



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



September 2009

**Iowa Honey Producers Association
Annual Meeting
October 30th and 31st
Marshalltown, Iowa
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**Community garden provides backdrop for beekeepers' apiary Pg.4
The Beeyard Report Pg.7**



Dates To Bee Remembered

9/27/2009 IHPA Board Meeting at the Heartland Inn in Des Moines at 2 p.m.
10/29/2009 IHPA Board Meeting at the Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown at 7 p.m.
10/30&31/2009 Annual Meeting at the Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA



Wanted: Used Honey Extractor.

Please contact Kevin at 515-226-3346.

Wanted: A small stainless steel extractor, preferably four frame. Hand-crank or motor driven.

Please contact:
Leo Meyers
Aldon, MN
507-874-3303

semiochemicals.

In nature, Varroa mites rely on these semiochemicals to locate – and then feed on – the bloodlike hemolymph of both adult honey bees and their brood. Severe infestations can decimate an affected hive within several months – and rob the beekeeper of profits from honey or pollinating services. But in this case, the mites encounter a more heady bouquet of honey bee odors that lure the parasites away from their intended hosts and onto the sticky boards, where they starve.

technology further.

Read more about there search in the July 2009 issue of Agricultural Research magazine, available online at: www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/jul09 ARS is the principal intramural scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



New bait lures Varroa mite to its doom

Varroa mites could literally be walking into a trap – thanks to a new attractant developed by Agricultural Research Service [ARS] scientists in Gainesville, FL.

The 1/16-inch long parasite, Varroa destructor, is a top pest of honey bees nationwide, hindering the beneficial insects' ability to pollinate almonds, blueberries, apples, zucchini and many other flowering crops.

At the ARS Chemistry Research Unit in Gainesville, research leader Peter Teal and colleagues are testing a bait-and-kill approach using sticky boards and natural chemical attractants called

In preliminary tests, 35 to 50 percent of mites dropped off the bees when exposed to the attractants. Free-roving mites found the semiochemicals even more attractive, according to Teal.

Moreover, the extra dose of semiochemicals wafting through hives didn't appear to significantly interfere with the honey bees' normal behavior or activity, added Teal who, along with postdoctoral associate Adrian Duehl and University of Florida collaborator Mark Carroll, reported the results this past January at the 2009 North American Beekeeping Conference in Reno, NV.

The team hopes ARS' patenting of the Varroa mite attractants will encourage and industrial partner to develop the

BLUEBERRY HONEY SAUCE

Printed from **COOKS.COM**

2 c. blueberries
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/3 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/2 c. honey
1/4 c. butter

In saucepan combine the blueberries, cinnamon, nutmeg, honey, butter and a pinch of salt. Bring mixture to a boil, reduce heat, then simmer it, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes. Serve the sauce warm over ice cream. Makes about 1 1/2 cups.

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.** The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society. IHPA Membership is only \$10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,

The spray planes are flying. I have received several phone calls from beekeepers that had noticed a change in the bee law as they were checking the information. Most of them are not members of the IHPA, but some are. Maybe we don't need to spend money on a newsletter. The changes have been talked about for several months. I am still getting calls from applicators also. They just want to make sure that we know they are going to be spraying. Many of them are very responsible and responsive to suggestions, others are not. Try to have a good relationship with your neighbors, talk to them about beekeeping, farming and try to find common ground to make each of you happy. There is a solution to most obstacles if we try hard enough to find it. The commercial applicators cannot spray during the time that the bees are flying and they can't spray blooming crops while bees are flying. The private applicators are still bound by the federal label law which states that a chemical product cannot be applied to blooming fields during which time honey bees are present. Talk, communicate, verbalize suggestions or solutions to your neighbors and applicators. Don't just grumble to me.

