

The Buzz

Newsletter of the

Iowa Honey Producers

Association

April 2025



<https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/>



**Learn about membership
and how you can help
others join on Page 3.**

**The IHPA Historian needs
your help! Get details
on Pages 6 and 7.**



**A long-time bee club is
gearing back up.
See where on Page 14.**



Mahaska County, Iowa

The Buzz

The Buzz is a monthly publication printed by the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA). This is one of the many perks of being an IHPA member!



You may opt to receive an electronic version of The Buzz, as a donation to the IHPA.

Please contact the editor at:
ihpaeditor@gmail.com

Letters from the Wildhills

April showers brings May flowers?? We can only hope. After what seemed like a small eternity, spring is finally here and our first busy season is upon us, at least for us hobbyist/smaller operations. For our commercial beekeepers, I'm not sure you ever get a break. I joke about April showers because I know how badly our state needs to get rain, and not the thunderstorms, rather the all day, long slow soaks. It's a bit of a quandary really, as beekeepers we want our bees out and about living their best life, but the rains also help supply subsoil moisture that a lot of our plants need, as do our farms. It's been way too dry this past 12 months. In actuality, I'm just hoping for a "normal" spring where we get a bloom from the black locust (we didn't in 2024) and perhaps things level out for once. Look at me, going on about the weather as if I have some kind of control over it (that would be amazing). Full disclosure, I'm not a fan of anything higher than 85 degrees.

Let's move on from that.

What's going on over here at Wildhills? Growth, after some debate and sleeping on it more than awhile, I've decided to expand again, pushing to the 40 colony mark. It was a big decision given the winter losses. After seeing



what I was left with, for a moment I thought I would just stay where I was at, and focus on rebuilding, but if I truly want this to turn into something, I have to deal with it and push on. I need to lean into the excitement for the future. It wasn't an easy decision. I joke about CrossFit being my most expensive hobby....not even close these days. I also travel a lot for work, and like we all know, it's not like you can call your neighbor and ask them to check on your bees. I laugh about it when I mention it to people. So, this April I will start installing package bees and in May fill out the rest of my boxes with Nucs. Moreso, I'm going to find myself recruiting the best little helpers in the world to help me paint boxes and wax frames. My goddaughter and nephew, or as I call them, my little humans.

Growth is exciting, and when we look at our organization, that's the goal as well. Perhaps the largest aspect of this is the tax bill being worked on. HR Cook and Jamie Beyer have been pounding the pavement this year securing more sponsors for the bill than ever before - and it's paying off (thank you, gents!!). This year we are excited for Summer Field Day being hosted at Ebert's located in Mt. Vernon this coming June, offering a wide array of educational topics and getting into some hives to see the pros inspect and explain what they see while they are in there. Growth is listening to HR Cook and Jason Foley talk



Letters from the Wildhills

about Conference coming up this fall realizing Iowa Honey Producers Association continues to invest in our Conference, growing it to the largest (and best) conference in the Midwest. We are even striving to grow in this newsletter, expanding our content to not only have my life stories, but helpful tips and tricks from fellow IHPA board members. Gosh this is an exciting time, it's an exciting time to invite others into our organization.

Now this isn't a membership pitch, but in the past month or so, I have been lucky enough to join in on a few different local club meetings and I'm always amazed that everyone there isn't a member, so I thought I would make it a little easier to join. Within this article is a QR Code linking you to the IHPA website where you can either sign someone up

or have them get signed up on their own. Heck, I'll even include a membership application below for you to hand to someone in your club who could join...after all, our Facebook pages have around 3,500 members. Let's grow the Iowa organization.

With that, I will say thank you for your time. Spring is here, and there's work to be done.

Bee Real,
Chris Puetz



Scan the QR code to take you to the IHPA membership page.



Iowa Honey Producers Association Membership Form



IHPA Membership Dues: \$30 (\$5 for additional members in the same residence)

Primary Member's Name

Street Number

City

State

ZIP Code

Phone
Number

Email

Additional member
name and email

May we place your info in
our directory?

Membership Includes:

\$30 discount on registration for the Annual Conference and \$10 discount on Field Day for all family members.

Access to association resources on beekeeping and proper apiary management.

A voice in the direction and policies of Iowa honey bee management and conservation through our partnerships during the Iowa legislative sessions.

IHPA monthly Buzz newsletter printed and mailed to you as well as an emailed PDF version.

Membership in IHPA helps support the future of beekeeping through our youth mentorships, scholarships, and Queen programs.

Mail Forms and Payments to:

