



The Buzz



July 2018

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



President's Letter--Spotlight on Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer

At the end of May, I received an e-mail from Rhonda Heston, treasurer of the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA). Now before you ask what's so special about a message from Rhonda, let me preface it by stating Rhonda is a gal on top of things and does an outstanding job for the IHPA, keeping me and our board informed. Here's what she wrote:

"I just wanted you to know I ordered the t-shirts today. I sent out four requests for proposals and received four back. I chose Jensen Promotions. Amanda can meet our completion date of 6/23/2018, in time for field day. I have contacted the vendor we used a couple of years ago for the hats because their price is about 1/2 the price of others. This is the logo that will be used on t-shirts. The back will have the full logo we have now. I ordered our standard yellow shirts, as well as black, red royal and Heather gray. I've ordered women's V-neck shirts. We will have long sleeve t-shirts, sweat shirts and hoodies. Long sleeved shirts will be yellow/gold and black. I've ordered aprons in a stone color printed with black ink. Lemon juice had been ordered, 85 cases. We will be out of last year's inventory before the Fair. Cups have also been ordered. Tickets, parking passes and wrist bands have been ordered. I am going to try to get them together for field day, but not sure the packets will be ready - first pick up date is 7/15. Insurance is paid. Charitable gambling license has been requested for the quilt raffle. The temporary food license has also been requested. I have not yet paid for the parade. I'm sure we will have a float, but wanted to be sure before I pay the fee."

Why does this e-mail stand out? It does because Rhonda is an unsung hero in every sense of the phrase. You cannot read any edition of The Buzz without seeing her name at least one, two or three times. She's involved in a lot more than the traditional role of treasurer. Let me tell you about some of her responsibilities and just how much she does for this organization, as best I know.

It's understood she balances the checkbook, pays the bills and ensures tax information and insurance is handled. Additionally, she ensures that the purchasing cards some of us have are paid and receipts collected and items accounted for in the appropriate categories, not to mention other accounting functions she brilliantly handles for the IHPA, such as keeping track of the Queen and Youth Program expenses and providing a treasurer's report for all of our board meetings, as well as any special reporting requests. Ok, so if you haven't understood yet, all of that is a job in and of itself. Then as you read in her e-mail above, she handles the IHPA merchandise ordering; she's our procurement department. That also involves keeping on top of the inventory and knowing when to order more (of what is needed), knowing what is needed in advance and follow through. Her role also

extends to when you order product from our website or through an e-mail request--Rhonda is the one to whom you mail your check. She ensures the product is sent to you.

If you have attended a Summer Field Day or Annual Conference and Meeting, when you register for the event, you send your registration and payment to Rhonda. She keeps track of who is attending and in the case of the Annual Meeting, she keeps track of who will attend on which day and the number of meals needed, AND she's the one who will create your name badge. When you show up for either of these events, it is Rhonda you will find behind the registration table. She'll help you with your membership renewal, sell you a t-shirt, cookbook or hat. She'll get you set up with raffle tickets and take your money for silent auction items won. Serving as the go-to person at both of these events means she misses out on the majority of these events. She does this selflessly.

The IHPA has a membership of over 1,200. As treasurer, it is Rhonda's role to be on top of who has paid their membership dues. This is important because we send The Buzz to only paid members. If your membership has lapsed, you'll hear from her via the Buzz (which you still receive a couple of months beyond being overdue) and via a postcard reminder. Keeping on top of the membership list is also valuable for the creation of the IHPA Membership Directory. I can tell you, I relied heavily on the Membership Directory in 2017 when organizing the Annual Conference and Meeting. We hope to have a new directory available by the State Fair. **Is your information correct?**



Rhonda Heston (right) with Heidi Love, IHPA Sec'y (left)

And speaking of the Iowa State Fair, Rhonda's involvement is paramount to the IHPA's success. Remember from her e-mail, long before the Fair begins, she has purchased tickets, wrist bands and parking passes for our volunteers. During the Fair, daily, a percentage of our earnings must be paid to the Fair office by 8 a.m. or a penalty is incurred. We can't afford to pay

penalties; we must be fiscally responsible. Rhonda ensures the daily accounting is completed and payment made on time. Though you may not see Rhonda during the Fair, I can assure you, she's there behind the booth at a desk, busy counting proceeds and ensuring proper change is on hand, and likely handling things I'm unaware of. And, she's there every day of the Fair.

Once the Fair is over, it's time to start closing the books for the current year (our year-end is September 30). Then it's time to prepare for an annual review of the books to be completed by a volunteer audit committee. Time and energy is required to put things together and in order for the committee and then she needs to be there the day of to answer questions. Summing up the process in a couple of sentences doesn't do the task justice. Like the rest of the board, she has a full-time job, a family and keeps bees.

As president, I rely on every one of our board members. They all do an excellent job. This message is not to diminish their involvement and the great work they do for this organization, I am simply putting the spotlight on Rhonda because she deserves recognition for so much done behind the scenes. If and when you meet her next, please let her know you appreciate her selfless dedication to the IHPA.

I know for a fact she enjoys her role as treasurer. She has told me she wants to continue serving well into the future. Quite frankly, I can't think of a better person for the role. And Rhonda, if I've left something out, it's simply because I'm unaware of all you do. Thank you for your many hours of dedication and the knowledge you garner and share to help guide us all as we lead this organization through the rest of the year and into the next. YOU ROCK!

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President.

What is Raw Honey?

Have you been asked to explain what it means when a honey label states "Raw honey"? Do you know? If so, how do you respond? To put it simply, raw honey is honey that is pure, unheated, unpasteurized and unprocessed. True raw honey retains all of its natural vitamins, enzymes, antioxidants, minerals and phytonutrients. In a nutshell, it doesn't get any better than "raw" when buying honey. Raw honey can be in liquid or solid form and may include bits of pollen, honeycomb or propolis, all of which make it sought out for health reasons.

In varying amounts, raw honey is composed of two main beneficial ingredients: pollen and propolis. We know worker bees dutifully collect pollen from flowers and pack it into empty cells mixing it with nectar and digestive fluids to make a nutritious food for eggs and young larva called bee bread. Pollen is packed with protein, minerals, vitamins, carotenoids and flavonoids which are antiviral and antibacterial. All good stuff, wouldn't you agree?

Propolis is a resinous substance worker bees gather from select trees. Though the resins collected differ from region to region locally and globally, the medicinal properties do not. Propolis is a powerhouse ingredient. It has antibacterial, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory properties. Let it be known, bees have their own well-managed healthcare system; they seek out those plants and trees that will help keep their hive healthy and thriving – and they successfully do this all over the world...co-payments and deductibles need not be met.