Thank you to all of you for helping at the Iowa State Fair. The IHPA depends on the money raised to run all of the programs of the organization. I know it sometimes causes burdens to make that trip to the fair, but you are really appreciated by ME!! A couple weeks before the fair, the schedule looked pretty sparse. Thanks for mak-

ing the effort to help. I even received an email from one of our members that was deployed at the time, to make sure that he got his name in to work when he got back. Now that is dedication. Thanks, Mike! The entries for the apiary exhibit were down this year. Melanie told me that we need to get the numbers up for next year. We are guilty of not entering this year. There were just too many things going on in our personal life. I have discovered that there are just not enough hours in a day to get things done. Something had to give and I guess entering exhibits was one. We do hope to enter again next year.

Remember that September is National Honey Month. Do a little extra promotion at your local grocery store, at your farmers' markets, at any celebration that you attend. Call Iowa Honey Queen, Shiliah to help promote your honey. Put an article in the local newspaper, talk on the local radio, hang signs up in your town at all of the free bulletin boards. Go to your local school to give a talk on honey and beekeeping. Kids of all ages love hearing about bees and honey. Promote your business, yourself and the beekeeping industry. Contact the National Honey Board for free information.

September 15th is the deadline for sending information about becoming a youth scholarship winner. There is an article in the BUZZ concerning the program. If you know of a non-beekeeping youth between the ages of 13 and 17, tell them about our program.

Congratulations to Andy Joseph and his wife Catherine on the birth of their son, Harlan Leonard Joseph Rihm. He was born around 4 pm on July 19th weighing in at 6 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20 ½ inches long. We are certainly happy for them. They grow up so quickly, enjoy him.

I have noticed that the golden rod is blooming early this year. As I write this before the fair starts, which is later this year, the golden rod down the road is in full bloom. Hope everyone is having a great honey year. Some of the plants that the honey bees depend on didn't produce as much nectar because of the cool weather. Who would have thought that July would go down in the record books as the coolest on record? It isn't good weather for the honey bees either. It certainly is trying to warm up now. Get your honey pulled, extracted and treat for mites as quickly as you can. It is getting to be that time of year to prepare things for winter!!

I just got interrupted by a phone call from Iraq. Our son, Mitch, just called. Speaking of Mitch, we received an email from his wife, Abbie, saying we would be proud parents by watching a U-tube video. I was expecting some award or something, not a group of soldiers seeing how many they could get into a port-a-potty. He said something about being bored. Well, I guess that is good in that part of the world.

Enjoy what is left of summer, plan some fall family activities and take time to relax with your family.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

Youth Scholarship Applications are available now.

If you know of a youth who would like to become a beekeeper, please have them get an application from our website, ABuzzAboutBees.com, or by contacting the Youth Scholarship Chairman, Mike Brahms at (712) 778-4255.

The requirements are:

Be a youth between the ages of 13 and 17

Be from a non beekeeping family

Send in the completed application by September 15th to:

Mike Brahms
65071 720th Street
Cumberland, IA 50843

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

Community garden provides backdrop for beekeepers' apiary

By LAUREL BISHOW
Community News Writer
August 28, 2009 12:00 AM

National Honeybee Awareness Day was celebrated in Smithfield Township last Saturday.

The Monroe County Beekeepers Association sponsored an open house at their new club apiary. Free food, a tricky tray, videos, a guest speaker, honey sales, display of different types of hives and community garden tours backed up the main event: honeybees. "When's the bee recital?" Sam Aldridge of Stroudsburg was asking all week, according to his mother, Joy Aldridge. He and his brothers Matthew and Wil-



Congratulations to Andy Joseph and his wife Catherine on the birth of their son, Harlan Leonard Joseph Rihm.

liam were not disappointed. They headed straight to the club apiary, located next to the community garden and historic Yeisley-Pearce Log Cabin. Standing just feet from two hives, they watched as the honeybees flew all around them. Club member Dan McDavitt of Mount Pocono answered their many questions. They even got to see many bumblebees up close. Bees are intent on their jobs and don't sting people unless they are provoked or are defending their hive.

