For sale: Bee equipment

- Bottoms $1.00
- Migratory covers $1.00
- Inner covers $1.00
- Queen excluders $1.00

Hive Bodies
- 9 9/16 with frames and foundation $26.00
- 9 9/16 drawn out combs $15.00
- Black winter wraps double size $1.00

Fillmaster Table top power bottler by Dadant $1,200 or best offer,

Creamed honey equipment,
Extracting equipment including Cowen uncapper,
drip tray and wax melter,
Sump tank,
Lg SS holding tank
Kelly Honey pump
Kelly capping melter

Contact:
Ann Garber
logchain@grm.net
Log Chain Honey
Box 36
Allerton, Iowa 50008

IHPA T-Shirts (These are membership prices. Non-member prices are available on request.)

The t-shirts are a bright yellow shirt with brown lettering.

Youth size (S) (M) (L) circle one ___qty. X $8.50 $_________
Adult size (S) (M) (L) circle one ___qty. X $9.00 $_________
Adult size (XL) (XXL) circle one ___qty. X $10.00 $_________

Shipping is $3.00 per shirt, or $5.00 for two shirts. Shipping $_________
TOTAL $_________

Make checks payable to: IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

An IHPA t-shirt makes a great gift for bee enthusiast of all ages!

Send form and check to:
Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer
207 S.E. Diehl
Des Moines, IA 50315

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
Dear Honey Producers,

How are your bees doing? That seems to be a never-ending question around the country. I get an average of 5-10 inquiries each market that I attend. Yes, we still have honey bees and yes, the honey bee problem is still very much a concern. Most of the people seem to think that everyone's bees are just disappearing and we aren't getting any new ones. If you are asked questions, please give the best answer that you can give to them. They will only hear what they expect to hear, not necessarily what you just told them. Most of them have a preconceived notion and no matter how long you talk with them, they won't go away with the "facts". They have heard so much wrong information or incomplete information through the media that it is hard to get the correct information out to the public. That is where we beekeepers come in. Please let them know that they can get answers from you, from the IHPA officers and board, from our website and from our state apiarist, Andy Joseph. Keep a copy of the BUZZ with you so that you can give out numbers or just take the time to discuss the "situation" with them. The media only prints what they think you said to them. They don't let us "proof" the articles so misinformation is sometimes presented through no fault of the interviewee. I am always being misquoted or they interpret what is said differently. At least we are getting press!!

As of the time that I am writing this article, I have so many open time slots for the fair that I am starting to be concerned. I know that most of the time we have the number of volunteers needed, but this is keeping me awake nights. When you read this the State Fair will likely be over and we will have filled each shift with willing volunteers, but getting ready for this event is mind-boggling. Hope you enjoy(ed) your visit to our IHPA sales booth and were able to view the apiary exhibits on display. The IHPA also sponsors the Cooking with Honey contest and the homebrew Mead contest. This year the IHPA also presented an informational talk each day at 2:00 p.m. for fairgoers and the honey queen committee and Iowa Honey Queen, Diane, were present to do educational talks in the Ag. building. The IDALS department had a special promotion during the fair concerning honey bees and gave out coupons for free honey sticks to fair attendees. Thank you to all of the volunteers because the IHPA couldn't do it without YOU.

If you have a fall event and would like Diane, the Iowa Honey Queen to help you with it, please give her a call. Remember that she will be heading back to college in Maryville, so give her a call as quickly as you can so she can work it into her schedule. To contact her call (712) 779-0540.

We have had some requests to include helpful hints about what should be done each month during the beekeeping year. If you already know, please don't think that we are just catering to new beekeepers, but we need to give information to each segment of the industry and we are getting a lot of new beekeepers. There will be some articles concerning this and if you would like to contribute to your newsletter, please do so. You just might have the most successful way of doing things and each of us can learn a new thing or two. Beekeeping is a unique way of life. Just as the honey bees do their own thing, each beekeeper might do things differently than your neighbor. These will just be suggestions.

If you know of a young person that is interested in beekeeping and is not from a beekeeping family, please have them get an application from our website, ABuzzAboutBees.com, or by contacting the Youth Scholarship Chairman, Mike Brahms at (712) 774-5878.