Typically low in moisture content, raw honey boasts a high antioxidant level. In temperate climates, raw honey may crystalize after a month or two; this is normal. Don't throw crystalized honey out! You can heat it for 5-15 seconds on high in the microwave (keep the lid on loosely) to re-liquefy. (Editor note: honey heats faster than water does, so be cautious! If you leave it too long in the microwave, the honey will overheat and since many honeys are sold in plastic, the plastic sags out of shape.) A safer method is to put the jar in a hot bath of water on the stove (not boiling). Keep an eye on it and remove when the honey has liquefied. Be sure not to heat the honey too high as this will destroy much of the nutritional and medicinal values.

Submitted by Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President

I need your help. (repeating this note for all the procrastinators to take quick action!!)

It's time to start putting together a new **IHPA Membership Directory**. The goal is to have one published prior to the State Fair. I need your help. Please review your mailing label on the back of this issue of The Buzz. Is your name spelled correctly? Is your address correct? How about the zip code? Did you provide your email address and phone number when you renewed your membership? These are things that will be needed to produce a quality directory. I try really hard to get everyone's name and address spelled correctly, but sometimes I miss. There were many membership renewals received without phone numbers or email address. If you want this information included in the Membership Directory, please email me the information at IHPATreasurer@gmail.com. Please include "Membership Directory" in the Subject line. You can also call me with any changes at 515.724.2124. If I am unable to answer, please leave me a message.

I would like to have all information by April 30th, to allow time to compile the data for the new Membership Directory.

Words from the Queen--Joy Westercamp

Greetings again!

As it feels like summer is rolling around, I am happy to be out of school and to have successfully graduated from high school! Now, I can spend my summer focusing on my apiaries, managing the Honey War Bee Company, and attending my county and state fairs.

In the past month since my last submission to the *Buzz*, I was able to visit Orange Elementary in Waterloo to speak with three classes and the Junior Naturalists. My visit and presentations supplemented those given in the classroom and I was able to learn about the hive kept by the school.

I would again like to thank the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers for getting me started in beekeeping and providing a wonderful abundance of knowledge and experience. At our spring meeting, I was able to share about my activities as Iowa Honey Queen and learn more about the art of queen rearing.

I am very excited about the months ahead and all of the adventures I have in store. Some of the upcoming highlights include Pollinator Fest and the IHPA Field Day. Please contact me via emails to joy@honeywarbee.com about any upcoming events! Thanks again for this incredible opportunity!!!

Go paint a hive!

I once bought some hives from Janie Schrauth. All her boxes were well-kept, nicely painted, and on many of them were painted verses as well as other decorations--flowers, etc. She says she does this in winter when the boxes are resting. Here are some phrases you might consider etching onto your boxes, just to bring positive things to mind when you approach your girls:

Hive Rules: Bee Kind, Bee Honest, Bee Respectful, Bee Positive, Bee Grateful

The breeze, the trees, the honey bees – All volunteers! --

Juliet Carinreap

The keeping of bees is like the direction of sunbeams. — **Henry David Thoreau**

The busy bee has no time for sorrow – **William Blake**

District 3 Updates:

Bee-musings from Mary,

Happy days are here again! At least that is how we are feeling in District 3! We have several clubs up and running and so happy with that. Sharing and learning from others is so beneficial.

But, even better than the clubs, are the bees! So nice to have some strong, healthy bees going into a soon-to-be honey flow. We made splits and have let some successfully grow their own queens with queen cells. Loving that part of the season.

We continue doing mite checks as that is the biggest and ugliest villain in our adventure. Hoping to keep it under control now so we don't get that varroa bomb later. When doing your mite treatments be sure to read the directions carefully as some are heat-sensitive and some are not applied when honey supers are on.

Swarms are another thing we deal with in District 3 as well as all over our fine state. With bees multiplying at fast rates, their little home becomes rather crowded fast. Be sure to keep an eye on the number of seams your bees are filling up and put on another brood box, if needed, or just keep adding honey supers.

I personally love this time of year because the real tough heavy work is done and monitoring is fun. Going out into the bee yard and just sitting and watching the comings and goings of the bees is so relaxing. For us, this is a great hobby that brings us a sweet product to enjoy and pure joy!

"The hum of the bees is the voice of the garden." (Elizabeth Lawrence) Enjoy the hum!

'Bee' grateful, 'Bee' blessed, and 'Bee' a blessing,

Mary Wiltgen, District 3 Director
tmwiltgen@gmail.com 563.920.9628

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrihpa@gmail.com

Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250 Cell 712-449-5010

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.

Sunflowers & Honeybees

A few years ago, I learned that honeybees were attracted to sunflowers, *Helianthus annuus*. As a gardener and beekeeper, I thought, bingo, I'm going to plant sunflowers in my raised beds, right next to my vegetables and herbs and three beehives. The perfect combination, right? Sunflowers are easy to grow and there are many varieties. But which varieties to grow? I simply opened the plethora of seed catalogs which arrived after Christmas and placed a few orders. That was the easy part, or so I thought.

Spring arrived, and I started a few varieties indoors in hopes to get a start on the growing season; others I sowed directly in

the beds. The plants grew quickly. They grew tall and they bloomed beautifully. But, I noticed the flowers were visited more by the birds than the bees. Something wasn't right. I thought I knew about the birds and the bees.

Curious about my somewhat failed project, I did some investigation. It didn't take long for me to learn that not all sunflowers produce pollen. Hmm? Yes, many sunflowers are



grown for the cut flower industry and thus many hybridized varieties produce little or no pollen. That makes sense. A bouquet of beautiful sunflowers adorning your summer table and you're assured your tablecloth won't be forever stained yellow or red. But if you want to attract bees, you want the opposite. You want a flower bursting with pollen. Of the sunflowers I had ordered and planted, only one produced pollen. So, while they were great to watch grow and added height and dimension to my garden, they did little for their full intended purpose. The fault was all mine. I went back to the seed catalogs and sure enough, "pollen free" was noted more often than not in the plant descriptions. How could I have missed that? This type of notification, however, is not the norm for seed packets purchased from your local box store. The only indication on the packet that might lead you to believe it's a non-pollen producing variety is if it states "elegant cut flowers" or perhaps "for vases of blooms."

If you're considering adding sunflowers to your garden or yard with the purpose to attract honeybees, you'll want to grow varieties that produce pollen such as these varieties: *Ring of Fire*; *Giant Sungold*; *Valentine Autumn Beauty Mix*; *Soraya*; *Mammoth*; *America Giant*; *Sunseed*; *Maximilian*; *Jade Sunflower (low pollen)*

I also read honeybees are less attracted to red sunflowers, and sure enough, that was one variety I grew and it was very popular with American Goldfinches. In the end, I did enjoy the sunflowers, the birds were happy, and I became a better Master Gardener and beekeeper through the experiment. I guess that's the fun of learning and sharing the results.

Submitted by Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President

Have You Heard the Buzz?