Carol Ann Todmann of Tobyhanna uses honey to make medicinal soaps, lotions, and salves for her business, Bubbling Indulgences. She uses sage honey to help treat acne and primrose honey to promote a youthful appearance. Currently, she buys all her honey from New York. Now she's considering starting her own hives. Talking with beekeepers gave her a lot of information to help her with her decision. She may even become a member of the beekeepers group.

"Honeybees are responsible for 30 percent of the foods we eat," explained Fr. Mike Salnick, president of the beekeepers association. "If we're aware of the importance of the honeybee, then we'll be aware of the treatments we use on our grass and around our house and how, in the end, they will be dangerous for our own survival."

Since so many of our nutritional needs are dependent on honeybees, Salnick encourages people to do whatever they can to ensure the honeybees' survival. Don't kill bees. Don't use pesticides that harm honeybees or the plants they are dependent on. Provide for the nutritional needs of honeybees by allowing dandelions and weeds to grow. "Maybe throw some clover seeds on your lawn, or your neighbor's lawn," suggested Salnick with a sly smile.

Free hot dogs and sodas were donated to the event by Rick Sudnik of Middle Smithfield Township. As he grilled and served the hot dogs, former Smithfield Supervisor Russ Albert stopped by for a surprise visit.

"My great grandparents bought this house in 1890," said Albert, pointing to the white farmhouse standing nearby. His great grandparents were Rachael and Horace Albert. "Just this morning, I was going through the box he had delayed opening for a long time). The first thing I found was my great grandfather's journal. It's mostly about bees." Albert showed everyone the yellowed journal, including a pencil stuck to one of the pages. The journal covers the time from around 1918 through 1925. In 1920, honey sold for 25 cents a pound. Now it sells for \$6 a pound. The bees were kept behind the chicken coops near the rock ledges behind the house. "The bees have come back," said Albert happily.

The highlight for many was a presentation given by Penn State Bee Inspector Craig Cella.

"I've done so many things wrong for so long, I've learned a lot I can share with

you," said Cella in a low-keyed tone. He had more than a lot of information to share, but then came the hands-on portion: an actual bee inspection at the club's new apiary.

Surrounded by club members and using a smoker to calm the bees, Cella lifted the top of the first hive to inspect the bees. The bees seemed anything but calm. Hundreds were flying around and buzzing up a storm. Cella lifted frames out of the hive. They were filled with brood and honey and covered in bees. He passed around the frames so others could see what he was talking about up close. The queen, identified by her larger size and bright blue paint on her back, was found and hive cells were punctured for the inspection.

Remember, bees only sting to protect themselves and their hive. What could have been more of a threat than their home being dismantled and their queen exposed? Yet no one present was wearing any protective equipment. A veil and gloves lay unused on the ground. The air was thick with bees, but no one was stung. The bees continued to do their jobs, even as pieces of their home were passed around.

As Salnick mentioned, bees are crucial for the human food supply. Next to the apiary is the township's community garden. What was bare earth two and a half months ago is now a lush retreat. A Penn State Master Gardener gave tours to those interested, pointing out various differences between garden plots including one using Square Foot Gardening methods and a tomato plant growing upside down out of a bucket.

Plenty of herbs and vegetables are ready to pick, including tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, birdhouse gourds, radishes and corn that's higher than an elephant's eye. Some people were able to take home ripe vegetables from the Master Gardener plots.

Bees were spotted pollinating so there's still more veggies to come.

.HALLOWEEN HONEY PUFFS **Printed from COOKS.COM**

3/4 c. honey
3/4 c. sugar
2 tbsp. butter
4 tbsp. cocoa
11 c. puffed rice or wheat
3/4 c. coconut
Place honey, sugar, butter and cocoa in saucepan and boil to soft ball stage. Remove from heat. Mix puffed wheat and coconut. Pour syrup over, when cool enough to handle, form into balls and roll in coconut. Wrap in foil.