TREASURER: Lisa Montgomery 2543 170th St. Livermore, Iowa 50558

IHPA Officer & Director News

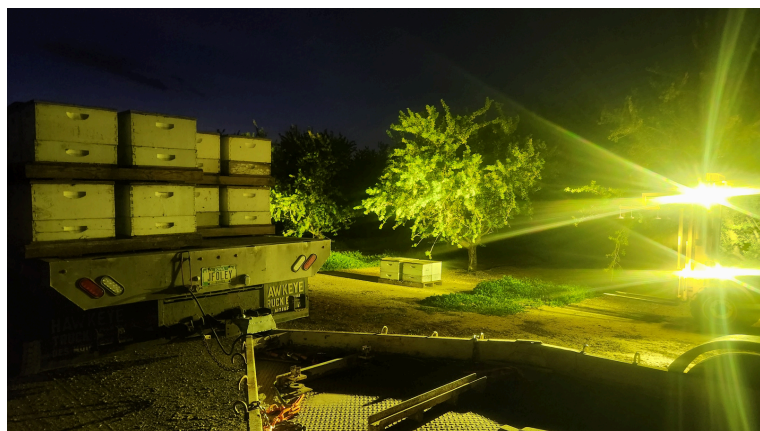
Ramblings from The Russian Bee Guy

Past President, Jason Foley

In my last story, Andy and I had just gotten our new swingers from overseas and played around with them a bit. Since then I went out west to work in the almonds for the month of March and put her through the ringer. So far she is a great machine. Nothing is too big/heavy of a job. I feel really comfortable driving around with triple stacks of 6-way pallets (bee pallets that have 6 hives of double 8 frame equipment). So literally 18 hives when you pick up a triple stack. The fork positioning on the machine is a little wider than normal giving me some better balance. She's plenty fast in rabbit speed topping out at about 15 mph. So for those fields where you can't get your truck back in and are forced to drive out all of your loads you can still make great time. And so much great lighting on the machine. I thought the side lighting was going to be too much and be distracting and instead it makes you feel even safer and worry free that you won't run into things turning or backing up. The bees also haven't minded the yellow lights at all.

I really only have 2 complaints. One is that it isn't a hydrostatic foot pedal drive. For those of you not familiar with this, it's an accelerator pedal that when you push it forward, you go forward, and when you tilt it back, you go backwards. They are exceptionally common on swingers. This machine has a normal gas pedal like in your car along with a brake pedal on the other side. You switch from forward/neutral/reverse with a little toggle on the joystick. It takes some practice for someone so used to a hydrostatic foot control. So more or less it isn't better or

worse, just something that is a shortcoming of the operator and I have to get used to. The other issue was with the vertical clamp... Ok, so it worked perfect for triple stacks of standard sized equipment. But since I am moving every Tom, Dick, and Harry's bees out here, there is the occasional person who doesn't have standard stuff. I ran into issues with one guy's stuff who had 1-inch thick runners on the bottom of his pallets, then the pallet had full 3/4 inch decking, and then the runners under his hive boxes were also 3/4 inch lumber, and he had the meaty lids that were 3/4 inch with then 1/2 inch rims.... I put a tape measure on it and his stacks were a full 5 inches taller than any of the other stuff we work with. This was causing my clamps to catch on his lids. I made some modifications in the shop here and now I can hit a sweat spot where I can still grab standard double stacks and accommodate over built triple stacks. It isn't perfect, but I can squeeze in and do it.



IHPA Officer & Director News

Ramblings from The Russian Bee Guy

Past President, Jason Foley

So far things have been fairly good out here. We had some nasty rain to start off the trip, but then a week and a half of good weather. It just rained again all yesterday and unfortunately right now is when things are kicking into high gear and we need to keep working rain or shine. It's less about us being in the rain and getting wet, and more about how the rain makes it so we can't get trucks into fields and have to shuttle the hives in and out long distances. Also the farmers really hate us working in the mud because we end up leaving big ruts in the orchards that they then have to come back and grade flat. Just a couple more weeks and I get to head back to Iowa and then it will be package bee season!

Tyler Holton will probably agree with this, but the hardest thing is just being away from home. My wife is a saint and is covering for me with all the hive kits people are coming and picking up and even is running a vendor table at CIBA while I am away. It's not easy when she already has an overflowing schedule to then pick up the slack of your partner. Oh, and don't forget, it's further complicated because I'm working at night and sleeping during the day. So the hours you can call or message each other become drastically limited.

Being out here and doing something different than the normal makes it easier. Kinda like a vacation where you aren't necessarily having that much fun but it was still nice to break away from your normal daily routines. But I do miss that little chipmunk.

Alrighty, we'll leave this one on the shorter side of stories. Hopefully many of you made it to the capitol for Honey Bee Day and have been writing in to get our bill passed! Man, it's been more than 3 years I've been fighting to get this bill passed for Iowa beekeepers, it sure would be nice for it not to get cut off once again during the funnel weeks.



IHPA Historian

Hungry Historian Hankers for Historical Hints

By Tina Marshall

Terrible alliteration, I know, but it does read accurately. This is your Historian, and I am looking for some historical information to beef up our archives. That's the story here today.

I have been digging deep through the collections that have been kept so far. With so much, it can become overwhelming to see the big picture at times. Perhaps that is why I see bullet points of the process and not the end result at the moment. In my discoveries so far, I have found plenty of tidbits to chew on and form into articles for this spot. I've also begun the process of making chronological binders, divided by subject, for easy future reference. In so doing, I have seen redundancies and room for improvement. I have also seen impressive record keeping and history summarizations. All to be expected with multiple inputs over many years. I suspect with each passing person in this office, there is a little bit (in our unique differences) that we can do to organize, maintain, purge, beef up, label, etc. With that thought in mind, here is where my head is. I see a few things missing and the answer to these missing links is within you the membership.

Here is how you can help. Below is a list of some items that we are and are not currently looking to keep in our association archives. If you can contribute to the collection, please feel free to pass them along (either for permanent addition or temporary reproduction.) If you hold a treasure, and are unsure how to proceed, please reach out!