It's true. Central College in Pella, Iowa has been named a Bee Campus USA affiliate! The Flying Dutchman can now crow about their recent certification as an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program designed to shepherd the strengths of educational campuses to the benefit of our pollinators. This liberal arts college is the first in Iowa to earn the designation among 46 campuses nationwide.

Begun in 2015 in Oregon, the Bee Campus USA program is a spinoff of the Bee City USA program. The campus program aims to enhance not only the campus but enrich the community with goals to 1) ensure the survival of our vital pollinators, 2) engage the community to remove invasive species, 3) improve local food production, 4) stimulate the local plant market, 5) address pest problems in a less toxic manner, 6) increase awareness of seasonal changes and challenges, and 7) increase small, local business opportunities.

Central's half-acre vegetable garden tucked neatly in a neighborhood just on the edge of campus has honeybee hives managed by a student bee club. The garden also features permaculture, native prairie plants and a certified monarch way station, all providing habitat for pollinators.

If you are interested to learn more about the Bee Campus USA or Bee City USA programs, visit their website at www.beecityusa.org. Did you know Mount Vernon, Iowa is Iowa's only acclaimed Bee City, while the state of North Carolina boasts 16 Bee Cities?

Submitted by Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President

The Apiary-Bees and Honey Division at the Iowa State Fair

It's true ... It's not too late to submit your entry or entries to the Iowa State Fair! The Apiary-Bees and Honey Division is looking to fill out every inch of space allotted. The more on display, the more our fellow Iowans and out of state and country visitors will know just how important honeybees are in Iowa. The Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) booth has undergone a partial face lift to make your entries better to see and show them off in the best way possible.

You've heard it before, *TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE*. **The entry deadline is Saturday, July 14.** Entries must be submitted online or postmarked on or before July 14. Absolutely no late entries will be accepted. The entry fee for all classes is \$1.00, except Limited Class 21, Window Display, which is \$4.00. These fees are minimal and affordable for everyone.

If you haven't ordered or picked up a copy of the booklet Erin Miller, IHPA's VP, put together on how to enter items in the Apiary-Bees and Honey Division, there's still time. This booklet not only walks you through the entry process, step by step, it also provides you with all the details you need to know on how to be successful in each class, complete with photos and tips, many tips from past blue ribbon winners. You'll get the inside scoop! Remember, only your entry form needs to be completed by July 14.

There are 24 classes with classes 22-24 reserved for youth only. So you say you're not gifted with beeswax candles, how might you be with a block of beeswax instead? How about

photography? Classes 16 and 17 are devoted to general beekeeping and a specific subject, respectively. Maybe you have mastered one class and taken home several blue ribbons; how about trying a new class? Competition is fun and it teaches valuable lessons for all ages.

In the end if you decide you don't have time to enter your item(s), or your beeswax candles melt in the car on the way to the fair (let's hope that won't be the case), you do not have to submit an entry after you pay your entry fee. Your entries, however, must be in place by noon on Wednesday, August 8.

The best way to have all the above information at your fingertips is to pick up a copy of the IHPA's guide to entering in the apiary-Bees and Honey Division. If you'd like to have your very own, contact one of the board members or district directors. Contact information for all is on the back of *The Buzz* and on the IHPA website. The cost is \$5.00 or a freewill donation of your choice. When you call or e-mail, we will tell you where you can send your check. All proceeds from the sale of this guide will go towards renovations of the IHPA booth.

Our goal is to make the process to enter your items at the Iowa State Fair as easy as possible. We want to see as many entries as our space will allow, and we want everyone to feel they can be successful. This is an opportunity for you to show off your talent. Ready. Set. Go!

Submitted by Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President

Bees come to Tulip Time, Orange City

Some time ago, I joined the board of the Farm Bureau in Sioux County. I hesitated to join because I am not a farmer by vocation, and I live in town. But I found that the Farm Bureau people were enthusiastic about having a niche "farmer" join their ranks. They give me a chance to talk about pollination efforts, ways to protect our bees and our environment all the while allowing farmers to manage their crops suitably. I informed them of a legume that they had never used before--sainfoin. I am still waiting for one of them to plant some and see how it does in NW Iowa. The crop feeds animals without bloating them, can be harvested after the significant bloom, and can provide bees plenty of forage. I also asked them to consider setting up an observation hive outside their office in downtown Orange City, situated right on the parade route of the Tulip Festival in May. We handed out Bronenburg's honey stix and WOW! Did they ever go over well! If any of you ever wants to feature a great little treat, order some of Spring Valley's honey stix and be the life of the party! They are delicious.

Emma's July Recipes!!

July is here with fireworks, busy days, and the Fourth of July. Why not try some patriotic dishes for all your family get-togethers and hot summer days?

Red and White Coleslaw (Pg. 130):

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1 cup mayonnaise | 1/8 teaspoon honey |
| ¼ cup vinegar | 3 tablespoon water |
| 1 small head red cabbage, cored and finely chopped | 1/8 teaspoon pepper |
| 1 small head green cabbage, cored and finely shredded | 1 teaspoon salt |



In a large bowl with a wire whisk or fork, combine the mayonnaise, vinegar, water, salt, pepper, and honey. Add cabbage and toss well. Refrigerate until serving. Makes 10 servings.

Emma's notes: If you would like a sweeter coleslaw, add more honey. Allow the coleslaw to sit in the fridge for a few hours to let the flavors mingle. If you do not want to get two cabbages, a coleslaw mix will work too.

Raspberry Sorbet (Pg. 179):

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 (16 ounce) package frozen raspberries | ¼ cup honey |
| ¼ cup fresh squeezed lime juice including pulp | ½ teaspoon grated lime peel |
| 1 cup water | |

Puree raspberries in blender or food processor. Strain through fine strainer using a spoon to press through the strainer into a medium bowl. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour into a canister of ice cream maker. Freeze according to manufacturer's directions.

Freezer method: pour raspberry mixture into 9" freezer safe pan. Place in freezer 3-6 hours or until firm. Transfer mixture into mixer bowl. Beat with an electric mixer until slushy but not thawed. Return to pan and freeze for 2-4 hours or until firm.

Emma's notes: This sorbet was very good. It was tarter than I was expecting but still very good. If you would like a sweeter sorbet, try ½ cup honey instead of ¼ cup. For a fancy touch, sprinkle a little of the leftover lime zest over the top of the sorbet.



Marion County Days – May 24, 2018

Tom Mulholand and some kindergarteners getting up close and personal with a temporary observation hive in Marion County Park, Knoxville. On the front of the observation hive they get to see bees. While on the back side, they get to smell the bees through the double screen. We recommend a double screen so little fingers and noses don't get stung. This was the 5th year that Jerry & I did honeybee presentations for kindergarteners and without a doubt it was the hottest of the past 5 years. We were very grateful for shade and this year Tom joined us. It's a great opportunity to share the importance of honeybees with these little people.