HAWAIIAN HONEY BREAD **Printed from COOKS.COM**

4 - 4 1/2 c. all purpose flour
2 pkgs. quick rise yeast
1/3 c. non-fat dry milk solids
1 tsp. salt
1/2 c. pineapple juice
1/2 c. water
1/3 c. shortening
1/4 c. honey
2 eggs
1 drop yellow food coloring (optional)
1 egg, slightly beaten
1 tbsp. water
In large mixer bowl, combine 2 1/4 cups flour, yeast, dry milk and salt; mix well. In saucepan, heat pineapple juice, 1/2 cup water, shortening and honey until warm (120-130 degrees); shortening does not need to melt. Add to flour mixture. Add 2 eggs and food coloring. Blend at low speed until moistened; beat 3 minutes at medium speed. By hand, gradually stir in enough remaining flour to make a soft dough. Knead on floured surface until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. Place in greased bowl, turning to grease top. Cover; let rise in warm place about 15 minutes.
Punch down dough. On lightly floured surface, shape into a round loaf. Place in greased 9" or 10" pie pan. Cover; let rise in warm place about 15 minutes. Combine egg and 1 tablespoon water; brush loaf. Bake at 375 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes until golden brown. Remove from pan; cool.

Iowa Honey Producers Association

Annual Meeting

October 30th and 31st
Marshalltown, Iowa

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ***"IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS 97TH ANNUAL MEETING"*** TO BE HELD OCTOBER 30TH AND 31ST AT THE BEST WESTERN REGENCY INN. (641-752-6321), IN MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA.

GUEST SPEAKERS WILL BE:

- ***KIRK WEBSTER***; VERMONT BEEKEEPER AND QUEEN BREEDER AND PROMOTER OF NATURAL BEE-KEEPING AND CONTRIBUTOR TO BOTH THE *"BEE CULTURE"*, AND *"AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL"*.
- ***DR. RON FESSENDEN, MD, MPH***; PRACTICED MEDICINE OVER 38 YEARS AND CO-AUTHOR OF *"THE HONEY REVOLUTION,"* AMONG OTHER HONEY RELATED BOOKS AND ARTICLES.
- ***BOB FASSBINDER***; IOWA BEEKEEPER, QUEEN PRODUCER, AND WHO'S OPERATION IS MOSTLY CHEMICALLY FREE.
- ***RICHARD ERICKSRUD***; SPECIALIZING IN HAULING AND MOVING BEE SAFELY
2010 SCHOLARSHIP YOUTH AND PARENTS WILL HAVE A MEETING FRIDAY AFTERNOON ON VERY BASIC "BEEKEEPING".

WE WILL ALSO BE HAVING WORKSHOPS, PHOTO CONTEST, AND FOOD JUDGING AND OUR 2ND ANNUAL MEAD JUDGING CONTESTS AND A QUEEN AUCTION DURING THE FRIDAY NIGHT'S BANQUET. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTOR, PLEASE CONTACT:

MELANIE BOWER
207 S. E. DEIHL
DES MOINES, IA 50315
(515) 287-9875
MELRB@MSN.COM

Rules for the Photo Contest at the IHPA Annual Meeting

Photo must be matted but not framed.
Any size photo will be accepted for this competition.
Please put your name on the backside of the photo.
Categories to be submitted will include:

1. Bee on flower
2. General Beekeeping
3. Marketing or Promotion
4. Extracting Honey or Specific Photos pertaining to Honey.

Rules for the cooking with Honey Contest at the IHPA Annual Meeting

Honey is to be the only sweetener
Please submit you recipe with your entry
Judges will keep recipes to be included in the BUZZ
Put your name on the back of the recipe card
Categories to be submitted will include:

1. Desserts

2. Bars or Cookies
3. Drinks
4. Cakes
5. Breads
6. Appetizers or Snacks

Entries could be judged on: (Judges reserve the right to determine how to best judge the entries)

- Presentation of entry
- Best use of honey
- Amount of Honey used (compared to other entries in category)
- Flavor of entry
- Overall appearance of entry

Rules for Mead Judging Contest at the IHPA Annual Meeting:

Mead will be judged on alcohol strength, sweetness, carbonation, temperature, taste, and presentation.

