

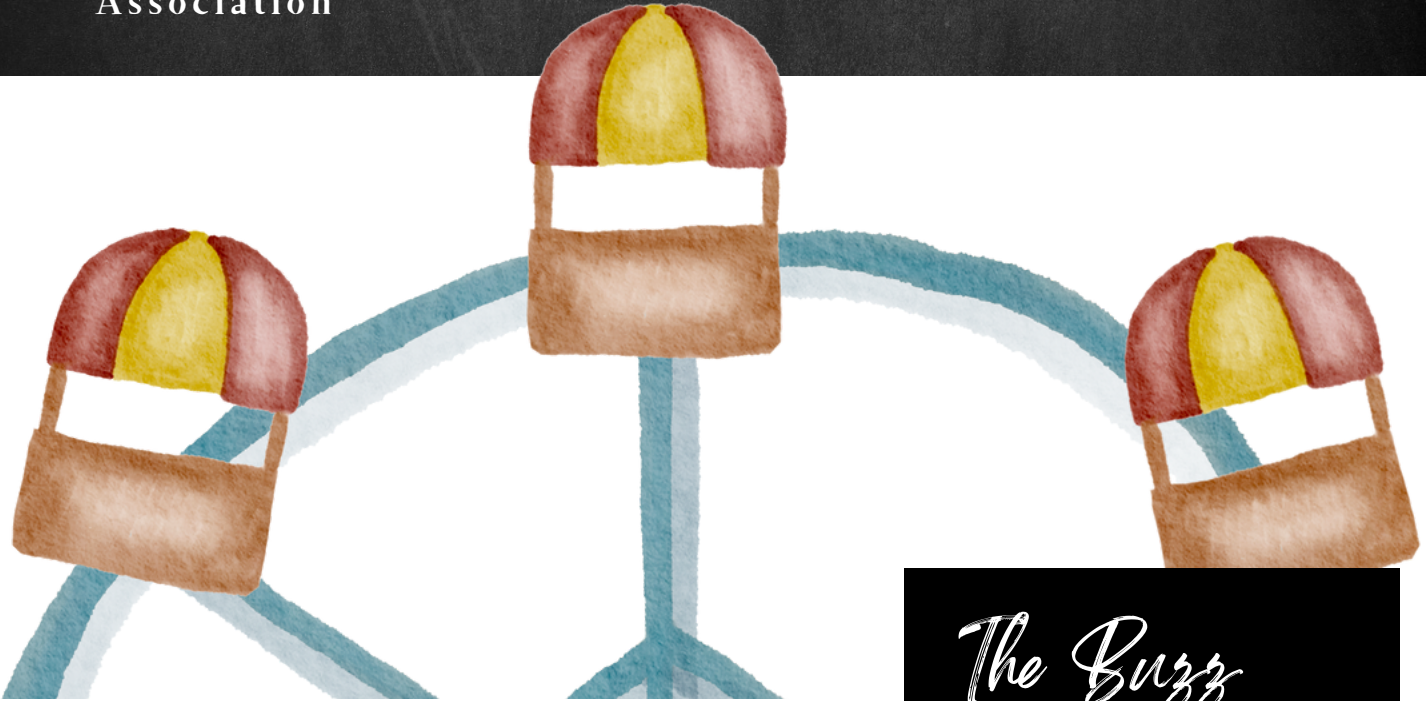
The Buzz



July 2023

Newsletter of the
Iowa Honey Producers
Association

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



**IOWA
STATE
FAIR**



Iowa State Fair

Volunteer at the ISF
Details on Page 2!

Apiary Exhibits

Find information about
apiary exhibits on
pages 11-13

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 a member of the IHPA!



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](mailto:ihpaiditor@gmail.com)

Save the Date!!

**IHPA Annual Conference
& Trade Show
November 10-11th**



Updates from your Iowa State Fair Committee

WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THE 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 10-20. 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 fundraising 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 products, 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 2022 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, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (11-14 people are needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 10-20, 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 Heidi. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary) 18115 F Ave, Perry, IA 50220. Cell: 515-729-1761



First and Last Name(s) of Volunteers: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone no.: _____ Email address: _____ Number volunteering: _____

Please **write** the date(s) below you would like to work and **circle** shift that works best for you.
(Fair dates August 10-20)

We appreciate any help you can provide!