Submitted by Shiela Weldon

News from the Bee Yard, by Phil Ebert

After the coldest April on record, we had the warmest May. The heat is good. The cold, not so much. Our colonies continued to go downhill during April. There was very little brood emerging to replace the bees that were dying off. This culminated in the worst winter loss we have had in a long time. It pointed out, once again, that beekeeping can be humbling experience. The last few years our death loss has been very manageable and we have increased our numbers every year without buying bees. This year was a step backwards.

It would have been bad anyway without the cold April. We couldn't get our mites killed in the fall. The levels stayed pretty constant no matter what kind of treatment we put in. Apiguard has been effective for several years. We have mixed that with MAQS, Hopguard and a little oxalic acid. Most of our yards started with mite levels in the 8-25 range on ether rolls of approximately 300 bees in the fall. 25 is pretty high to start with. Sometimes they can pull through if you get them treated early enough and help them brood up afterward to get some healthy young bees for winter. For most of those colonies, they were as good as dead. They just didn't know it yet. We have to figure out what our new treatment regimen is going to be.

There was one good thing about late development—school was out. My labor pool increased dramatically. It is a lot easier to keep up when the necessary bodies are available. I am not the stud I once was. I need some help. A lot of the bees have been shifted to the Mt Vernon area. Adam will have more colonies than we do in Lynnville. We did not make any splits from our overwintered colonies until the 1st week of May. Usually, that starts around April 10. The heat in May accelerated things. Apple bloom was two weeks late but black

locust bloomed on time and yellow sweet clover came on strong the last week of May. Trefoil started, also. Brood rearing really took off, too. I was surprised at how well the packages have done. They were installed the first week of April. They were inside for a couple of days but then they went outside to the cold and snow. They were mostly raising half frames of brood until the heat hit. The expansion was obvious. There would be capped brood on one end of the frame and open larva and eggs on the other. Healthy bees are very resilient. The problem is keeping them healthy. (

Given all the chemicals in our environment and in our beehives, I have been quite concerned about residues in the honey. We finally ran a tox screen on our honey and also tested for glyphosate. Sioux Bee was sued because glyphosate was found in their honey. According to the article that ran in the Des Moines Register some time ago, other honey on the store shelves was tested and "high" levels of glyphosate were found. It has been found in the human blood stream in some tests. We are eating it for sure. It registered below the lowest reporting level on our test. The tox screen proved negative also. They cannot report zero. They report it as less than the lowest possible reporting level. This will be an ongoing concern. If honey loses its image of purity, the results will not be good. The tests are not cheap.

For those of you that know Diana, she had an infection that was affecting her brain. It required some surgery at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines. She will be out of action for at least another month (I am writing this June 7). If anyone would like to send a card, her address is Diana Bucklin, 545 210th Ave, Pella IA 50219.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Central Iowa Beekeepers is very well-organized. It is a club that all of us can learn from and pattern our activities after. Jolene Erikson is the one who handles subscriptions to their newsletter, and she says, "You may make updates to your subscription, or add a subscription by sending a notification to: justiowahoney@gmail.com " One of the articles in this latest issue includes a series of instructional questions asked of Margaret Hala (also a board member) Here's an example of one of her Q/A's:

"Q3. How do I know if I've gotten the queen when I do get a swarm captured, and how do I ensure the swarm remains in the hive I install the into?"

"When you remove the swarm from the limb, fence post, wall, etc., the bees will keep returning to that location unless you have captured the queen. Of course, a few will keep returning to where they were because the queen smell is there but will eventually go to the hive box. It helps a lot to have some honey and a frame of brood, if possible, in the hive box when you 'install' the swarm. We like to leave the newly installed swarm setting where we caught them till evening, but it's not absolutely necessary that you do so. Sometimes it's very easy to keep them in place and sometimes nothing you do will keep them."

Perhaps in the fall at the Annual Meeting, we might ask a more mature club like CIBA to reveal to all the other clubs how they organize, what functions they promote, and in general how they run their business. Thanks to all of them for being generous with distribution of their newsletter--I know I look forward to getting their rag each time it comes out. (Editor)

We need your help at the 2018 Iowa State Fair booth!

Dear Beekeepers,

I know it may be hard to start thinking about the State Fair, however, Spring is here and the Iowa State Fair is fast approaching; August 9-19. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building 2nd floor; selling honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise, etc. This is our main fund-raising event, which is needed to help support our various educational programs. We ask our members to help make this event a success by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging product, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples, etc. Each volunteer will be provided with free honey lemonade if you get thirsty while working at the booth, also a FREE pass to get into the fair, plus you get to enjoy the great entertainment at the fair before/after your shift at the booth.

We had a successful 2017 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had some wonderful people volunteer their time and would love to see you again. We encourage new members, friends, families and bee clubs to participate in this event too, because we need everyone's support to make this event a success.

We have three shifts daily: 9am-1:30pm, 1:30pm-6pm and 6pm-9pm (11-14 people needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 9-19, we would like to hear from you. All you need to do is mail the completed tear off slip below, or email the same details to bhlove5@aol.com, or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary) 18488 E Ave, Dawson, IA 50066. Cell: 515-729-1761

1st person: _____

2nd person: _____

3rd person: _____

Child's name & ages: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone no.: _____ Email address: _____

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you. (Fair dates August 9-19.)

We appreciate any help you can provide!

Date: _____ 9:00-1:30pm 1:30pm-6:00pm 6:00pm-9:00pm



A day without a friend is like a pot without a drop of honey left inside. – Winnie the Pooh

EU agrees total ban on bee-harming pesticides (reprinted from American Honey Producers Association nfo@ahpanet.com)

The world's most widely used insecticides will be banned from all fields within six months, to protect both wild and honeybees that are vital to crop pollination. The European Union will ban the world's most widely used insecticides from all fields due to the serious danger they pose to bees. The ban on neonicotinoids, approved by member nations on Friday, is expected to come into force by the end of 2018 and will mean they can only be used in closed greenhouses.

Bees and other insects are vital for global food production as they pollinate three-quarters of all crops. The plummeting numbers of pollinators in recent years has been blamed, in part, on the widespread use of pesticides. The EU banned the use of neonicotinoids on flowering crops that attract bees, such as oil seed rape, in 2013. But in February, a major report from the European Union's scientific risk assessors (Efsa) concluded that the high risk to both honeybees and wild bees resulted from any outdoor use, because the pesticides contaminate soil and water. This leads to the pesticides appearing in wildflowers or succeeding crops. A recent study of honey samples revealed global contamination by neonicotinoids.

Vytenis Andriukaitis, European commissioner for Health and Food Safety, welcomed Friday's vote: "The commission had proposed these measures months ago, on the basis of the scientific advice from Efsa. Bee health remains of paramount importance for me since it concerns biodiversity, food production and the environment."