Categories:

1. Traditional Meads
2. Melomels (Fruit Meads)
3. Metheglin (Spiced Meads)

THE BEEYARD REPORT

The swallows are gone from above the back door. The Stae Fair is over, As summer draws to a close, the monsoons return. Aug 26 and 27 saw 4" of rain deposited in our rain guage. The ground is like soup. Spanish Needles and Smartweed are coming into bloom. There is a lot of beggars lice. Common Ragweed is also in bloom along with the yellow flowers in the road ditch.

I should have been a weatherman. Those guys don't have to be right to get paid. All summer they had high temps at the end of the forecast. We chased them all summer but never caught up. We got no honey at all during July. The rain and cool temps did prolong the Dutch Clover bloom.

When we got some lukewarm days in August, some honey did come in. Our crop grew from very poor to fair.

Extracting started Aug 4. Alex ran four barrels. Our uncapper has always made a lot of noise when the knives passed over the top bars. I talked to Dave Cowen at the national meeting last January. He told me how to fix it. All I had to do was replace a few springs. I put new bushings in while I was at it. We are up to barrel 31 as of this writing.. The honey so far has been very white. I have about 1200 sections cut up but that's nowhere near enough.

We have seen a lot of mites in some of the drone brood in the honey supers. We knew there was potential for mite problems this fall. Mites were visible in

the spring in the brood in the burr comb between the boxes. That is always a bad sign. Our initial plan was to give everything a late spring treatment. Then conditions changed and it looked like we had potential for a honey flow. We supered instead. The way it turned out we would have had lots of time for a mite treatment.

The colonies that did get spring treatment have low counts. They are showing 0 to 5 on ether rolls and droppng 12 to 14 on sticky boards. I consider a

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mite count of 15 on an ether roll in August to be borderline.

Sticky boards are little more problematic when setting a threshold. The bees have some contact with those and pick up some of the mites. We put a piece of 8 mesh hardware cloth over the sticky boards to shield them from the bees. I had a problem keeping the screen down on the sticky boards when I put them in the hive. Lastr winter, Bryan Davis, who was one of my students at Iowa Valley, suggested I use paper clips. That works great. The pallets with screened bottom boards have cleats below the screen to holds the sticky board. We get an accurate count on those.

In general, if I get a natural mite fall of 50/day, I think immediate action is necessary. We found out last year that if you have a mite drop of 100/day, you can still save the bees if it's early August and they have time to raise healthy brood after treatment. We figure we have three week window from late August to mid September to get our yards stripped and mite treatments applied. This of course varies according to what the mite load is. I would like to get back to spring treatment only so we aren't investing money in bees that are going to die. It's not possible to identify those colonies in advance. Sometimes the big goodlooking colonies die first, for what appears to be no good reason.

Adam has gone to his teaching job at Mt Mercy. He's staying in Coralville so he won't have

so far to drive home. He will be able to help a little bit. Alex has been pulling the wagon for the most part. My right knee is really giving me a lot of trouble. The orthopedic guy says it's worn out.

None of the crop reports I have heard have been very positive. I hope there is a good crop out there somewhere.



HONEY AND SPICE CHICKEN

Printed from COOKS.COM

2 tsp. salt
2 tsp. coarse pepper
1 tsp. ginger
1 1/2 tsp. "Dynasty" Chinese 5 spice
4 lb. chicken
1/4 c. honey
2 tbs. soy sauce

Mix spices together in a bowl. Then rub all over chicken and prick all over with a fork. Roast in oven, breast side down, for 45 minutes at 375 degrees. Mix honey and soy sauce together.