Date or Dates: _____

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

12.30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

IHPA Officer & Director News

Ramblings from The Russian Bee Guy

President, Jason Foley

Hello and welcome to the July ramblings. I'm writing this in laaaaate June so I can actually give you information that isn't a month late lol. I and many others here in central and south central Iowa have experienced one of the largest honey flows ever. We have been teetering on the verge of severe drought since spring. That may be horrible news if you also are a corn and soybean farmer or have been trying to get your vegetable garden in high gear, but for the regular sources of nectar and beekeeping it's the perfect storm. Day after day the bees can forage and many types of flowers actually have the nectar washed from their blossoms during a rain and can take days to come back. HECK, for the first time in like 8 or 9 years I got a black locust crop. Black locust seems to always get rained-out just as it starts to bloom. My honey yards are stacked high, and I need to head back out to add even more. Now further northward the story was delayed and hasn't been quite as nice but word is that those areas are catching up fast.

We got some rain as of late and it was like night-and-day change in the girls. For example, I extracted some of the spring honey to free up some deep equipment. Not a bee would be bothered with wanting to clean out the cappings table or any other honey soaked items. The rains came and like 5 billion bees that next morning were all over the cappings and equipment. We had several more days of rain and I actually then witnessed a new split get robbed clean in a yard. Prior to that, I could leave hives open or torn apart and no one would pick on them. Andy Joseph had supers of extracted comb on his truck that had been outside for days, and the bees were turning their noses up at them. That first rain came and boom, it looked like he had a truck full of bee swarms moving into his boxes. We actually waited until the sunset that day before he took off so he wasn't hauling away 50 packages worth of loose bees that would get stranded down the highway as they got their fill and would go to fly away. Oops, you're not in Kansas anymore little bee.

Alrighty, besides the weather and honey flow I'm starting to grow pretty concerned when I'm out walking our land here. I've never seen soooooo darn many dragonflies just hanging around. Sure there was that weird migrating swarm of them on the news a couple years back but they passed through in the evening and didn't really cause any damage. For those of you who don't know, dragonflies eat bees, especially those plump slow flying queens. So with me being a queen breeder I kinda dread seeing them. Each one I see around here, the little voice in the back of my head asks, "well, I wonder how many \$35 bills have you eaten?" While I am still overproducing, I am seeing lower and lower queen

returns. i.e. perfectly hatched cells, but queenless mating nucs that tell me she never made it back from her mating flight. Ah well, it's like anything in agriculture. Some years it's a bumper harvest and others you face problems.

Summer Field Day was just a couple of weeks ago. If you didn't make it you missed out on my latest presentation on queens. I'm part of the governing board of the Great Plains Master Beekeepers and have been working extensively this year on a comprehensive video series on queen rearing for them. This allowed me to have ample amounts of footage I was able to incorporate into my powerpoint class at field day. Something that is so darn hard to really show people is how to place your grafting tool into the cell and gently pick up the larva. Well after about 10 different camera set-ups/cameras I got some killer video of both picking up the larvae and then depositing them into cell bars. All in all, I now have 3 to 5 hrs of videos and training I need to edit down into something more concise. It'll again be completely free to anyone who is interested. I never charge for any educational talks or materials I produce because when I was learning, I never was charged. So it was ingrained in me that beekeeping education should be free.

State Fair is right around the corner people! I look forward to working with tons of you, the sights, the sounds, the wonderful smells of cooking fair food treats, fireworks, and concerts. If you haven't ever volunteered in the past, I strongly suggest checking out our fair information on the IHPA website and giving it a try. There are perks to volunteering!

Lastly here in my ramblings, I want to touch base on Annual Conference. This year we have stepped out of the box and gotten 5 major speakers for you. World renowned Jamie Ellis of the University of Florida, bee health expert Marla Spivik of the University of Minnesota, Tom Seeley author of Honey Bee Democracy and a slew of research will be joining us via zoom, internet sensation and Canadian commercial beekeeper Ian Stepler is making his way down from the great white north to be with us, and finally we have Lewis Bartlette standing in for Keith Deleplane from the University of Georgia. A young gun making big waves in the fields of evolutionary ecology and infectious diseases. We've also listened to membership and are utilizing some of our healthy budget to decrease prices for members to attend. We are trying some other new things for conference as well like; changing up the format to accommodate all these great speakers. I'm also pushing that after state fair we look at how that might put us ahead financially and be able to do more yet for members. Suggested items have been to decrease meal costs, free coffee and treats, maybe shave off some more of the attendance price.

