Honey Recipe Contest with a $50 first prize and a $25 second price, door prizes throughout the day, a “Hands on-Learning to Do” room which included practical activities as assembling hive parts, extracting honey, bees and diseases, ECT. Some of the other topics to choose to attend were: Mechanics of Queen Rearing, Small Hive Beetle, Practical Queen Rearing, Chemical & Bee Interaction, Bee Plants, Mead Making, Foulbrood, Top Bar Hive, Soap Making, Propolis and Royal Jelly, and more. All of this plus 34 vendors to shop at! (Peggy did find some bee shopping stuff we brought home).

I went for the 3 Queen topics. Dan O’Hanlon and Joe Kousleski were both speakers of the queen topics and they are also part of a queen breeding program they have in Ohio and West Virginia (Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Cooperative, https://sites.google.com/site/heartlandhoneybeecoop/home) or Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pages/Heartland-Honey-Bee-Breeders-Cooperative/18954887877114#

They have a very interesting program for producing queens and they seem to be doing it very well. I would like to see if some of this information could be used, and implemented here in Iowa, as some beekeepers are trying to start a Queen Breeding Program here.

We had a lot of fun and came home with a lot of useful information and I recommend to others, if possible, to also attend this in the future.

Overall, I was very impressed with the many people helping to run and organize such an event as the Tri Country Workshop. The Tri-County web site is: www.TriCountyBeekeepers.org A side note from this experience was another 1st for Peggy and I. We stayed at our 1st Bed and Breakfast while in Wooster, called the “Black Squirrel Inn”; an 1880’s beautifully restored Victorian home. (www.blacksquirrelinn.com) We’ll do that one again! It was less expensive than a hotel and the food was outstanding!! Fong Wong, our host, was great - spoiling us with her gourmet breakfasts and she told us of great local shopping, restaurants, and sites to see and do while in Wooster.

To change thoughts, if your bee’s made it through the winter, those hive will be good candidates for raising your own queens to survive our Iowa winters. This is also the time of year to treat your hives to control mites, but know where your mite level counts are at!! Please educate yourself on how to test for mite levels in your hives, and know the limits of mite infestation for treatment for your hives. I’ve heard a lot of people losing bees this winter, around about 40 or 50% loss, I know that’s high and I know that’s still not where many of us would like to be, but it’s better than the losses of years’ past of 70% plus. I believe to change this trend is going to take time, better genetics, better nutrition, and all of us being better beekeepers. Take some time to spend with your bees and enjoy them.

Till next month, Bee Happy, Bee Joyful, and Bee Yourself!!
Pat

March Trivia: According to Bee Informed, what percent of United States beekeepers in 2012 - 2013 treated their bee hives for mite control?

Answer on Page 13.

FOR SALE: PACKAGE BEES
3lb Carniolan package bees with mated queen available in late April for $92.50 (discounts on bulk orders). Pick-up in Des Moines, Iowa at Foley’s Russian Bees. To order go to www.russianbee.com

FOR SALE: AROMATIC RED CEDAR HIVE KITS
Foley’s Russian Bees is taking pre-orders on a limited run of handmade cedar hive kits that will be completed on or before April 1st, and available for pick-up in Des Moines. Pricing and product details online at www.russianbee.com/store
The Buzz in Tripoli’s Agriculture Education  
Partners in Education…

Submitted by Jennifer Dillon,  
Tripoli Ag Education Instructor and FFA Advisor

The curious mind and giving heart of Tripoli apiarist, John Axon, sparks an entrepreneurial opportunity for Tripoli’s Ag Education program and FFA Chapter. Every other week John shares his love of bees during the school’s Introduction to Agriculture course. Students are exploring the world of bees as their Supervised Agricultural Experience, where they will track expenses and log their activities of the beekeeping project that began last October.

John contacted agriculture instructor and FFA advisor, Jennifer Dillon, last fall to offer his expertise and check on student interest. Through emails, meetings and phone calls the first speaking opportunity was arranged and approved by school superintendent, Troy Heller. Students unanimously supported the idea and project.