The ban on the three main neonicotinoids has widespread public support, with almost 5 million people signing a petition from campaign group Avaaz. "Banning these toxic pesticides is a beacon of hope for bees," said Antonia Staats at Avaaz. "Finally, our governments are listening to their citizens, the scientific evidence and farmers who know that bees can't live with these chemicals and we can't live without bees." Martin Dermine, at Pesticide Action Network Europe, said: "Authorising neonicotinoids a quarter of a century ago was a mistake and led to an environmental disaster. Today's vote is historic."

However, the pesticide manufacturers and some farming groups have accused the EU of being overly cautious and suggested crop yields could fall, a claim rejected by others. "European agriculture will suffer as a result of this decision," said Graeme Taylor, at the European Crop Protection Association. "Perhaps not today, perhaps

not tomorrow, but in time decision makers will see the clear impact of removing a vital tool for farmers." The UK's National Farmers' Union (NFU) said the ban was regrettable and not justified by the evidence. Guy Smith, NFU deputy president, said: "The pest problems that neonicotinoids helped farmers tackle have not gone away. There is a real risk that these restrictions will do nothing measurable to improve bee health, while compromising the effectiveness of crop protection."

A spokesman for the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs welcomed the ban, but added: "We recognise the impact a ban will have on farmers and will continue to work with them to explore alternative approaches." In November, UK environment secretary Michael Gove overturned the UK's previous opposition to a full outdoor ban. Neonicotinoids, which are nerve agents, have been shown to cause a wide range of harm to individual bees, such as damaging memory and reducing queen numbers. But this evidence has strengthened recently to show damage to colonies of bees. Other research has also revealed that 75% of all flying insects have disappeared in Germany and probably much further afield, prompting warnings of "ecological armageddon".

Prof Dave Goulson, at the University of Sussex, said the EU ban was logical given the weight of evidence but that disease and lack of flowery habitats were also harming bees. "Also, if these neonicotinoids are simply replaced by other similar compounds, then we will simply be going around in circles. What is needed is a move towards truly sustainable farming," he said.

Some experts are worried that the exemption for greenhouses means neonicotinoids will be washed out into water courses, where they can severely harm aquatic life. Prof Jeroen van der Sluijs, at the University of Bergen, Norway, said neonicotinoids will also continue to be used in flea treatments for pets and in stables and animal transport vehicles, which account for about a third of all uses: "Environmental pollution will continue."

The EU decision could have global ramifications, according to Prof Nigel Raine, at the University of Guelph in Canada: "Policy makers in other jurisdictions will be paying close attention to these decisions. We rely on both farmers and pollinators for the food we eat. Pesticide regulation is a balancing act between unintended consequences of their use for non-target organisms, including pollinators, and giving farmers the tools they need to control crop pests."

Bee do have a smell, you know, and if they don't they should, for their feet are dusted with spices from a million flowers. – Ray Bradbury, Dandelion Wine

RULES FOR 2018 STATE FAIR PRODUCTS BEING SOLD AT THE IHPA BOOTH

- 1.) There will be a 2-person committee, plus booth manager. Bids must be sent to 2 of the 3 on the committee, mailed only. Yes, 2 stamps, 2 envelopes. (No e-mail.)
- 2.) There will be a firm cut-off date of June 15, with the committee meeting on June 23.
- 3.) The committee will meet in a predetermined neutral place. The general IHPA membership will be allowed to witness.
- 4.) All liquid honey and comb honey is to be from 2018 harvest.
- 5.) All glass honey containers and creamed honey containers must have a protection seal.
- 6.) All plastic containers must have a pressure seal. This includes all large containers.
- 7.) All products must show proper labeling (i.e. name, city, phone number, and net weight).
- 8.) Any item not listed on the sheet or specialty items you wish to market at fair booth, is up to the discretion of the booth manager, based on counter space and the ability to supply. (ie. bee related items).
- 9.) Honey for the Honey Lemonade (50-pound buckets) will be a sealed bid only. Low bid takes it all. (This is the only true bid item.)
- 10.) Pollen must have a "US pollen" label.
- 11.) These rules will be reviewed yearly at the January board meeting.



SOLE CLASSES

- 1.) There will be one person that will have a sole class of honey or item based on price list. For example: one person will have ALL 24 oz bears for the fair based on price list. If 2 or more want it, we decide by a draw, winner takes the whole class. Excluding "case lots"; see below on these. Draw order will be most numbers sold last year first to least. You will only be allowed to win every other draw, however, if you are the only one that entered you will get the class. You may enter consecutive classes.
- 2.) All beeswax products (candles, ornaments, blocks, etc.) must be packaged to maintain cleanliness and for presentation.
- 3.) Lip balms, lotions and soaps- this will be at committee and booth manager discretion. Please submit to us by June 15 a list of what you would like to market at the fair for 2018. Please include phone number as the committee may call you on meeting day.

CREAMED HONEY RULES

- 1.) Flavored honey and creamed honey must come from a certified kitchen.
- 2.) A copy of the license must be on file with the booth manager and the booth manager must have with them at the State Fair.
- 3.) More than one wanting to bring a flavor, a draw will decide who brings the flavor.

CASE LOTS

- 1.) The purpose of the case lots is a way for the small beekeeper to provide honey to the fair. (By participating in the Case Lot classes, you forfeit your ability to participate in the "Sole Classes".)
- 2.) If you participate in the "Sole Classes" you forfeit your ability to participate in the Case Lot classes.
- 3.) Case Lot classes are 1-pound glass, the 12-ounce bear and the 1-pound plastic.
- 4.) Case lots will be in case quantities of 24 bottles.
- 5.) You may bring no more than 4 cases of each class.
- 6.) Minimum is one case of 24 for a class.
- 7.) Clean-up rule: In the event the required quantity cannot be fulfilled through the case lot system those participating in "sole classes" will be encouraged to help supply the additional quantity needed of each class through a draw. (One person per class decided by draw if needed).

CUT COMB AND ROSS ROUNDS

- must be in a sealed container
- well-drained without liquid honey
- quality standards will be used (clean capping with all cells capped)
- needs to weigh at least 14 oz.
- MUST be frozen for a minimum of 48 hours prior to arriving at the Iowa State Fair, subject to rejection, booth manager discretion.
- Cut comb and Ross rounds are not a "Sole Class" nor a "Case Class"; open to all IHPA members.

DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS:

- You must deliver products to the booth.
- Plan to deliver your products between Sunday and Wednesday evening.
- All products must be received prior to fair opening at 9:00 am Thursday morning.
- Provide an invoice when product is delivered.
- Please make plans to pick up unsold product on Sunday evening between 9:00 and 10:00 pm or Monday between 8:00 and 12 noon.