IHPA Program Leaders

IHPA Youth Scholarship Program

Youth Scholarship Coordinator, **Stephanie Meyers**

The IHPA Youth Scholarship Program encourages all beekeepers to reach out to youth ages 13 to 16 years old (by **November 1, 2023**) in your neighborhood, community, church, etc. and share about the program. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2024 year and must be postmarked by **September 15, 2023**.



Interested individuals should check out the IHPA website at <https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/youth-scholarship-program>

for more information. Students accepted into the program will receive a complete hive, a package of bees with a queen, a feeder, a hive tool, a smoker, a bee brush, a hooded jacket/veil, a pair of leather gloves, a mentor for a year, a membership to the Iowa Honey Producers Association, free registration to Bee Camp, and free registration for annual conference.

I know it may seem early, but start chatting with youth in your area today! If you have any questions, please reach out to **Stephanie Meyers**, Youth Scholarship Coordinator by phone at 641-691-5036 or by email at sonshinefarmsia@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED: The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, (NASDA) working with USDA is hiring FIELD STAFF. Work is part time collection data for the USDA/NASS. A farm background is preferred. Qualifications - a good work ethic, a self-starter, and good communications skills. Starting wage is \$16.31/hr. Mileage allowance is 65.5 cents. Find more info at NASDA.org. For more information call Tony at 515-802-8367

This year the wife & I are sad to say but we are selling out of the bees. Our jobs are taking away from the bees. We have 8 frame hives. We have some that are built & some that are bought from Dadant & Mann Lake. There is too much to list-if you're interested please call or text me at (319) 572-2012. Wanting to sell all together not piece it out. Have supers, hives, hive stands. Thank you. [Eric Higdon, Mediapolis, IA]



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
www.RussianBee.com

From the Editor

Kelsey Wigans, IHPA Editor

**Iowa Conservation Education Coalition Teacher of the Year 2022
Humboldt County Conservation Teacher of the Year 2022**



Hello Fellow Beekeepers!

Well...it's been a whirlwind of a few months for me. I do have to apologize for the missed emails, the later than I would like Buzz in your mailbox and email inboxes.

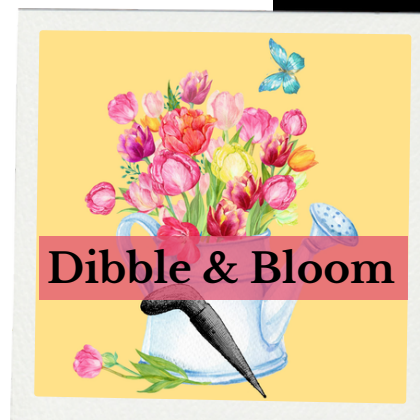
I stepped away from my role as the Seed to Table Manager, effective June 30. With that my husband has also switched jobs, and we have had a lot of life change recently. You'll still see me using my passions and interests in nutrition and agriculture, as my license plate states, the "RDN4AG."

I am pursuing my own entrepreneurial endeavors through the blog, Facebook and Instagram, called the Iowa Family Gardening Homestead. Along with that, Marla Ramaekers, of Dibble and Bloom, and I are pursuing flower farming, event planning and creating a network of homesteaders and people that want to build self-reliance, and old-fashioned skills that our grandparents and grandmothers knew (like canning, butchering, making tinctures, etc.) but we have lost the knowledge throughout the years. I am also going to be doing a bit more with my photography business, called 30 Miles from Nowhere, and spending more time with our two young children.

If you'd like to follow along you can find us at iowafamilygardeninghomestead.com, on Facebook, or Instagram or kelsey.wigans@gmail.com

I am also lending a hand at the Humboldt Christmas Market on Saturday, November 25, and we are in the works of planning another large vendor fair similar to this one in Humboldt at the fair grounds for the spring/summer of 2024. So if you, or someone you know makes something unique that you LOVE, please send them our way!!

I am also serving as Director of the King's Kids Preschool in Humboldt, serving three, four and five year old children.



Iowa Honey Royalty



Rachel Vakulich - 2023 Iowa Honey Queen

Happy Fourth of July to all Iowa Beekeepers!

Wow! It is already July and I have been slowly collecting honey from my hives. Our family tends to pull out one to two frames at a time instead of an entire super. So that has been keeping me very busy.

Since you last read about my February and March events, this article will go over my April, May, and beginning of June. On April 21, I was a part of the Oskaloosa Ag Day. Over 250 third graders, parents, and teachers came for the day to learn about different part of agriculture. I was honored to be a station. The groups were at each station for about 10 minutes. The kids loved being outside the classroom and learn by touching, smelling, and experiencing different aspects of agriculture. I got to give over 20 mini

presentations about the honeybee. I focused more on pollinating since 10 minutes did not afford me much time to talk. But the kids loved the honeysticks (unfortunately I ran out because I miscalculated how many kids would be there.) Even the parents were interested in honey frame that I showed them.