We DO NOT want:



- books, unless there is a strong Iowa or Association connection
- periodicals, unless there is a strong Iowa or Association connection
- large items, not easily stored in totes or passed between Officers
- undated, undocumented, unidentified pieces
- items that would be better for the auctions at the Annual Meeting

We DO want:



- items that can be cataloged in organized, chronological binders
- names, dates, and stories of significant people that have left their mark on Iowa's rich beekeeping history (published or original works)
- list of Board Officers from 1996 (it's the only year missing since 1912)
- newspaper articles about Iowa beekeepers or honeybees, or the Association, mounted on 8.5x11 archival paper with newspaper's name, date, location
- annual meeting programs
- grant updates
- Iowa beekeeping or honey research, formal or informal
- significant photos, dated and labeled
- Iowa Governor's Proclamations
- interactions with other organizations, associations, or federations (governmental or otherwise)
- Buzz' before 2006 (We have a scattering. Some years are complete, some are hit or miss, some are completely absent. The ultimate goal is to get these all digitally archived on the website. If you have some to contribute, please be in contact before physically transporting them.

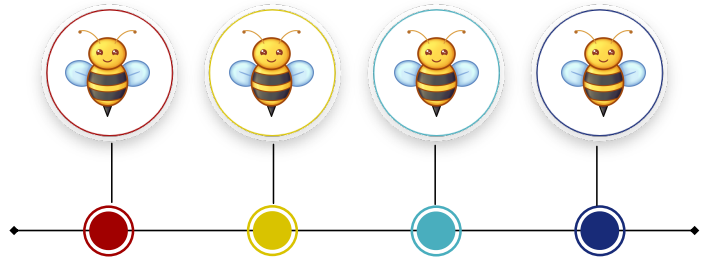


IHPA Historian

Alongside the archive's maintenance, a project I aspire to do is create a tangible timeline of beekeeping in Iowa. I love the idea of displaying this at the Annual Meeting, with the intention that it be interactive and alive, full of both words and items. Here is some idea of the things I am looking for.

Beekeeping Timeline:

- what CLUBS are/were around the state, when did they start, when did they end
- IOWA honey bee, beekeeping, and/or honey significant dates
- LEGISLATIVE - Iowa (or national) honey bee or honey regulatory changes
- HONEY evolution around the state - popular sizes, products, extraction techniques, etc.
- HONEY BEE introductions into the state - viruses, products, breeds, hive types, inventions
- IHPA points of progression
- NEWSLETTER progression, creation, changes, editors, additions, distributions, formats
- IOWA STATE FAIR classes, rules, building or ground locations, retail offerings, fundraisers
- ANNUAL MEETING locations, prices, duration, agendas, contests



- QUEEN or YOUTH beginnings, progressions, changes

History can be overwhelming. It's hard to see it all in one picture. I feel this a lot when I am working on my genealogy or enjoying a Sunday afternoon movie of *Dances with Wolves*. We often forget the overlap that can happen. These isolated times we observe don't happen in a bubble. What else was happening - in the world, in this country, in this family at the same time? Having homeschooled our children for a few years now, we have come to love making timelines. It is the only way to truly see how art, culture, science, exploration, wars, religion, famous people, and our personal stories intermingle. In this overlap, the beliefs and values of people start to make more sense. Often resulting in our modern-day amazement and intrigue of history.

Well, I'm pretty sure I've overextended my word count for this article. Time to wrap it up. I hope you will join me in the quest to promote, understand, and complete the history of beekeeping in this state. Part of that story is the Iowa Honey Producers Association. As I sign out, I have to applaud loudly all those that loved and trusted this organization enough to volunteer their gifts and talents to make it what it is today. Bee alive!



In 2025 we are excited to announce that Summer Field Day is going to traveling to the eastern side of Iowa, and we are working on securing a location in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area.

The date of the event will be on June 21 and registration will open mid-March 2025. The planning committee of Sara and Tyler Holton and myself are working to bring you a day of topics to help you in your beekeeping journey no matter where you are, and also be able to get into the Apiary and observe some inspections. This will be an event you do not want to miss!

If you are interested in participating in terms of being a host location or have a facility we can utilize for presentations please reach out to either Sarah or me.

IHPA Officer & Director News

Legislative Update

From H.R. Cook

It's hard to believe we're finally coming out of winter! As I checked my hives, I'm still running at a 50% survival rate. Some of us have gone through years where we lost all our hives. I remember wondering if I was cut out to be a beekeeper as I collected my dead-outs and read about other beekeepers coming out of winter with live bees. Jealousy washed over me—"don't rub it in!" 😊

To those who have lost their hives, keep going. We learn from loss. To everyone else, support the new beekeepers who haven't experienced the losing end of winter and encourage them to keep going... "don't rub it in!"

Legislative News

Locally and nationally, there's some news from the legislative front:

HF247 is still waiting to be heard by the state Ways and Means Full Committee. The bill must come out of committee before getting voted on by the house. We're asking members to write just one more time to the Ways and Means Committee to vote "yes" on HF247, the elimination of sales tax from honeybees.