The requirements are:

- Be a youth between the ages of 12 and 17.
- Be from a non beekeeping family.
- Send in the completed application by September 15th to:

  Mike Brahms
  65071 720th Street
  Cumberland, IA 50843

We had several of our current and past youth beekeepers and their families work the sales booth at the Iowa State Fair. All of the current youth scholarship winners are doing great and the mentors are reporting that they are becoming quite proficient in beekeeping.

Hope you are experiencing a wonderful honey crop and are finding time to extract it. Our area has been extremely good this year. As usual there are yards that are doing better than others, but overall our crop is looking to be really good.

Have a warm, wonderful August. Enjoy the last few days of get-away time before school starts and take time to watch the honey bees as they fly from flower to flower. In other words, find time to relax and enjoy life.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

Youth Scholarship Applications are available now.

If you know of a youth who would like to become a beekeeper, please have them get an application from our website, ABuzzAboutBees.com, or by contacting the Youth Scholarship Chairman, Mike Brahms at (712) 774-5878.

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Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President
Membership dues for 2008:
Please check the label on your Buzz for your expiration date. Dues are $10 for the primary member and $5 for each additional family member at the same address. Dues must be paid for the current year in order to be able to vote at the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers in November. The November Buzz will be the last one sent to members who have not sent in their 2008 dues.

Please let me know if your mailing address has changed so that the mailing list for the Buzz can be corrected.

Melanie Bower
Treasurer

THE BEEYARD REPORT

July has started out fairly well. There has been a lot of rain in the Pella/Knoxville area but those yards seem to be holding their own. There is a lot of Dutch clover out there. Bees will work that right after a rain if it's hot enough. The petals cover most of the florets so the rain is kept out. The florets in the center of the cluster are erect so the floret is exposed to rain but the lower ones are shielded. Honey production overall has been spotty. The bloom looks great but some yards have almost nothing while others are doing well. For the most part, it has been a summer without heat. That's usually detrimental to the honey crop.

Things were developing so slowly early on, I didn't have the cut comb supers ready when the honey started to trickle in. Adam doesn't like to put those boxes on for the early flow. Unless it's a really strong flow, many colonies will swarm before they draw wax. My feeling is that if we get a 60# year, we better have the CC boxes on early or we aren't going to get any comb honey. We pulled our first box on the 12th but it's going to be a while before we get any more.
Our building addition is coming along. The concrete was finally poured July 2nd. The building was framed by the 7th. It's now the 17th. We are waiting for the doors and the electrician. I had hoped to extract in the new addition. It's not going to happen this year. Things aren't moving fast enough.

We have one line of mating nucs that have been no end of trouble. They were started with one frame of brood at the end of May. They got our first lot of cells and some extra queens we had purchased. The queens emerging from the cells tried to mate during the monsoons. The few that were successful are starting to expire now. I'm glad I didn't sell them.

The bees have disappeared from several boxes for what appears to be no good reason. A number of others have come down with European Foulbrood. The few "good" ones that remain are breaking down with American Foulbrood. It just a few cells but they definitely have it. We had pulled a few colonies out of that row and spotted them in the yards. I spent an afternoon chasing them to make sure we weren't spreading foulbrood around the country. They proved to be all right.

EFB used to be a rare event in our operation; AFB too, for that matter. We are seeing both of them with increasing regularity. EFB infected larva are most commonly yellow, or partially yellow, and seen in the coiled position. Sometimes they appear in the transition stage as they are starting to elongate. In this position, they looked twisted and are usually white. Here's the hard part. Mites can also cause larve to unwind. The nurse bees stop feeding the larva. Sometimes, a mite will run out if you pull that larve out of the cell. I'm always amazed at how fast Varoa mites can run. I still don't want to use Tylan. There is already too much crap in our food. Once in a while we catch a colony that is just starting to break down. We have given those Tylan. That is maybe 4 or 5 colonies. We may have to change some of our management practices. We swap equipment around all the time. This may have to change.

Last summer I had two yellow sweet clover plants come up in the gravel by the loading dock. I had intended to harvest the seed. As it happens with many things, I never got the job done. This year, there are hundreds of plants coming up. They are about 6" tall. There is no practical reason to let them grow there but I like to see them. Maybe I'll get some seed this year. It's not a very practical project. The seed is microscopic in size.

One night at supper I felt a tick crawling up my leg. I pulled my pants down to remove it. Adam's comment was what a cool move that would be for a first date. With that, I believe I will close. I hope to see a lot of you at the fair.