The following day, I was invited to be a part of the Brenton Arboretum Earth Day Event. My table was set up with pictures, a teaching hive, bee suit, tools, and some brochures. The day was cold, so everything was inside. The kids were able to make a beeswax candle which many were excited about. Even the older folks who came by were fascinated by the pictures in my teaching hive. A couple of weeks later, I was the guest speaker at the Newcomers Compass Club in Des Moines. It was held at the Des Moines Botanical Gardens which was a beautiful venue for this event. The ladies enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship. I spoke about the different things that the honeybees do, like what the queen does, the drone does, and the worker bee does. The ladies had very good questions and some were interested in buying local honey.



Afterward, my sister and I explored the gardens together. Almost a month later, I was privileged to attend the East Central Iowa Beekeepers Association Field Day. It was held at a local lavender farm. Guest speakers had a variety of topics like doing a mite check, making splits, and inspecting a hive. The hive inspection was led by Ed St. John who is a master beekeeper. As he went through the hive, he pointed out the different things that he saw. The particular hive that he inspected had capped honey, so the beekeeper pulled those frames to extract. Afterward there was a time of questions and answers along with honey lemonade and snacks.

The last event was on June 7th. It was at the Luther Church of the Cross Senior lunch. I was given the opportunity to show the hive off and talk to those in attendance about honeybees and beekeeping. Some of those in attendance were former beekeepers so it was fun talking to them about their experiences with the honeybee. One of the ladies gave me a beautiful wall quilt that had the queen bee on it. It was a fun experience.

The county fairs are coming up. If your beekeeping club has a booth at a local county fair or you would like the Iowa Honey Princess or the Iowa Honey Queen to come to your farmer's market booth, please let Connie Bronnenberg know. Also keep in mind that the Iowa State Fair is only a month away! Plan to volunteer at the Iowa Honey Producer's Booth and then enjoy the fair as a family.

Happy Beekeeping!
Rachel Vakulich
2023 Iowa Honey Queen

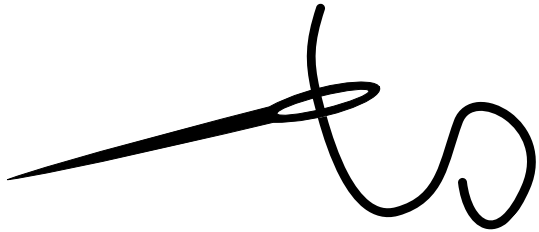
Iowa Honey Royalty



Rachel Vakulich - 2023 Iowa Honey Queen



Quilter's Corner



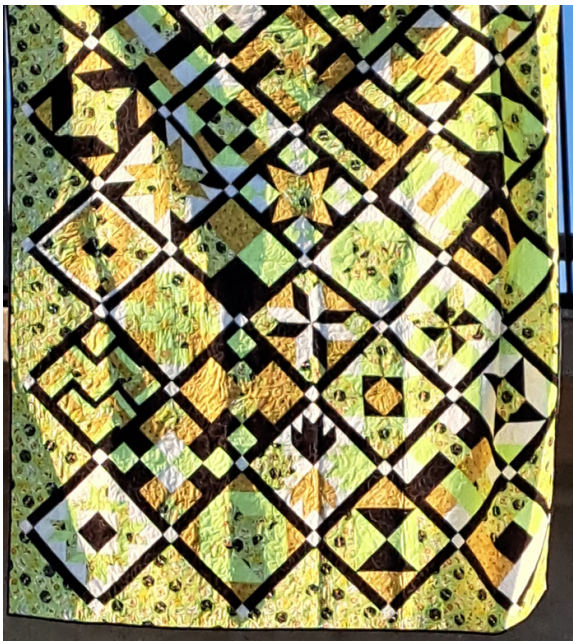
Submitted by: Jodi Kraft

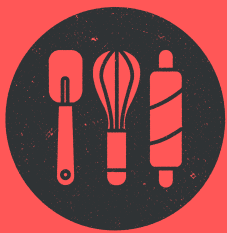
The quilts to support the Iowa Honey Queen Program are finished, and they are BEE-U-TIFUL!

These quilts are stitched together by several people in the IHPA. Quilt block kits are picked up at the IHPA Annual Conference and Meeting in November, submitted by February and finished up by the very talented, Jodi Kraft.