Now baste chicken with honey/soy mixture. Baste again 10 minutes later. Chicken should be done 10 minutes later. Remove and serve. Very spicy and delicious!

HONEY BISCUITS

Printed from COOKS.COM

2 c. flour
4 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tbs. salt
1/3 c. shortening
2/3 c. milk
1/4 c. butter
1/4 c. honey

Sift flour, baking powder and salt together into a mixing bowl. Cut in shortening until mixture resembles cornmeal. Add milk gradually, blending until well combined. Place dough onto floured surface and pat into a 1/2 inch thick rectangle.

Cream butter with honey and spread a portion of this mixture on dough. Roll up as for jelly roll then cut into 1 inch thick slices. Arrange on baking sheet with 1/2 inch space between each biscuit. Spread remaining honey-butter mixture on top of each biscuit. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 12-15 minutes.

Cinnamon may be added to honey-butter mixture. Chopped raisins, nuts and/or candied fruits may be sprinkled over biscuit dough before rolling, if desired.



Honeybees Like Tractors Too!

Got this one from a tractor parked in a machine shed near Melrose Iowa on 7/27/09. I don't know how long it was there. The bees were gentle and now have a new home in a hive body.

Joe Eastlick
Albia, Iowa

This picture is from the IHPA Photo Gallery. If you would like to have a photo posted to the gallery, send a copy to photos@abuzzaboutbees.com



Your ONE and ONLY "in hive" Small Hive Beetle Treatment!

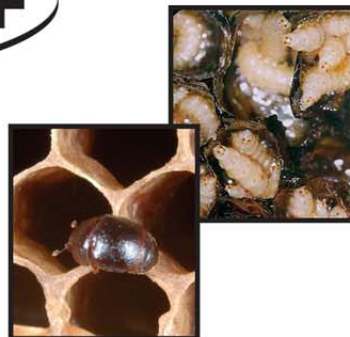


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Small Hive Beetle Treatment

- Use a ground drench in addition to CheckMite+™
- Use 1 strip cut in 1/2 then attached to a 5" x 5" corrugated square. Place square strip side down on bottom board.
- Remove strips after 42-45 days

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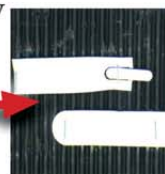
SHB Life Cycle

Eggs → Larvae → Pupae → Adult

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- Keep strong healthy hives by treating for disease and mites when appropriate.
- Feed syrup and pollen substitute to keep your hives strong when natural sources are not available.
- Use CheckMite+™ and GardStar® at the first sign of infestation.

TIP: To attract the beetles, spread a small amount of Bee-Pro® patty down the center of the square then attach the strip on either side of the patty



Varroa Treatment

- Treatment is most effective when brood rearing is lowest
- Treat all infested colonies within the yard
- Use 1 strip for every 5 frames of bees
- Remove strips after 42-45 days

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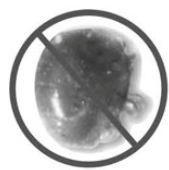
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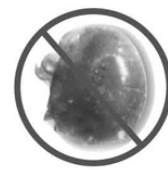
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- Resistance is controlled and unlikely to occur with Apiguard.
- Ease of use: 2 x 50gm treatment trays per hive, with an interval of 14 days, in summer just after the honey flow.
- Best results occur when bees are active and maximum daily temperatures are between 60°F and 105°F.



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complete with
dosing scoop,
spatula, and
delivery pads.



To Use Apiguard

Place the dosing tray or pad centrally on the top of the brood frames gel side up. Be sure to allow at least 1/4" of spacing between the top of the tray and the cover using spacer boards or empty supers as needed. Apply the second dose 14 days after the first. Screened bottom boards should be closed while Apiguard is being applied.

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Foil tray shown on brood frames.



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Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

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Additional Links and Emails

IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

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