	SOLE CLASSES	QUANTITY SOLD FROM 2016 STATE FAIR	QUANTITY SOLD FROM 2017 STATE FAIR	PRICE	I want this class
1	24 ounce bear	417	282	\$5.75	
2	3 pound jug	41	83	\$10.50	
3	2 pound glass	80	104	\$8.50	
4	5 pound jug	38	23	\$16.00	
5	2 ounce bear	448	482	\$1.25	
6	16 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	49	46	\$6.50	
7	8 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	29	31	\$4.25	
8	4 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	28	16	\$3.00	
9	Buckwheat Honey 1 pound	0	0	\$0.00	
10	12 pound gallon jugs	39	23	\$35.00	
11	Honey Stix	35,694	40,897	\$0.10	
	CERTIFIED KITCHEN, SOLE CLASS				
12	Creamed Honey - Regular & Flavored (1 pound)	1815	2281	\$5.50	
15	Flavored Honey	960	962	\$3.50	
	BEESWAX PRODUCTS, SOLE CLASS				
16	Beeswax bars - 1 ounce	91	77	\$2.00	
17	Beeswax bars - 1/2 pound	26	28	\$4.00	
18	Beeswax bars - 1 pound	26	26	\$7.00	
51	Honey (Wooden) Dippers	85	109	\$1.50	
52	11 piece Nativity Set	8	3	\$27.50	
53	Corn Cob Candle	24	27	\$5.50	
54	12" pair Dinner Candles	17	9	\$6.00	
55	8" pair Dinner Candles	21	24	\$5.00	
56	Small Skep with Bear Candle	40	44	\$3.00	
57	Tea lights (12 pack) candles	12	25	\$6.00	
58	Round Pillar Bee	12	15	\$5.50	
59	Pillar 6" Rolled Look Candle	12	15	\$5.50	
60	Square Bee Candle	13	4	\$4.00	
61	Votive (4 pack) Candle	12	23	\$5.00	
62	Turkey Candle	9	11	\$4.50	
63	Lighthouse Candle	11	4	\$4.00	
64	Medium Skep Candle	10	14	\$4.00	
65	Large Skep Candle	5	8	\$6.00	
66	Pillar 10" Rolled Look Candle	3	11	\$7.00	
67	Hand Dipped Pair Candles	0	N/A	\$7.00	
68	Fire Starter (5 pack)	22	23	\$1.50	
69	Bee Pollen (1/2 pound)	61		\$6.00	
70	Bee Pollen (1 pound)	50	100 lbs.	\$10.00	
	CASE LOTS 24 per case				Limit 4 cases per class
71	1 pound glass liquid honey	148	172	\$5.25	
72	1 pound plastic (light honey)	299	348	\$5.00	
73	12 oz. Honey Bear (light honey)	441	368	\$4.00	
					How many can you provide?
74	Comb Honey (Clamshells & Boxes)	585	540	\$6.00	
75	Ross Rounds	18		\$4.50	
Price per pound - you bid, low bid take all					
76	Honey for Lemonade (50 pound pails)	2,890 pounds	2,428 pounds		
	CLEAN-UP				
77	1 pound glass				
78	1 pound plastic				
79	12 ounce Honey Bear				

NOTHING COMPARES — TO IOWA STATE FAIR — MOMENTS

Sometimes the Best of Intentions Fail

In June I asked for your feedback about what you charge for honey in varying containers and sizes. I was really hoping to be able to tabulate the data and share concrete information of what average honey prices are throughout our state. Well, only two people cared to send their information. Even if I included my prices in the data, I wouldn't have a sufficient amount in order to provide worthwhile results. While I am a bit disappointed so few people cared to respond, I do appreciate those who did; thank you, guys.

Submitted by Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President

(Editor: Too bad—we all would have been interested in reading about how prices vary around the state. The fact that this failed might indicate a sea change in the way the culture does things these days. 20 years ago, everyone followed a pretty consistent email protocol; today things vary a lot and many people either don't use email or don't respond when asked. So I stand with you, Eve: it leaves a bit of a hole when you ask for response and nothing comes. I also agree with you: Thanks to those who did respond!)

(Editor: Another "two bits' worth" here—have you all noticed how often I use the phrase "Submitted by Eve Vanden Broek"? Our hard-working president informs us, entertains us, even gives us songs to listen to while we drive! It has been such a pleasure to open her emails, and I just chuckle when I think of how all this is received into our homes. I'm glad you always take the time to submit articles, Eve. Keep up the good work, and never, **never** draw the conclusion that we don't appreciate your many contributions to our lives.)



It's Fair Time.....Almost.

The Iowa State Fair being held August 9-19th is the biggest public event for the IHPA and Iowa beekeepers. If you have never participated I would invite you to do so this year. There are several ways you can participate: sell honey, volunteer to work at the IHPA booth (super fun) or submit a fair entry.

Each year the IHPA publishes information regarding submitting a bid to sell honey and value add products at the fair. Last year the IHPA improved the bidding process so that smaller producers can participate. If you can produce a single case of one-pound jars you can sell your honey at the fair. Don't let questions stop you from participating! Call Roy Kraft for help with your honey bid.

WE NEED YOU! It takes many volunteers to work the IHPA booth located directly above the famous Butter Cow in the Ag building. The sale of honey lemonade is our largest fund raiser and helps support the Youth Scholarship and Queen Programs. Last year we volunteered as a family and had one of the best fair experiences to date. Our boys are already planning to work again this year. There are many jobs available to fit everyone's needs and preferences. Plus, as a bonus you will receive free admission to the fair for working a shift and all the honey lemonade you can drink. Sign up sheets will be available at the Summer Field Day in Sioux Center June 30th. If you have any questions or would like to sign up now contact Heidi Love for more details.

The 2018 Premium Books and Entry forms are now available for the Iowa State Fair and entries will be accepted on May 1st. The final due date for entries is July 14th. Submitting an entry into the State Fair can be intimidating for the first timer, but I would encourage everyone to participate. Entering the fair allows you to get judges' feedback on your products and the possibility of adding a few extra dollars in your pocket. If you are unsure of how to enter the fair, the IHPA has created a booklet containing general information and details on each exhibit to help guide you through the entire process. Booklets are available for a donation (donations will be used to renovate the fair booth) and will be available at the Summer Field Day. For more information regarding how to enter the Iowa State Fair or how to obtain a booklet please contact your District Director.

Nothing Compares to the Iowa State Fair's Moments! Join us this year at the fair.

Shane Bixby and Erin Miller, IHPA Vice President

Looking forward to November--The IHPA Annual Meeting will happen November 9 and 10, 2018. We'll all gather in the wonderful facilities in Iowa State in Ames for an inspiring and informative conference. No one goes home without lots to think about. Mark Your Calendars, and join us in the fall!

Mobile Honey Extraction

Honey extraction is fun and exciting but also can be an overwhelming chore with setup and the mess. We always look forward to our “liquid gold” being in a container ready for use at a moment’s notice. When we only had a couple of colonies we did not invest money into an extractor but relied on someone else, either borrowing their equipment or scheduling with them to extract our honey. As time went on, we partnered with two other beekeepers and purchased a 12-frame extractor. This partnership worked well and still does. We schedule and move the extractor from place to place or bring the honey supers to the extractor. Many times the extraction was done at our place, which I did not mind.