Amber Connett, who was in our 2007 mentoring program, suffered some tough luck when the Skunk River invaded her home during recent flooding. FEMA says the house is a total loss. Amber is slated to attend Iowa State in the fall.

Andy Joseph has a motorized 4 frame Dadant extractor with uncapping knife that is available for loan. You have to put down a deposit and schedule a time to make arrangements.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Honey bees 'crucial to Aust food security'

Posted Mon Jun 16, 2008 11:42am AEST
Updated Tue Jun 17, 2008 12:24am AEST
www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/16/2276596.htm

The industry is facing biosecurity threats and a shortage of access to native forests for honey production. A federal parliamentary committee is warning that Australia's food security could be compromised if the future of the honey bee and pollination industry is not supported.

"Taking into account all plant-based industries and wool, meat and dairy production it is estimated honey bees contribute directly to between $4 and $6 billion worth of agricultural production," she said.

But the committee's chairman, Liberal MP Alby Schultz, says the industry is very important to Australia's wider agricultural sector, and must be supported.

"The committee has made a number of recommendations which, if implemented will provide resource security for the honey bee industry and pollination dependent industries into the future," he said.

The committee has called for $50 million to be provided to the organisation Pollination Australia for research into biosecurity threats and the future of the industry.

Mr Adams says the importance of honey bees can not be overstated. "It might be an exaggeration to say 'no bees, no food', but the food security and economic welfare of the entire community depend on a considerable degree on the humble honey bee," he said.
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
IOWA HONEY PRODUCER'S ASSN.
November 7th & 8th, 2008
Marshalltown, Iowa

It's meeting time again! The annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producer's Association will be held Friday, November 7th and Saturday, November 8th, 2008 in Marshalltown, Iowa at the Best Western Regency Inn located at 3303 South Center Street.

We have a full schedule planned as usual. Make plans to enter the photo contest or the foods made with honey contest to show off your skills or enter the homebrewed Mead contest.

There will be a silent auction on Friday and Saturday this year, so get some Bee collectibles together to share with your friends. There will also be an auction during the banquet of larger items. These auctions benefit the Iowa Honey Queen Program.

Clear your calendars now to attend the annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producer's Association on November 7th and 8th, 2008.

To register or for information contact Melanie Bower at:
Melanie Bower, Treas. IHPA
207 S. Diehl Street
Des Moines, IA  50315
or phone with inquiries to (515) 287-6542

We will have all of the registration information and phone numbers to reserve rooms in the next issue. We are just finalizing the information at this deadline.

Come listen to Randy Oliver and our other interesting, knowledgeable speakers to learn more about beekeeping.

SEE YOU IN MARSHALLTOWN NOVEMBER 7TH AND 8TH FOR FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND BEEKEEPING KNOW-HOW!
August Tips for the Beekeeping Year

Taking off Honey
Once your bees have produced a crop of honey, you must remove it and get it processed. When you take honey off there are a few mistakes, you can make which hurt worse than any sting you have ever received. First, you must be concerned with the moisture content of the honey. Should you process honey that has too much moisture in it fermentation will occur and your crop will be ruined. Fortunately the bees know when the honey is just right and when it is they cap it. **Do not take any honey off until it is full capped.** When honey is capped the cappings are white and as the honey ages the cappings get darker and darker as the bees walk over the comb. When you are extracting this isn't a problem. But when you are packing comb honey you want the cappings and comb to be as white as possible. In addition to the moisture problem you must be concerned with the Wax Moth. There are eggs from the wax moth present in your beehives all year long. When you remove honey these eggs are still present and if you do nothing the eggs will hatch out and ruin the honey. Do not let your honey sit for any time before you process it. In the case of section honey you have to put the finished sections in a freezer to kill the eggs. When you are packing comb honey and pouring strained honey over the comb there is no problem. You must process your crop immediately. When extracting do not leave a mess. Clean up cappings and all debris. Do not leave anything out that would attract pests or you will have problems. Following these few guidelines will make processing your crop enjoyable.

Mite Levels
- Be sure to monitor your mite levels. Now is the time of year when the populations are exploding, which means your bee population us taking the hit. Many colonies are lost because beekeepers chase the fall goldenrod flow while the mites exceed the colonies' ability to cope. Try to have all of the honey off by the end of August and the treatments wrapped up by mid to late September.