Ways and Means Chair Rep. Bobby Kaufmann:

bobby.kaufmann@legis.iowa.gov

Ways and Means Ranking Member Rep. Dave Jacoby:

david.jacoby@legis.iowa.gov

An interesting bill has been making the rounds in the state house that could benefit Iowa beekeepers:

HF 369 (formerly HF 33) - Agricultural Education

Grants: This bill establishes an agriculture education grant program within the Department of Education to expand student access to instruction related to agriculture, food, and natural resources. The bill defines "agriculture education program" as instructional programs provided by school districts to students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in the agriculture, food, and natural resources portion of the career and technical education instruction.



National News

Great news on the national front! The **Honey Integrity Act**, introduced by Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville, essentially cracks down on producers of fake honey, sets standards and definitions for real honey, and puts some teeth into punishing violators, thus helping to level the playing field for American honey producers.

Key Provisions of the Honey Integrity Act:

Creates a Federal Standard of Identity for Honey:

Requires the FDA to establish a formal definition and standard for honey to prevent mislabeling and ensure product integrity.

Enhances Federal Oversight: Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to submit a report to Congress detailing enforcement actions against adulterated and misbranded honey.

Mandates the Destruction of Adulterated Honey:

Ensures that when fraudulent honey is identified, it is destroyed—protecting consumers and honest beekeepers.

Strengthens Consumer Protection: Holds fraudulent sellers accountable while avoiding unnecessary government expansion, fees, or regulatory burdens.

Accountability Without Government Overreach: The Honey Integrity Act creates the Honey Integrity Program, an enforcement mechanism to stop those who misrepresent or knowingly sell adulterated or misbranded honey.

This bill has not been passed or voted on yet, but we as beekeepers have been waiting for action for some time.

Thank you to everyone who helped and helped lobby at Honeybee Day at the state capitol. It was fantastic to have the support and interaction with our lawmakers. They listen to beekeepers and we have a great story to tell!



Marketing Mistakes

When it comes to bottling your honey it can feel a bit overwhelming due to the endless container options. What sizes should you offer? Is glass or plastic better? How big of a label window do you need? Paragon, Queenline, Mason, Muth? Unique or traditional? And where to buy from?

The answers to those questions are not cut and dry. Only you know what is best for you and your business. However, here are some things to consider...

When considering what sizes options to provide for your jars of honey, think about your end goal. Is beekeeping strictly a hobby and you just want to give everyone a jar for Christmas? Do you have a limited supply that you want to stretch? Or are you wanting the opposite, to sell your honey as fast as possible? Maybe you are somewhere in the middle and want to provide size options for your customers.

Having a small amount of honey because you are just getting started or had a bad year, you might consider smaller jars: 2 oz, 4 oz, or even 8 oz to get the most amount of jars per pound of honey. Maybe you don't want to deal with retailing honey at all and just prefer to sell it in buckets or gallons and that works, too.

For the people in the middle who want to offer a few sizes, I would recommend starting with three sizes. A small, medium, and large if you will. The desire to have multiple sizes in your line up may help you choose a jar style. Here are a few popular jar styles:

Queenline: There are several sizes available in both glass and plastic options. Big label space with the ability to do a front and back labels.

Honey bears: Many sizes available. Only available in plastic. Small label space only located on the front. Affordable with different style lid options.

Paragon: Smooth sided round jars, great for label machines. Big label area available. Many different lid options. Not made specifically for honey, so you have to do the weight/ volume conversion. For example, a 12 fl oz jar holds roughly 16 wt. Oz or one lb. of honey.

Mason jars: Not all mason jars have smooth sides, so you may be limited to label space on the lid only. Multiple sizes available. Two piece lids can be a pain in the butt for customers. Not always the most cost effective option, but readily available.

Muth: Unique & eye catching bottles, no label surface (most people have to tie on a tag with information), cork is not an ideal closure, comes in multiple size options.

So how do you decide glass or plastic? The answer is probably both. For us, we mostly went with the glass options. Majority of our customer base prefers glass for the recycling and decrystallization aspects, so we have several glass options. That being said, in my opinion, plastic is easier. Most of the lids are self sealing, you don't have to worry about them breaking in shipping or transport, they are much cheaper than glass, and they are easier to use from a consumer standpoint.

Lastly, where to buy your containers. First off, this is not a paid advertisement lol. You can certainly find some good containers at your local Fleet Farm. They have a variety of Mason jars as well as a small selection of queenline jars. This is obviously the most convenient, but the most expensive route.

Online you will find a wide variety of bottle & jar companies. Uline, SKS glass, Berlin, Specialty Bottle, etc. Most of these places are comparable in pricing with many shapes and sizes to offer. The biggest cost will be your shipping.

What I would highly recommend is supporting small business right here in Iowa. Ebert's Honey & B&L Plastics both have a nice online store with several glass and plastic options for you to choose from.

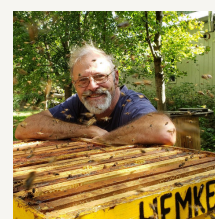
If you have been wanting to retail your honey, and not really sure where to start, I hope this gives you a little bit of insight on your honey slinging journey!

Thanks for reading,

Sara Holton
The Holton Homestead



From the Honey House



A collection of information from those with direct, personal knowledge about beekeeping

Beekeeping is Sometimes a Leap of Faith

It is March 7th, and as I start to write this, it is my son Scott's last day of punching a time clock. For almost 15 years he has worked in a local plastics factory.