Students look forward to their “John days” as they continue to build their knowledge and notes in beekeeping. Lessons have included the life cycle of the bee; roles of the worker, drone, and queen bees; communication (dancing); foraging; geometry of building comb; and the hive components. Students have registered their hive on the Iowa Sensitiver Crop Directory which involved a great lesson in Global Positioning Systems and latitude and longitude. Students have purchased their bee suits and the industrial technology students will be constructing three hives – one for an interested community member and two for the Tripoli FFA chapter. Andy Sexton, of the American Savings Bank has supplied the funding to purchase building materials for the hives and components. What started as an idea now has encircled the Tripoli School and the Tripoli community into a common, rewarding, exciting and interesting endeavor.

Thanks to the support of the Iowa Honey Producers Association, generosity of Pat and Peggy Ennis for providing the package of bees and the cooperation of John Axon, Tripoli’s agriculture students will become the proud owners their first colony of bees this April. Students were tasked with researching the various breeds of bees and voted on selecting a Carniolan queen and Italian workers to establish their colony. Students will also be an important part of a Bremer County Iowa State University Extension workshop about beekeeping and fruit tree pruning on March 14th. Excitement builds as the class anticipates the installation of our bees in our hive on April 12th and becoming Apiarists.

For Sale: 4 frame nucs $95.00 the end of April near Sioux City, IA 712-551-2355  cell 605-809-6291
Lynden Ruyter

For Sale: 8 beehives reconditioned; some new parts, 90% complete, new paint, state inspected.  
3 bee smokers  
1 honey extractor  
Call Dave at 319-331-6590

Wanted: William Lambright is looking to buy medium honey supers and a radial hand crank extractor.
Contact by mail:  
1053 Fair bank Amish Blvd.  
Fair bank IA 50629.

For Sale: 3 pound package bees with your choice of Italian or Carniolan queen, available in April. $5 deposit refundable upon return of box.

Also for sale, 3-4 frame nucs (state inspected), with your choice of Italian or Carniolan queen (limited supply). Should be ready first part of May.

Pick up for packages and nucs north of State Center.  
Contact fieldstonefarms@netis.net or 641-477-8521 for more details.

Thanks  
Fieldstone Farms
**IHPA Membership**

Are you reading this issue online as your membership has expired? If so, it is time to renew. The dues are only $20 per year for the first person in the household and each additional person with the same address is only $5. We will send only one Buzz newsletter to each address.

Please send your renewal membership dues to:
Rhonda Heston
IHPA Treasurer
52735 187th Ave
Chariton IA 50049-8616
R.Heston@yahoo.com
515-724-2124

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**Corn Dust Research Consortium (CDRC)**

For those who attend a recent CIBA meeting where Dr. Mary Harris kindly shared her research findings about the planter corn dust, and also for those of you who were not able to make it, below is an article written by Kim Flottum (Bee Culture magazine) about this, also there is a link to download the 26 page report in PDF format. (if you are unable to open the link in your browser, copy and paste the link instead in your browser.)

Eli

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**Corn Dust Research Consortium (CDRC) Calls for Widespread Cooperative Measures To Support Honey Bees, Beekeepers, and Farmers**

The non-profit Pollinator Partnership (P2) today released the 2013 Preliminary Report and Provisional Recommendations of the Corn Dust Research Consortium (CDRC), a multi-stakeholder initiative formed to fund research with the goal of reducing honey bee exposure to fugitive dust emitted from planter fan exhaust during mechanical planting of treated corn seed. The report can be found at [http://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/CDRCfinalreport2013.pdf](http://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/CDRCfinalreport2013.pdf) with provisional recommendations starting on page 23.

The CDRC participating organizations include the American Seed Trade Association, the American Honey Producers Association, the American Beekeeping Federation, the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Bayer CropScience, the Canadian Honey Council, the Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association, the National Corn Growers Association, the Pollinator Partnership, Syngenta, and the University of Maryland. These organizations came together to fund and oversee research projects in 2013 to better understand ideas for mitigating risks to honey bees from exposure to fugitive dust emitted from fan exhaust from machinery during corn planting.