Over the years, we increased our colonies to the point that we had the majority, and with that I felt I should be the one doing the cleanup. It did help that we had a hot water spigot in the garage also. So with doing a lot of extracting also comes a lot of mess. This last year for us our whole garage became “sticky” and for whatever reason we did not do as good a job of getting the bees out of our supers. You all know what happens when there are bees in an attached garage and the door going into the house stays open just one time. The wife was not happy! It took a lot of fresh liquid gold honey to sweeten her up again. The daily “honey squeezes” still happen.

As we finished extracting for the year, we thought how we could improve our extraction process. We had two main and secondary goals we wanted to accomplish: Contain the mess, being portable and not having bees in the garage.

The idea of an extracting trailer came to mind. The equipment would all be in the trailer, quickly set up, portable and the mess would be contained. The bees could just be let outside and not buzz our kitchen light. Needless to say, this would cost some money and be a large investment. That led to the idea of possibly using this trailer for custom honey extraction to help pay for it. I asked others what they thought of the idea. They responded positively, possibly with a slow start but

better as time went on. Many beekeepers that have extractors have been asked to extract other’s honey. It is an enjoyable time talking about bees and sharing stories. With this trailer all you need to do is present clean, bee-free supers in one door and out the back comes your extracted supers and your honey ready for use. No mess on your part, no need to worry about bees in your garage, no honey extraction equipment to purchase, store and find the next year.

Out of all of this, we purchased a trailer and outfitted it with extraction equipment making a mobile honey extracting unit to meet our goals. We use a traditional hand hot-knife uncapping method as to not potentially ruin the comb as some mechanical uncappers can. We also do not need to fight the frames as they can vary in thickness and design. We have a Dadant 20-frame radial extractor with variable speed control. Getting your “liquid gold” honey into your container ready for use no longer needs to be a chore but an enjoyable experience. Leave the mess to us and contact us for a “spinning process”.

Honey & Ewe Farm.

Randy & Becky Elsbernd 641-420-7297

Mobile Honey Extracting Unit

Get your honey from the supers to the bucket. Honey extraction at your site featuring hand hot knife uncapping and 20 frame radial extractor to process your honey quick and easy. Save time and eliminate the sticky mess, let us do your honey extraction for you!



- Honey supers must be pulled, clean and bee free
- 20 amp electric plug in required-110
- Deep super \$20
- Shallow super \$15
- Clean up fee \$30
- Travel charge \$.75 mile-1 way
- Wait time assessed @ \$25/hr
- Wax cappings are part of payment
- Buckets available for purchase
- Refractometer available

Call today

to schedule your time



Answers: to Who Knew:

1. C; 2. B; 3. B; 4. A; 5. B; 6. A; 7. C.

Who Knew?

1. One pollen granule, what you see the worker bee bringing into the hive, contains how many pollen grains?
 - A. 5,000 to 10,000
 - B. 10,000 to 50,000
 - C. 100,000 to 5,000,000
2. One pound of honey is made from the nectar of how many flowers? .
 - A. 2,000
 - B. 2 million
 - C. 20 million
3. An apitherapist is:
 - A. Someone who represents the beekeepers of their state
 2. A trained professional who administers bee stings to a patient
 3. A practitioner who will help diagnose diseases of the hive
4. The busiest time in an Iowa beehive is:
 - A. Spring
 - B. Summer
 - C. Fall
5. How many flakes of wax does it take but make one pound of beeswax?
 - A. 100,000
 - B. 500,000
 - C. 1,000,000
6. Bee bread is:
 - A. A mixture of pollen and honey used to feed developing bees
 - B. A type of bread made with pollen and fed to honeybees during a nectar dearth
 - C. An artisanal bread made with finely crushed honeybees served best with tea
7. Before answering a call to collect a swarm, you should first:
 - A. Call another beekeeper to help you because you cannot do it alone
 - B. Light your smoker because it's often difficult on the spot
 - C. Ensure the 'swarm' is actually honeybees and not wasps



(Glance back at the bottom of Page 14 for answers) [Then argue with your family]

FOR SALE: Approx 200-6 5/8 supers with 8 drawn combs per box-- \$20 each. Approx 40 empty 6 5/8 boxes--\$6 each. Contact Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net



P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc.

Hive Kits Special

**1 – 6 5/8 honey supers w/ wood frames and rite-cell foundation
Unassembled is \$35.00 or assembled & painted - \$45.00 (plus tax)**

Pat & Peggy Ennis, 2105 110th St Goodell, IA 50439, 641-444-4767 pphoneandbeesupply@gmail.com

**Promoting the beekeeping craft since 1981
Supplying your beekeeping needs with helpful and friendly service.**

IOWA BEE CLUBS:

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club

Contact: Jim & Tina Marshall
2923 Jones Ave
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Ph: (641)-660-0983
marshalljt@wildblue.net

Boone River Beekeeping Club

Contact: Roy Kraft
PO Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542
Ph: (515) 293-2458
kroyster.rk@gmail.com

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

Contact Mike Sander, Pres.
1104 Scenic View
Altoona, IA 50009
Ph: (515) 205-9204
masander3@gmail.com

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

Contact: Ellen Bell
10458 SE Vandalia Drive
Runnells, IA 50237
Ph: (515) 707-9951
ellenbell.ia@gmail.com

East Central Iowa Beekeepers

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

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa

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

Great River Bend Beekeepers

Contact: David Hayes
1749 110th St.
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060
Ph: 563-678-2862
prairiecreekfrm@netins.net

Iowa B Club

Contact: Shane Bixby
Wickiup Hill Learning Center
10260 Morris Hill Rd
Toddville, IA 52341
Ph: (319) 721-3493
admin@IowaBClub.org

Loess Hills Beekeeping Association

Chris Ruhaak
22524 Hunt Avenue
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-7978
LHBA@LoessHillsBA.com

North Iowa Bee Club

Contact: Randy Elsbernd
19050 Thrush Ave
Mason City, IA 50401
Ph: (641) 420-7297
randlejd2210@gmail.com

Northwest Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Larry and Marlene Boernsen
6724 200th St.
Ocheyedan, IA 51254
Ph: (712) 320-1907
Lm5kbees@gmail.com

Omaha Bee Club

Contact: Linn Danzer
235 E. Orchard Ave
Council Bluffs, IA

Quad City Beekeeping Club

Contact: Ron Fischer or Doug Dahlin
Ph: 563-340-7498
qcbeeclub@yahoo.com

Red Rock Beekeepers

Contact: Jerry/Sheila Weldon
210 N. Iowa St (Extension Off)
Knoxville, IA 50138
Ph: (641) 891-4071 or 891-2268
weldonjs@windstream.net