Scott has been around beekeeping most of his life, sometimes observing, sometimes fully immersed, but his passion has continually grown. His excellent work ethic has prepared him to take the next step. Being frugal and resourceful he will adapt to not having a regular weekly paycheck. He is ready for his leap of faith.

Sometimes farm kids choose easier, more steady jobs away from the family farm. Sometimes by choice, sometimes by advice of their elders. Beekeeping, like farming, is physically hard work and does not provide a guaranteed income.

When I met my beekeeping mentor Cliff Hendricks, at 91 years old, he taught me most of what I know about beekeeping and specifically how it was a labor of love. Whether you have two beehives or two thousand, beekeeping and farming have become more tenuous. Pests, chemicals and other problems seem to be increasing. Technology has become both a savior and a curse in farming.

At a time when keeping bees is uncertain, when prices are terrible, and now when bees have been collapsing, Scott is taking that leap of faith. His knowledge and passion have reached that fever pitch.

As I am slowing down, attempting to be semi-retired, the opportunity has presented itself that we can become full time partners as he transitions into an independent entrepreneur. It will take a few years to adjust to his own operation, his way of doing things, and his own future. And that is a big leap of faith.

New people come into beekeeping with many ideas and



Andy, right, with his son Scott, who is joining him as a fulltime beekeeper.

expectations. There are a lot that find that labor of love, and help the honeybees thrive and succeed, leading to good honey crops, pollination, and a better appreciation of nature. Kids of all ages find fulfillment in working with beehives and this makes for a nice family activity that, hopefully, young people can pursue on their own. Our kids and grandkids have grown up with honeybees, and farm markets. It has been a lesson of biology, entrepreneurship, fun, and learning about life itself.

By now, everyone will be talking about the collapse of beehives, the effect on our operations, markets and the economy. But beekeepers large and small have overcome different challenges over the years and learned to adapt. We will continue to take that leap of faith, guided by knowledge and a love of honeybees.

Keep working with your honeybees, and wishing everyone a prosperous honey season!

Andy Hemken, Bee Guy
andy@hemkenhoney.com

From the Beeyard

A collection of information from those with direct, personal knowledge about beekeeping

Written by Phil Ebert

We are well into booking nucs and package bees. I used to get a lot of mail orders and phone calls. Now, it is 95% online. I have little contact with the customers. I can't say that I like that. The electronic world is not for me. I have a Facebook page and 4 or 5 friends but am not real sure how to sign into it. My contact with Facebook is when people send me something.

Our bees in Texas look good. I was concerned but they have started to build up in spite of the sketchy weather. We don't have anything in California. We had the opportunity but the timing was not right. Two of the three colonies I have beside my building are still alive and looking good. We have around 750 left alive in Texas. If we can average a brood pull of four frames per colony we should be able to split out an additional 900. If they are really good, we could get more. I don't want to get too crazy with splitting. It takes a high population hive to make a good crop. Numbers don't mean anything if you don't make any money from them. My business plan has always been to make money the first year. They may be dead by the second year.

Last month, I complained about the deep boxes that came from Dancing Bee. They refunded the shipping earlier and I was happy until I got toward the lower half of the pallet. There were giant knots and the box joints didn't line up. I called Dancing Bee to complain. They gave me my money back and were very apologetic. We did manage to get all the boxes put together. The edges didn't line up but I was able to take a block plane and line the edges up fairly well.

There are a lot of dead bees around the country. They are saying there are a million dead colonies scattered around the U.S. It takes in excess of a million for almond pollination. If there are a million dead colonies, that means there were over 2 million colonies in the U.S. I don't think there are that many but it still equates to a lot of dead bees. We understand the main stress factors—mites, viruses, insecticides and lack of forage. Then you have to throw in a lot of variables like the weather, queen quality, etc. Another one I think about is water quality. It's filled with harmful residues—neonics, nitrates



and other chemical residues. I would never eat a fish caught in an Iowa farm pond. Only about 30% of the neonic seed coating is absorbed by the plant. The rest goes in the ground. It is water soluble. It goes everywhere. The half-life is several years. We are putting more in the ground every year. The bees are hauling this water back to the hive. Does it have an effect? I don't know but Bayer thinks it does. They want protection from lawsuits—"Freedom to Farm." I am not against using chemicals, but we need to be a lot smarter about how we use them.

While we understand the stress factors on bees the interaction is a bit of an unknown. A weak bee can succumb to almost anything. The only one of the variables we can try to control is mite load. That's not easy. The other thing I have heard a lot about is queen problems. It didn't seem to matter where they came from last year. There were problems. Brood rearing stopped early in some yards but kept going in others. Was there a shortage of winter bees? I wish I had the answers to some of these questions. If you look at history, there have been some big bee die offs. I think some of this is cyclical. Problems buildup to the point the bees can't take it anymore. Then we have a few decent years before it happens again.

After all of this, all I can say is mite load is all we can control as individuals. The environmental issues will take a lot of people working together. We need to elect some people who care about this.