Removing Honey Tips:
- Test moisture content--use a refractometer. Honey should be no higher than 18.5. If it is you may need to dehydrate it.
- Harvest your earliest, lightest honey and keep it separate from later darker harvests. The contrast will make both honeys more valuable.
- Take care to cover your supers when driving on unpaved roads-keep dirt out. Honey cleanliness is most important.
- Always cover your supers after you remove them, this keeps robbing to a minimum. It also keeps bees from going back into the supers.
- When you get back to the house keep the honey in a warm place. Use the garage rather than the basement. The warmer it is when you extract it, the more honey you get out of the frames.
- Choose an extracting location that is bee tight--if there is a hole, the bees will find it, get in and be a huge nuisance.
- Have your extracting area all cleaned up and ready to extract before you pull honey so your honey doesn't sit around a long time.
**Featured Beekeeper of the Month**

This month our featured beekeepers are Kim and Tracy Douglas. They live on Hwy 16 near Wever, Iowa. Kim says they started beekeeping in the spring of 2005. They have 50-60 hives and sell creamed, raw, comb and chunk honey, as well as regular wax bars, cookbooks, and gift baskets. They love watching their hives and plan to keep increasing their colonies until their backs tell them to quit or they reach 100. Kim and Tracy also enjoy chasing swarms and talking to people or groups of 200 people about bees.

Here is the story they sent:

**HISTORY OF DOUGLAS HONEY**

Douglas Honey was started in January 2005 by Tracy and Kim Douglas.

We started off our first year getting lots of equipment assembled and ready to go for the arrival of our first package of bees. We didn’t have much experience with bees but have a friend near Albia who keeps bees and encouraged us to give it a shot. We attended a course for beginning beekeepers that was set up through Back to Basics bee club in Oskaloosa, Iowa. That’s when we discovered that we were always going to have to keep bees, we were fascinated by them.

Since then we have taken any course we could that would educate us on beekeeping. In 2006 we attended a Master Beekeeping course at the University of Nebraska taught by Marion Ellis. In 2007 we went to the University of Minnesota to attend Marla Spivak’s course on Queen Rearing.

This year we were asked to participate in a mentor program for the Iowa Honey Producers Association. We happily accepted the opportunity to educate others on Honeybees. We were assigned to a 12-year old youth in Wever that we have been helping get ready for his first beehive. We love to see people get excited about beekeeping, especially young kids. It has been a good experience for the both of us. We encouraged him to attend a course that was provided to him by the IHPA at Kirkwood Community College in Washington, IA. It was a beginner’s course but we decided to join him. We enjoy meeting with new and current beekeepers.

We also do swarm collecting. We work with local county extension offices and exterminators to safely remove swarms of honeybees. In the present day we need to preserve all the honeybees we can. They play a very important role in pollination and we need as many of them around as possible.

One of our newest projects is speaking with others about beekeeping. We recently attended Mrs. Armento’s class at Richardson Elementary School in Ft. Madison to speak. They were studying a bee unit and wanted to learn more. The kids were great and it was exciting to see what they had already learned about honeybees. We also have an upcoming presentation at Kumar’s Dining for the Lee County Passport Club. Beekeeping is a very fascinating experience and we get asked a lot of questions. We don’t know all the answers but learn something new with every trip to the bee yards!

We sell our honey products at many different locations. It is for sale at Hy-Vee on Angular in Burlington, Hy-Vee on Agency in Burlington, Hy-Vee in Mt. Pleasant, Dean’s Produce in Wever, Kumar’s Dining & Catering in Ft. Madison, and many local farmers markets. We also take orders for delivery by calling (319) 528-6175 or email us at douglashoneybees@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Ron Wehr
After years of being attacked by crows, a colony of seabirds nesting in Tokyo is getting an unlikely ally: the tiny honeybee.

Conservationists hope bees will repel the crows, based on the insects' tendency to attack anything dark-colored that approaches their hives.

This year beehives from rural areas were relocated to the top of a large water-treatment facility near Tokyo's international airport, where as many as 4,000 birds known as little terns nest after a long migration from Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea.

Although they are not endangered internationally, little terns are listed as "vulnerable" in Japan's Red Data Book of threatened species.

That's because the terns' nesting sites in the country are being destroyed by construction work and other human activities, so the birds are considered potentially at risk in the future.

The terns near the airport have long been victims of Tokyo's crows.