The CDRC funded three research teams, led by Dr. Reed Johnson of Ohio State University, Dr. Mary Harris of Iowa State University, and Dr. Art Schaafsma, University of Guelph on behalf of the Grain Farmers of Ontario. It is hoped that the preliminary results and provisional recommendations will inform best practices for the 2014 planting season. Additional research in subsequent seasons will be needed to replicate and substantiate the findings.

Two research questions were addressed by CDRC-funded research. The first question (Question 1) sought to develop a greater understanding of the use by honey bees of floral resources in and around cornfields during spring planting season and how this is influenced by vegetation management practices. Native bee communities may also be affected by exposure through forage, an issue not addressed in this research.

The second question (Question 2) was to evaluate the effectiveness and deposition levels of pesticide dust in and around fields when commercially available neonicotinoid-treated corn seed products are planted using a new product in comparison to standard lubricants (talc and graphite). Aspects of the product, BFA, developed by Bayer CropScience, had already been evaluated in other studies.

The second question, (Question 2), tested the effectiveness of the alternative lubricant, BFA, as a replacement for talc or graphite to separate corn seeds in the pneumatic planters often used in corn planting in North America. The CDRC tests showed that when the BFA lubricant was used, total dust and pesticide load in the dust were reduced when compared to the use of conventional lubricants, despite a higher...
Executive Director Laurie Davies added, “About 2013,” said Pollinator Partnership’s vision, and unbiased assessment throughout stakeholders have shared the responsibility, for transparency, open deliberation, and unbiased assessment through- 2013,” said Pollinator Partnership’s Executive Director Laurie Davies Adams. (Contact LDA@pollinator.org) “We feel that the consequences of potential harm to honey bees have been taken very seriously by every institution involved in this collaboration. We have achieved something remarkable and rare – a consortium working together to improve the situation for honey bees through balanced, unbiased, and cooperative engagement in objective science.” A second year of funded research will focus on follow-up evaluation, information dissemination, and adaptive management in 2014. Interested institutions should contact the Pollinator Partnership at info@pollinator.org. Each of the research teams is expected to publish papers with respect to their individual data sets either as a result of the 2013 work or in conjunction with a second year’s research.

About Pollinator Partnership Established in 1997, the Pollinator Partnership (P2) is the largest 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to the health, protection, and conservation of all pollinating animals. For further information, visit www.pollinator.org.

Quotes and Contacts from CDRC Members (alphabetized list of quotes and contacts for CDRC members who can be contacted for further information)

American Beekeeping Federation: Representative Manley Bigalk said, “The CDRC doesn’t answer all the questions about neonicotinoids and honey bees, but it’s a starting place to discuss reducing exposure.”

American Honey Producers Association: Representative Brett Adee, said, “While I respect this process, the end result requires that many groups cooperate to make real progress for honey bees, and it needs to happen right away.”

Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM): Mr Daniel J (Dan) Moss, Technical Consultant - Standards and Safety, said, “AEM's member manufacturers support pollinator health initiatives and are actively engaged in the development of international standards for planting equipment that work to reduce fugitive dust from machinery exhaust fans.”

American Seed Trade Association: Jane DeMarchi, VP, Government and Regulatory Affairs, said, “The US seed industry is working to safeguard bee and pollinator health. We have learned a lot this first year on the CDRC. Science is incremental, and we have taken one step. We look forward to taking the next step together.”

Bayer CropScience: David Fischer (Co-Chair of the SETAC Pellston Workshop on pesticide risk assessment for pollinators) said, “Bayer’s goal in participating in the CDRC is to contribute to good science and management practices. We believe that solutions can be found when stakeholders work together.” Contact david.fischer@bayer.com.

Canadian Honey Council: “While this is an iterative process, the beekeepers across Canada are looking to this research for answers. Many things need to be done. We need all parties to pay attention to the role they play in supporting healthy honey bee populations,” said Rod Scarlett, Executive Director. Contact chc-ccm@honeycouncil.ca.

Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association: “We are working to ensure that corn dust residues are contained through the better planting practices that this research has informed,” said Mike McClure, Engineering Manager for the Great Plains Ag Division. Contact mikem@greatplainsmfg.com.

National Corn Growers Association: “Corn producers are stewards of the land and as good farmers look for ways to eliminate exposure to corn dust,” added Don Glenn, Production and Stewardship Action Team.

Syngenta: Jay Overmeyer said, “This research has provided valuable information for development and support of BMPs to mitigate exposure of bees to seed treatment dust. We are looking forward to year two.” Contact jay.overmyer@syngenta.com.

University of Maryland: Dr. David Inouye (Chair of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign) said, “Now that the first year is completed, the CDRC will seek to replicate and test results and provisional recommendations. Additional studies are needed and will lead to better understanding of impacts and actions.”

From the Editor: When a pesticide moves off site due to wind or mechanical action and contaminates any surface other than that which is was intended, and is then taken up by any organism other than the target pest, is this simply an “Oh, sorry” by the applicator? What role do beekeepers, native pollinators, or any nearby life forms play in this drama? Bees are killed, other animals are killed and beekeepers are put out of business. It appears that this is a simple problem to solve. Quit moving pesticides off site. How many must die before they figure this out?

Permission for reprint kindly given by Kim Flottum/Bee Culture Magazine.
Hello everyone!

It seems as though an eternity has passed since I wrote my last article. Today is March 10th, and a lot has happened since I submitted my last update on February 10th.

February 18th, I visited the Good Samaritan Society in West Union to teach the residents about beekeeping. After suffering through some technically difficulties, the presentation went great. One man was by far the most interested question asker. Below I have a picture with him.

February 27th, I headed out to Fassbinder Apiaries to check how the girls are doing. I love knocking on the hives and hearing them buzz in response. Our beekeeping mascot even came with to check out the action. I’m already excited to take the winter wraps off and get to work.

March 8th, I traveled to Marshalltown to give a presentation to a beginner beekeeping class. My dad came with, so we listened to 2 ½ hours of 70’s music on the way. The class was very interested and asked a lot of great questions. They were already hooked on the joys of beekeeping.

This coming weekend is going to be packed with activities. Friday, March 14th I have an interview with KWWL and will be giving a presentation in Tripli. Saturday, I’ll be in Bills Family Foods supermarket in Forest City promoting honey. I’ll write about the events next month.

Don’t forget to contact me for events! You can email me at honeybeebelle@gmail.com

Check out my blog at www.BeeEnlightened.wordpress.com or like my Facebook page “Iowa Honey Queen Program”.

Thanks for reading!

Keep on buzzin’!

Gabrielle Hemesath

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Beekeepers Ask Dept. of Agriculture to Ban Bee-Harming Pesticide

By: Jennie Olson
March 5, 2014

Beekeepers across Minnesota on Wednesday will ask lawmakers and the Department of Agriculture to help protect bees.

The petition is asking the state to stop the use of certain pesticides for corn and soybeans that they say are harmful to the bees, specifically neonicotinoid seed treatment.

The petition is signed by 40 commercial beekeepers representing more than 40,000 hives. It will be delivered to Commissioner Dave Frederickson by beekeeper Steve Ellis of Barrett, Minn. http://kstp.com/article/stories/s3349631.shtml

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Calling all Quilters/ Seamstresses

If you have signed up to make a block or two for the 2nd Annual Buzz Quilt, you should be receiving your packet of fabric and instructions around the first of April. It’s not too late if you haven’t signed up.

Please contact: Rhonda Heston
IHPA Treasurer
52735 187th Ave
Chariton IA 50049-8616
R.Heston@yahoo.com
515-724-2124
Central Iowa Beekeepers
Annual Auction

Perry IA, April 12, starting @ 10:00

Partial Consignment List as of March 17, 2014

1 - Box of correspondence from the 1946’s – 1950’s. Items in collection are addressed to a “Mr. W. R. Moomaw” of Stone Creek, OH.