Recipes by Emma Ingram

As with many spring months, April just seemed to sneak up on me! Despite heavy losses in the beeyard this winter, I am still thinking happy thoughts of spring and getting the hives and yard back up and healthy. After a few warm days, I started thinking of summer salads and had to try one of the delicious chicken salads listed in the book. With 4 cups of diced chicken, this was a tasty sandwich to enjoy all week long and with a splash of tart from the cranberries, it was the perfect salad to satisfy my spring fever.

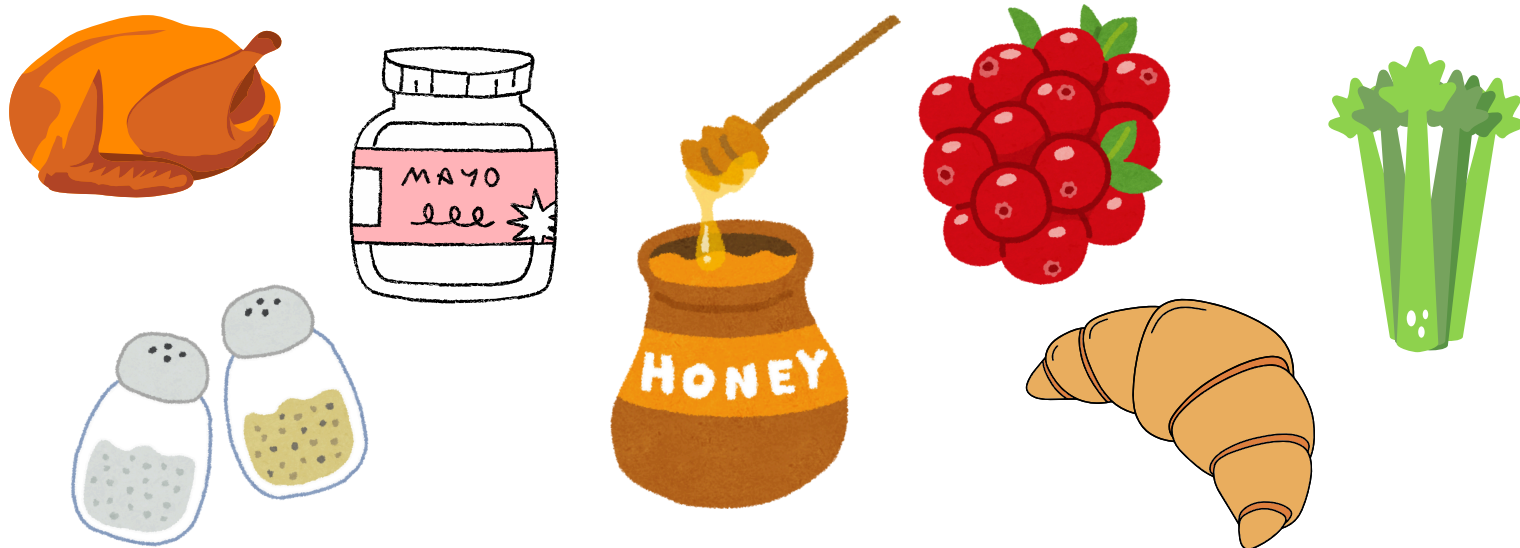
Honey Chicken Salad (Pg. 127)

4 cups cooked chicken
1 cup dried cranberries
1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
1/4 teaspoon salt

3 celery ribs, diced (about 1 1/2 cups)
1/2 cup chopped pecans, toasted
1/3 cup honey
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Combine cooked chicken, diced celery, cranberries, and pecans. Whisk together mayonnaise, honey, salt, and pepper. Add the mayonnaise mixture to the chicken mixture, stir gently until combined. Garnish with pecans.

Emma's Notes: I have always loved a good chicken salad. There is just something fresh and light about it. With honey, some dishes can lose a bit of that lightness, but this chicken salad stayed light with just a hint of honey. The honey did not overpower the other flavors and blended well with the tartness of the dried cranberries. The celery and pecans added just the right amount of texture. I used precooked, canned chicken because I already had it on hand. If you choose to do that, make sure to drain the chicken first to get the right consistency. The recipe would also work well with home cooked chicken, you will just need to cook it either the morning or day before you intend to use it so that the chicken has time to cool. When I make this again, I will also use 1/2 cup of honey instead of 1/3. Although I love subtlety, with this recipe, the honey was just a little too subtle. I tried this recipe as a dip, sandwich and on its own. For all uses, it was an excellent chicken salad.





From the Editor

Sara Sleyster, IHPA Editor

sarasleyster@gmail.com



Hello, everyone!

I came across a feel-good news story recently that I wanted to share. I'm sure you've all seen photos of the devastation in western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene. The Category 4 storm made landfall on Sept. 26, 2024, and more than 200 people were killed in multiple states. The historic flooding devastated families, towns and beekeepers. It is estimated that 95,000 hives were damaged or destroyed in North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia from the storm. Experts approximate that 2 billion bees were impacted.

According to North Carolina Extension, the state has more than 15,000 beekeepers, the most per capita of any state in the country. North Carolina is considered an ideal place for honey bees because of the mild winters, moderate summers, and abundant water sources. Last year, I told you about the purple-hued honey that mysteriously is produced by only North Carolina bees.