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers

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

Southwest Iowa Beekeepers

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

Siouxland Beekeepers

Contact: Ron Rynders
890 13th Ave SE
Sioux Center, IA 51250
Ph: (712) 449-5010
rrihpa@gmail.com

Tama County Bee Keepers

Jim & Penny Dolezal
1460-370th Street Tama, Iowa 52339
Ph: (641) 751-2985 or 751-2566
busybeeacres@yahoo.com

Southern Iowa Hive Handlers

Ph: (402) 321-3754
Contact: Scott Kent
100 South Main
Osceola, IA 50213
Ph: 641-414-1600
clarkeccb@gmail.com

In the box above you'll see the names of the Iowa Beekeeping organizations that I'm aware of. We are listing them this month so that you can please check the accuracy of the information. If you've had elections and officer changes, or if clubs have been added, please respond to Ron Rynders right away. We hope to have some meetings in November (Ames) at the Annual Meeting to discuss how to be more effective as clubs. If you are reading this rag and don't belong to a club, make sure to seek out a club nearby. If you live in an area where there is no club, then please contact your District Director (see the back of the Buzz) and help to get one started.

One of the best uses of a club is to connect with someone who'll serve as your mentor. One sad syndrome: Buy a new bee setup (expensive!), lose it the first winter. Buy more bees (still expensive!). Get little honey. Lose them the second winter. Quit.

 **16** Clubs can help enhance the fun of the hobby, refresh your hope, and promote pollination efforts for the benefit of bees!

2017-2018 Colony Loss Survey Results: What Can We Say?

Written by Karen Rennich, Executive Director, The Bee Informed Partnership 5/23/2018
krennich@umd.edu www.beeinformed.org
www.bip2.beeinformed.org

US Beekeepers report over 40% annual loss in the Bee Informed Partnership's 2017-2018 survey. This survey, now in its 12th year, highlights the continued struggles of beekeepers nationwide and reflects the large time and financial investments that are needed to maintain a pollinator force for our agricultural system. The value of this study is to document and examine long term trends in honey bee health. We appreciate all beekeepers who participated and added to the understanding of these critical metrics.

Prior to 2006, there was no regular, standardized survey to quantify and document honey bee colony losses in U.S. operations. At the height of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) in 2006 and 2007, the Apiary Inspectors of America took it upon themselves to survey as many commercial operations as they could by phone. In total, 384 operations were contacted and the annual winter loss survey was born. The survey continued in that phone format for several years until the 2009/2010 survey. At that time, the basic winter loss questions were available in an online survey. In 2011, the Bee Informed Partnership was granted funds to expand and create an online survey of convenience for all U.S. beekeepers. This initial online survey took place in 2011 and we began to include questions beyond the degree and extent of losses. We also began to link, and continue to do so, management practices associated with increased survivorship. These management practices include treatments, supplemental feeds, and timing and dosage of such, but also asks what crops are nearby, if the operation engaged in pollination services, how much honey the average colony makes and many other factors. Furthermore, the survey now also looks at summer losses, building on the initial winter and annual losses. With this survey, we are able to track differences in losses between commercial, sideliner and backyard beekeepers as well as stationary and migratory. Before this effort to record losses, there were no other numbers to compare what "normal" losses are for beekeepers and what is considered excessive.

This year, **4,794 beekeepers, collectively managing 175,923 colonies in October 2017, provided validated survey responses.** This represents 6.6 percent of the nation's estimated 2.67 million colonies (USDA NASS Honey Report 2018). During the Winter 2017/18 season (October 1, 2017 – April 1, 2018), an estimated 30.7 percent of managed colonies in the United States were lost (Fig. 1). This represents an increase of 9.5 percentage points compared to last year, and an increase of 2.8 percentage points compared to the 10-year average total winter loss rate of 27.9 percent.

Similar to previous years, Backyard Beekeepers lost more colonies during winter (46.3%) compared to Sideline (38.0%) or Commercial (26.4%) Beekeepers. Backyard, Sideline, and Commercial Beekeepers are defined as those managing 50 or fewer, 51 – 500, and 501 or more, colonies, respectively.

Interestingly, the self-reported level of acceptable winter loss increased from 20.6% to 18.7% this last year. Whether this is due to beekeepers becoming more pessimistic (or realistic) is too soon to

tell; however, 69% of participating beekeepers lost more than was deemed acceptable.

During the Summer 2017 season (April 1 – October 1, 2017), an estimated 17.1% percent of managed colonies were lost in the country. This level is on par with the summer lost estimate of the previous year.

For the entire period (April 1, 2017 – April 1, 2018), U.S. beekeepers lost an estimated 40.1 percent of managed honey bee colonies; this is an intermediate annual rate of loss recorded since 2010-2011, the year that these data began to be recorded.

How do we explain these higher losses this year? It is important to know that the Loss Survey's objective is to document trends, not determine their cause(s). Also, there are a lot of different factors that affect honey bee health, and ultimately, colony loss. But we venture a few opinions.

In the past, we have looked at the Varroa mite infestation loads in the fall from an independent National Survey (APHIS National Honey Bee Disease Survey) and noticed an association with colony mortality in the winter at the state level. States with higher Varroa loads in September also presented higher mortalities that winter. We did not find this surprising: Varroa mites are the number one (and likely numbers 2 and 3 and maybe 4) cause of colony mortality in our books. It is tricky however, to demonstrate the causality link in the field, even more so when dealing with a social organism made off tens of thousands of smaller organisms. Working with real-life conditions in the field also means having to make adjustments, for example, recognizing that "autumn" and Mother Nature don't really care what month it is, and that the period of time when honey bees rear winter bees and brood area contracts really occurs over a moving period that varies considerably by region. September in Florida looks very different, weather wise, then September in Maine. So our next step is to add some of those factors in our modelling efforts.

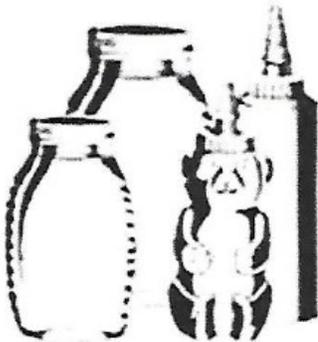
In addition, as many of us remember, last year was an anomalous year for floods, wildfires, hurricanes, severe heat and drought. There is no doubt that extreme climatic conditions challenged honey bees and beekeepers alike. Also, many of the Varroa mite treatments can only be applied during a narrow temperature window and any temperatures outside of that window voids the efficacy of the product or creates dangerous conditions for the bees. So those factors might have affected the loss observed this winter. Finally, we also think we are still on the cusp of getting beekeepers to monitor frequently (monthly) and treat by need rather than prophylactically or by the calendar. There are still misconceptions and barriers to adoption for Varroa mites' treatments, especially by backyard beekeepers.



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