Mr. Moonaw appears to have been a buyer and seller of honey, beeswax, honey comb, and popcorn.

Included are postcards, hand written letters, railway express shipper’s receipts, as well as correspondence from honey packers, bee supply companies, (some no longer in business) and beekeepers. Some of the correspondences are even from cities in Iowa, including: Graettinger, Charles city, Marshalltown, Nashua, Stratford, Mount Vernon, Sac City, Clarence, Woodbine, Beaver, Moorhead, and others.

Many other states represented are, Indiana, Ohio, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Minnesota, Kansas, Illinois, Texas and others. This is a very unique collection and glimpse into the correspondences, transactions and prices of that time.

2 - Honey storage tank - stainless steel, misc. covers, inner covers and bottom boards. More items by auction time.

3 - Misc. bottling containers, telescoping covers, inner covers, bottom boards. More items by auction time.

4 - Stainless steel Mann Lake Extractor, motorized 6/3 frame, used one season and in like “new” condition.

5 – Misc. migratory and telescoping covers, inner covers and bottom boards, other misc. stuff.

6 - Miscellaneous beekeeping items

7 - 2 Aromatic red cedar hive kits, hand-made & clear coated. This includes: 2 deeps, 3 mediums, wax coated plastic
frames, telescoping cover w/ inner cover, top feeder w/floats, entrance reducer & solid bottom board.

8 – Walter T. Kelly stainless steel tank with lid. Ross round supplies & 2 Ross round boxes other misc. stuff.

9 – 4 hive bodies, 8 Supers, 2 telescoping covers, 2 inner cover, 2 bottom boards, 2 screen bottom boards, 2 queen excluders, 2/2 gallon feeders, 3/1 gallon feeders, 1 smoker, 1 bag of smoker fuel, 2 adult bee suits w/hat & veil, 1 child bee suite w/hat & veil, 2 pair gloves, 1 helmet w/veil, 1 bee brush & Powder sugar blower – new.

More items will be added to the consignment list as auction date nears. To consign your items, please contact Pat Ennis @ 515-293-2601 or Flat_lander@lycos.com

For a listing of the items being consigned, please e-mail me after April 1st, and I will send you an updated list of consigned items thus far.

For All Your Packaging Containers For Packing Honey
( No Order To Large or Small )

BL Plastic Containers, LLC

“We Built Our Business on Service, Quality, and Dependability.”

BL Plastic Containers, LLC
1425 Metro E. Drive Unit 109
Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
Phone: 515-266-6112
Fax: 515-266-1112
sales@bplasticiowa.com
www.bplasticiowa.com

CRP – Beekeeper Outreach

Spring is here, the hives are unwrapped and it is time for the bees to get to work! If you are having trouble finding enough space, locating beehives on CRP land is a permissible practice. Your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) may be able to help.

Pollinators are essential to the production of an estimated one-third of the human diet and to the reproduction of at least 80 percent of flowering plants. Insect-pollinated agricultural commodities result in significant income for agricultural producers and account for over $20 billion in annual U.S. agricultural production. Honeybees, the predominant animal pollinator for United States agriculture, require an ample and diverse supply of pollen and nectar to thrive.

CRP provides millions of acres of vital habitat for honeybees, and has since 1986. CRP is viewed by numerous stakeholders in the pollinator community as providing essential habitat in a landscape that has been rapidly changing often in ways that depleted habitat well suited for honeybees. A large concentration of CRP land has been located in the upper Midwest and Northern Plains where perhaps as many as 50 percent of the nation’s honeybee colonies spend the summer, after providing pollination services in the south and in coastal regions. Traditionally, CRP acres, with their abundant acres of legume rich forage, have offered the hives a safe haven from the pressures of modern agriculture and have provided larger-scale, natural sources of pollen and nectar essential to healthy brood rearing needed to sustain colonies throughout the year.

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, encourages the inclusion of pollinator habitat in all USDA administered conservation programs. CRP practice, Pollinator Habitat, was developed with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and pollinator partners to meet this goal. Additionally, FSA procedure provides that beehives may be stored on CRP acreage consistent with the soil, water, and wildlife goals of CRP.