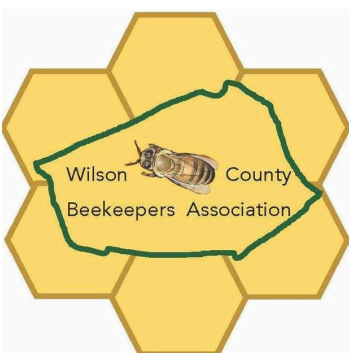


Painted boxes headed to eastern North Carolina.

So the good news? The [Wilson Times](#) reported that the [Wilson County Beekeepers Association](#) and the [Five County Beekeepers Association](#) in central and eastern North Carolina are donating materials and bees to the hurricane-damaged beekeepers. Wilson County Beekeepers member Lalita Vaid said in the story, "We love bees. The pollinators are so vital for the ecosystem. If there are no pollinators up in the mountains, they can have a food problem. Nothing is getting pollinated, so it is just helping other beekeepers up there."

I love seeing the generosity from the North Carolina beekeepers and knowing Iowa Honey Producers would do the same.

Bye for now!
Sara



Foley's Russian Bees

Foley's Russian Bees is an Indianola, Iowa based producer of Primorsky Russian bees & beekeeping equipment. We specialize in Russian mated queens and Russian nucleus hives. We also are a provider of Carniolan packages. When you are in need of bees, we can help!

To place an order, check us out on the web

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Classified	5	50	n/a	1Tx4.1W
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Full Page	90	1000	n/a	10.75Tx8.25W

If you would like to place an advertisement in The Buzz please send information to:
ihpaeditor@gmail.com



Beekeeping Club News

Back to Basic Beekeeper Club – We’re Ba..ack!

This beloved beekeeping club was started in 1997, around the dining room table of Eves and Lola Cadwallader, in their rural Mahaska County home. They wanted to provide an outlet for fellow honey bee farmers to get together to talk about beekeeping. Since then it has always been an anticipated monthly event where people could gather to informally chat, learn, and walk away encouraged.

As we know, a few years back there was a major disruption to our systems, and it put a big damper on get-togethers. Following that, the host site of the club had some major rental rule revamping, which prevented us from using their space. Without a place to meet, the club has sat in limbo. All the while, interest in beekeeping camaraderie didn’t wane.

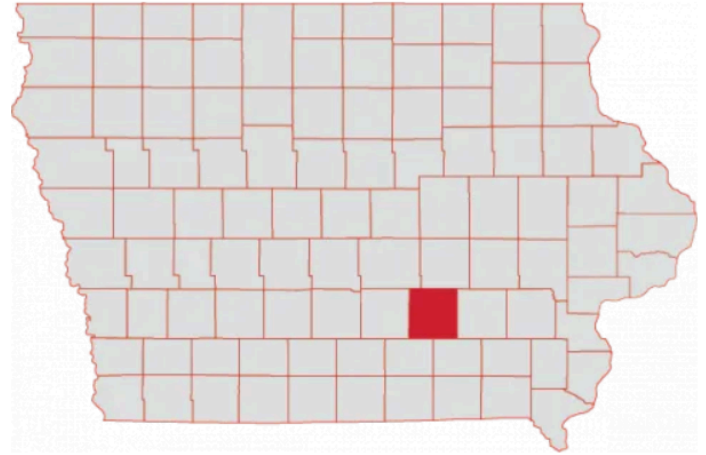
Lately, a new venue has opened up and they are eager to host the beekeeping community. Mahaska County Conservation has offered their beautiful lower-level meeting room to the club. This has recently been the site of beginning beekeeping classes. In conjunction, there is also conversation about constructing an observation hive in their upper level. It is a blessing and encouragement to see such support for beekeepers in the area.

So, now it is time to mark your calendars again. The Back to Basic Beekeepers Club will meet the 2nd Friday of the month. They started March 14, 2025. At this first meeting they discussed the business, scheduling, and logistics of the club going forward, along with a little round table bee conversation.

Their second meeting will be on April 11. They will host guest speaker, Jamie Beyer, who will speak on the wild and messy needs of pollinators.

Keep up to date on the meeting details by liking their newly made [Facebook](#) page by the same name. More or changing details may arise after their initial re-organization meeting in March.

Submitted by Tina Marshall



Mahaska County, Iowa

Back to Basic Beekeepers
2nd Friday of the month at 6 p.m.
Mahaska County Environmental Center
2342 Hwy. 92, Oskaloosa, Iowa
Lower level, enter from parking lot
in back on south



Jamie Beyer, guest speaker for the April meeting, lobbying at the Iowa State Capitol in February for HF 247.



5 Frame Nucs

*2025 Queen from hygienic tested
breeders*

*At least 3 frames of brood &
2 frames of food*

*Grown & monitored for 3 to 4 weeks to
prove queen quality.*

Pick up/ delivery in early May.