In a single prolonged attack five years ago, about 60 crows picked off roughly 300 eggs and 160 young birds, and fewer terns have come to the nesting site since then.

"We spoke to an expert and learned that honeybees in the wild have the natural response of attacking a black object that comes near to their hive," Takayasu said.

"There have been tests with black and white balloons, and the bees always attack the black balloon."

It is believed that the bees' reaction is linked to the color of bears' fur. The insects apparently attack dark-colored creatures to protect their hives from plunder.

"We noticed that the bees swarmed around crows that were taking offerings from white plates left on the outdoor altar of a shrine in Ginza," Takayasu added.

"After a while the crows stopped coming back, so we thought it was worth trying at the terns' nesting site."

Between July and November of last year, two hives were placed on the roof of the Morigasaki Water Reclamation Plant to protect the birds once they arrived in April, and another hive was added this May.

Around 20,000 honeybees currently patrol the terns' nests, according to Masuda of the Little Tern Project, who added that the two creatures are getting on "like good neighbors."

"It is not 100 percent foolproof yet, because the area is quite large, and there do seem to have been fewer birds here this year so far," he said.

"But we are hopeful that it will prove effective over the long term."
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Extracting Kits

Junior Bench Extractor Kit

Junior Bench Extractor Kit—The Junior Bench Extracting kit is the perfect extracting set up for the beginning beekeeper. The kit comes complete with 1 Junior Bench two frame extractor and stand, 1 bottling bucket kit, 1 speed king electric knife, plastic uncapping tub and 1 capping scratcher.

M00390KIT Extractor Kit ............... $499.95

This ships in 4 pkgs.
1 pkg @ 47# 1 pkg @ 8#
2 pkgs @ 35#

Little Wonder Hand-Extractor Kits

Power style also available

Little Wonder Extractor Kits—A step up in size from the Junior Bench but the little wonder extracting kit is perfect for the hobby beekeeper. It is available in both hand and power styles. This four frame extractor comes complete with extractor and stand, 1 bottling bucket kit, 1 speed king electric knife, plastic uncapping tub and 1 capping scratcher.

M00396KIT LW Hand Extractor Kit ........... $554.95

This ships in 4 pkgs.
1 pkg @ 78# 1 pkg @ 8#
2 pkgs @ 35#

M00403KIT LW Power Extractor Kit ........... $629.95

This ships in 5 pkgs.
1 pkg @ 78# 1 pkg @ 13#
2 pkgs @ 35# 1 pkg @ 8#

Ranger Power Extractor Kit

Hand style also available

Ranger Extractor Kits—For those who prefer a radial extractor this is for you. The Ranger extracting kit is available in both the power and hand styles. It is capable of extracting 6 - 6 1/4” frames or shallow frames radially or three deep frames tangentially by using the optional baskets. The 6 frame radial extractor comes complete with extractor and stand, 1 bottling bucket kit, 1 speed king electric knife, plastic uncapping tub and 1 capping scratcher.

“Optional baskets for deep frames sold separately.”

M00400KIT Ranger Hand Extractor Kit ........... $639.95

This ships in 4 pkgs.
1 pkg @ 78# 1 pkg @ 8#
2 pkgs @ 35#

M00401KIT Ranger Power Extractor Kit ........... $896.95

This ships in 5 pkgs.
1 pkg @ 78# 1 pkg @ 13#
2 pkgs @ 35# 1 pkg @ 8#

M00402 Optional Baskets, for Deep Frames, Ship Wt. 8 lbs. ........ $84.75
Officers

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State Apiarist

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andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club
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2420 285th St.
Oskaalooa, IA 52577
(641) 673-3993
weic@kdsi.net

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association
Contact: Arvin Foell
30930  530th Ave.
Kelley, IA 50134
Cell phone  515/597-3060
ahfoell@huxcomm.net

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers
Contact: Frank Pering
210 E. Kirkwood Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50315

East Central Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Terry Dahms
3086 Sycamore Trail NE
Iowa City, IA 52240
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Terry.dahms@gmail.com

North Iowa Bee Club
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Southeast Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Dave Oliver
1603 200th St.
Fairfield, IA 52555
(641) 472-3916

Southwest Iowa Honey Producers
Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
65071 720th St.
Cumberland, IA 50843
(712) 774-5878

Additional Links and Emails

IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

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Iowa Beekeeper Clubs

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American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

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