Ensuring the long-term viability of honey beekeeping requires the development of both suitable habitat for foraging bees, and access to this habitat for beekeepers. CRP conservation plan development is one tool that may assist in providing healthy pollinator habitat on CRP lands.

John Whitaker,
State Executive Director
United States Department of Agriculture

CATCH THE BUZZ
Miticides, Ag Chems and Inert Ingredients A Deadly Mix In A Beehive.
Alan Harman

Disturbing new research finds four pesticides commonly used to kill mites, insects and fungi – fluvalinate, coumaphos, chlorothalonil and chlorpyrifos – are also killing honey bee larvae within their hives.

A team from Penn State and University of Florida also found that N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) – an inert, or inactive, chemical commonly used as a pesticide additive -- is highly toxic to honey bee larvae.
“We found that four of the pesticides most commonly found in beehives kill bee larvae,” says Penn State’s Jim Frazier. “We also found that the negative effects of these pesticides are sometimes greater when the pesticides occur in combinations within the hive.

“Since pesticide safety is judged almost entirely on adult honey bee sensitivity to individual pesticides and also does not consider mixtures of pesticides, the risk assessment process that the Environmental Protection Agency uses should be changed.”

The research was funded by the National Honey Board, the U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture-Agriculture and Food Research Initiative-Coordinated Agricultural Projects and the Foundational Award programs. Frazier says the team’s previous research demonstrated that forager bees bring back to the hive an average of six different pesticides on the pollen they collect. Nurse bees use this pollen to make beebread, which they then feed to honey bee larvae.

To examine the effects of four common pesticides – fluvalinate, coumaphos, chlorothalonil and chlorpyrifos – on bee larvae, the researchers reared honey bee larvae in their laboratory. They then applied the pesticides alone and in all combinations to the beebread to determine whether these insecticides and fungicides act alone or in concert to create a toxic environment for honey bee growth and development.

The researchers also investigated the effects of NMP on honey bee larvae by adding seven concentrations of the chemical to a pollen-derived, royal jelly diet. NMP is used to dissolve pesticides into formulations that then allow the active ingredients to spread and penetrate the plant or animal surfaces onto which they are applied.

The team fed their treated diet, containing various types and concentrations of chemicals, to the laboratory-raised bee larvae. The researchers note that fluvalinate and coumaphos are commonly used by beekeepers in their hives to control Varroa mites, and are found to persist within beehives for about five years if not removed by beekeepers.

Chlorothalonil is a broad-spectrum agricultural fungicide that is often applied to crops in bloom when honey bees are present for pollination because it is currently deemed safe to bees. Chlorpyrifos is a widely used organophosphate in crop management.

“Our findings suggest that the common pesticides chlorothalonil, fluvalinate, coumaphos and chlorpyrifos, individually or in mixtures, have statistically significant impacts on honey bee larval survivorship,” Mullin says.

“This is the first study to report serious toxic effects on developing honey bee larvae of dietary pesticides at concentrations that currently occur in hives.” The team also found that increasing amounts of NMP corresponded to increased larval mortality, even at the lowest concentration tested.

“There is a growing body of research that has reported a wide range of adverse effects of inactive ingredients to human health, including enhancing pesticide toxicities across the nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory and hormone systems,” Mullin says.

“Multi-billion pounds of these inactive ingredients overwhelm the total chemical burden from the active pesticide, drug and personal-care ingredients with which they are formulated. Among these coformulants are surfactants and solvents of known high toxicity to fish, amphibians, honey bees and other non-target organisms. While we have found that NMP contributes to honey bee larval mortality, the overall role of these inactive ingredients in pollinator decline remains to be determined.”

This message brought to you by Bee Culture, The Magazine Of American Beekeeping, published by the A.I. Root Company.

Find us at - Twitter. Facebook. Bee Culture’s Blog.
A Year in the Life of the Southeast Iowa Honey Queen
By Joy Westercamp

I would like to thank you all for the honor and privilege to serve as the 2013-2014 Southeast Iowa Honey Queen. And I would especially like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey for all their encouragement and help.