\$190

Reach Tyler at

(712) 898-5736

Holtonhoneybees@gmail.com

Iowa Beekeeping Clubs

Back to Basics Beekeepers Club: contact Tina Marshall at marshalltmf@gmail.com

Boone River Beekeeping Club: contact Roy Kraft at kroyster.rk@gmail.com



Cedar Valley Bee Club: contact Ryan Dermody or Robert Stwalley at dermody.ryan@gmail.com and robert.stwalley@hawkeyecollege.edu

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association: contact Jamie Beyer at beyersbog@aol.com

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers: contact Ellen Bell at ellenbell.ia@gmail.com



Dubuque Swiss Valley Bee Club: contact Paulette Lynn at pjlynn1@gmail.com

East Central Iowa Beekeepers: contact Joseph Klingelhutz at jo.aloysius@gmail.com

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa: contact Eric Kenoyer at kenoyer1270@gmail.com



Great River Bend Beekeepers: contact David Hayes at prairiecreekfrm@netins.net

Heartland Bee Club: contact Tom Hart at cedarvalleyapiaries@gmail.com

Loess Hills Beekeeping Association: contact Chris Ruhaak at LHBA@LoessHillsBA.com

North Iowa Beekeepers Club: contact Richard Vonderohe at vonderohebees@hotmail.com

Northeast Iowa Beekeepers Club: contact Gerald Hunter at gmhunter@neitel.net

Northwest Iowa Beekeepers: contact Tim Olsen at nwiabeekeepersresearch@gmail.com



Omaha Bee Club: contact Pam Newell at AskOmahaBeeClub@gmail.com

Pollinators Paradise Bee Club: contact Dan Whitmore at Paddledan@gmail.com

Quad City Bee Keeping Club: contact Ron Fischer or Doug Dahlin at qcbeeclub@yahoo.com

Southern Iowa Beehivers: contact Mindy Butcher at msbutcher1@hotmail.com



Southern Iowa Hive Handlers: contact Scott Kent at clarkeccb@gmail.com

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers: contact Steve Hemphill at snwfarm@mepotelco.net



Southwest Iowa Beekeepers: contact Nathan Paulsen at southwestiowabeekeepers@gmail.com

Siouxland Beekeeping Club: contact Ron Rynders at rrihpa@gmail.com

Tama County Bee Keepers: contact Jim and Penny Dolezal at busybeeacres@yahoo.com



got bees?

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WWW.EBERTHONEY.COM

LINE ITEM	1-24	25+	QUANTITY	SUBTOTAL
Nucleus Hive	\$210	\$205		
	1-49	50+		
Package Bees (2 lb)	\$144	\$142		
Package Bees (3 lb)	\$164	\$162		

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Total ► _____

Select a pick up site:

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☐ Lynnville • IA

Please make checks payable to Ebert Honey, LLC and mail to either address listed on the right of this page. Ensure your name, mailing address, phone & email are written on your check or this form so we can contact you when your bees are ready. For orders of 25+ units, we will accept a 50% deposit at this time. Please note that our online prices are 3% higher to account for credit card transaction fees.



OUR 2025 HONEYBEE INVENTORY

» Nucleus Hives (Nucs)

» Package Bees

Our package bees include an Italian queen.



INVENTORY AVAILABILITY

April 2025

Package bees available for customer pick up.

May 2025

Nucs available for customer pick up.



FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Pick Up Locations

We offer two bee pick up locations in Iowa:



1090 Highway 1 North
Mount Vernon • Iowa 52314



14808 South 102nd Ave East
Lynnville • Iowa 50153

Honey Containers

Pick up your bees & honey containers in one convenient stop. Order both online & we will have them ready to pick up at the same time!



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2025 PACKAGE SEASON



We offer a full line of
Beekeeping equipment
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We will be shaking our own packages on limited dates throughout April and May with the choice of: Carniolan, Italian, and OHB Saskatraz queen. Randy Oliver Italian queen packages available by request.

Ordering

Call or Text

Connie: 515-480-6076

Email:

honey.springvalleyhoneyfarms@gmail.com

Availability

We anticipate our packages will be available at the beginning of April. Watch our website and follow us on Facebook for updates.

During package season we are very flexible and usually available, but it's always best to call or text. We call and work our way down the list as packages are ready.

During package season we are typically available Mon - Sat 8-6 and Sundays by appointment only.

SVHF Packages
(Italian/Carniolan)
3# - \$160 plus tax
2# - \$140 plus tax

SVHF PACKAGES w/ OHB Saskatraz Queen
3# - \$165 plus tax
2# - \$145 plus tax

NUCS
\$200 plus tax

Randy Oliver Italian Packages
3# - \$165 plus tax
limited dates coming from California.

QUEENS
Carniolan - \$37 plus tax
Italian - \$37 plus tax
Saskatraz - \$45 plus tax

Protein Patties & Syrup

Supplementing carbohydrates and protein is important, so we offer a gallon of syrup and protein patty for \$10 with the purchase of package bees or nucs.

OHB Package Installation Tutorials

<https://www.ohbees.com/pages/tutorials>

scan here



Curt & Connie Bronnenberg
14405 Hull Avenue Perry, Iowa 50220





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All contact information can be found online at:
<https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/officers-directors-now>

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If you would like to become more involved in the IHPA, we could certainly use your help!!!

Please email ihpa1912@gmail.com

The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association
c/o Editor, Sara Sleyster
2233 E. Virginia Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50320



The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by
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which is an affiliate of the Iowa State
Horticultural Society



Deadline for submissions to *The Buzz* is always the 10th of the month at 11:59 p.m. the month prior to when you would like to see information published.

If writing an article for *The Buzz*, submissions must be 800 words or less. Pictures are encouraged!

Deadline to submit information for the May Edition of *The Buzz*

April 10th at 11:59 p.m.

Please submit materials to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com