Last winter was hard on my bees – I only had three colonies survive the winter. My parents took me on lots of swarm calls, and I got lots of practice catching swarms from fence posts, trees, trailers . . . I knew my chances of honey production were pretty slim because I had lost so many of my colonies, so this year I focused on increasing the size of my apiary. I took ten colonies into winter and when I checked a few weeks ago, I still had eight colonies alive.

I really enjoy opportunities to share what I know about bees and beekeeping with others – and I love to learn new things too. I have been reading about the varroa mite, and I am working on a research paper on varroa for school. I have also watched several bee webinars sponsored by Brushy Mountain Bee Farm and videos by the University of Florida Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory and the University of Minnesota Bee Lab.

In the spring of 2013, I got to walk in the Amana Parade with the Iowa Honey Queen Hannah VanWyk and Princess Rachel Stika. After the parade, I helped Patty Stewart with different bee activities and answering questions.

I got to spend half a day at the Douds School to participate in the Van Buren Ag Day where I got to tell the kids about bees and answered loads of questions. I also helped Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey with the Ag Day at the Cardinal school district.

I took my observation hive to Morris Park, Harvestville Farms, and to a Van Buren County 4-H open house.

I helped the Ramseys teach beginning beekeeping classes in Jefferson County and Van Buren County in 2013 and in 2014. I am excited to begin the Van Buren Classes next week.

I gave the Life Cycle of the Honey Bee educational presentation to the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers, to the Jolly Trio 4-H Club, at the Van Buren County Fair, and at the Iowa State Fair receiving a Gold Seal of Excellence. I also gave a working demonstration about rolling beeswax candles at the Van Buren County Fair and at the Iowa State Fair, receiving a Silver Seal of Merit.

At the Iowa State Fair, I spent two half-days volunteering at the Iowa Honey Producers booth in the agriculture building. I love helping sell honey lemonade or other products and talking with visitors about bees and beekeeping. I also got the opportunity this year to do a presentation and question-answer session in the Animal Learning Center both days that I volunteered in the IHPA booth. I would really encourage anyone to share their time and volunteer at the IHPA booth – it’s a great experience.

Again, I would like to thank the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers for allowing me to serve as their Honey Queen.
A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE SOUTHEAST IOWA HONEY QUEEN

AG DAYS

2013 Van Buren School

2013 Cardinal School

BEE CLASSES

2013 Keosauqua beginning beekeepers classes

2014 Fairfield beginning beekeepers classes

PARADE

2013 Amana Parade with Iowa Honey Queen Hannah VanWyk and Princess Rachel Stika
Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Alex Winter. He participated in the IHPA mentor program last year. He and his older brother Austin live with their parents, A Jay and Anne on a small acreage near Dallas Center, Iowa.

Alex is a freshman at Dallas Center-Grimes. He plays football, baseball, and wrestles. He is also actively involved in FFA and is a committee member of the Iowa Capitol Pheasants Forever Chapter. Besides studying his bees, Alex enjoys target shooting, hunting, fishing, and sports. After graduation plans include college and looking into the engineering program through ISU.

Curt Bronnenberg’s mentoring and Beekeeping 101 classes taught by Andrew Joseph, launched Alex’s career in beekeeping. He says he enjoys interacting with the bees, however when they crawl up his suit sometimes they get a little too close for comfort. Alex gives tours of his hive to friends and family and is hoping to be able to divide his hive this spring.

Good luck dividing your hive and keep learning.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

ISU Extension and Outreach Downloads

Protecting Bees in Iowa
https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Protecting-Bees-in-Iowa

Protecting Bees from Pesticides
https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Protecting-Bees-in-Iowa

Trivia Answer: Of the total number of respondents, 59% did not treat and 41% did. Beekeepers who reported treating with a known Varroa mite product reported 12.4 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who did not report using a known Varroa mite control product. In other words, beekeepers who reported treating for Varroa mites lost 26% fewer colonies than those who did not report treating with any known Varroa mite control product.

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