The auction quilt is 80 inches x 100 inches, a very large queen sized quilt. [LEFT]

The raffle quilt is 50 inches by 64 inches. Still a nice lap sized quilt. [RIGHT]





Recipes by Emma Ingram

In our house, mornings usually start a little later during the summer than they did in the school year. Since the elementary school I work at is off for the summer, I am taking advantage of the extra morning time to try out recipes and see if I can find some new favorites for the school year. This month I tried out peanut butter bread and honey-lemon scones. They were both a little more time consuming than I usually do for breakfast, but both were worth the effort!

Peanut Butter Bread (Pg. 26)

2 cups flour 4 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt 1/2 cup peanut butter
1/3 cup honey 1/2 cups milk

Sift dry ingredients. Blend peanut butter and honey, and then add milk. Gradually add to dry ingredients to form a soft dough. Pour into greased loaf pan and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Emma's Notes: This bread was so soft and moist. It was amazing with a little jelly spread on top and made less of a mess than full peanut butter and jelly. It stayed soft for several days, but I did have to watch for mold with how damp the air was when I made it. As far as making it, the hardest part was remembering to scrape the sides of the mixing bowl so that everything was evenly incorporated. We really enjoyed the bread and I had a hard time keeping everyone from eating it. It will certainly be a dish I incorporate into our regular routine.

Honey-Lemon Scones (Pg. 19)

2 cups unbleached flour 1 1/2 cup rolled oats
2 teaspoon baking powder 1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda 1/4 cup softened butter (Not melted)
1/2 cup chopped pecans (toasted) 1 egg, beaten
1/4 cup honey 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1/2 cup plain, non-fat yogurt 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 tablespoons finely chopped lemon verbena leaves



Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

In a large mixing bowl, mix together flour, oats, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in pecans and lemon verbena leaves.

In a small bowl, mix together egg, honey, yogurt, lemon juice, and vanilla. Make a well in the center of flour mixture. Pour liquid mixture in the well and mix the center in with the flour mixture to form a soft dough.

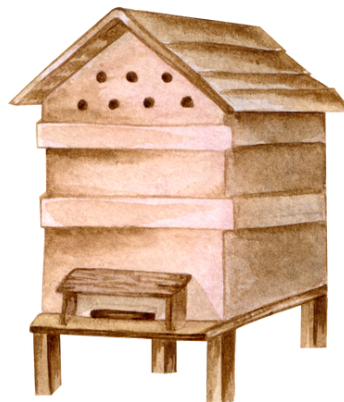
Coat a 12-inch cast iron skillet with non-stick cooking spray or oil. With floured hands, pat the dough into skillet. Score the top into 8 pie shaped wedges.

Bake for 15 minutes, or until lightly browned. Serve warm with honey drizzled over the top.

Emma's Notes: Yummy! The lemon was more subtle than I expected, but was perfectly balanced with the honey and pecan flavors. The scones were a little different from traditional scones because they were cooked all as one piece like a cake rather than pulled apart into wedges like scones normally are. Additionally, the dough was much stickier than other scone recipes I have worked with. It was very important to use the cast iron rather than cutting the scones into the more traditional wedges. They dried out more quickly than I expected, but were amazing the first day! Make sure to use a 12-inch pan or two smaller pans if you don't have a 12-inch. Trying to fit all the dough into a 10-inch pan will NOT work and will leave the edges burned and the center uncooked (I tried it so you don't have to!). Finally, I don't keep lemon verbena leaves in my pantry; however, Walmart and Amazon both carry them and they go well in so many dishes or as a nice tea. I highly recommend getting some to try out this recipe. We loved these scones and I will certainly be making them again.

Field Day 2023

Photos Submitted by: Zach Koopman, Historian



FOR SALE: Near new 6 5/8 supers with 8 drawn combs/bx. Minimum sale is 10 supers @ 35 each. By a pallet of 48, they are \$30 each. One pallet of homemade bottom boards—approx 80 bottoms. Make an offer for the pallet. Near new deep boxes with frames and foundation--\$50 each. Pix available. Migratory lids are also available. Contact Phil at 641-521-6361 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net Pickup is in Mt Vernon or Lynnville.

IHPA Annual Conference and Trade Show

November 10th & 11th

Gateway Hotel & Conference Center
2100 Green Hills Dr,
Ames IA 50014



Jamie Ellis



Marla Spivak



Ian Stepler

www.iowahoneyproducers.org



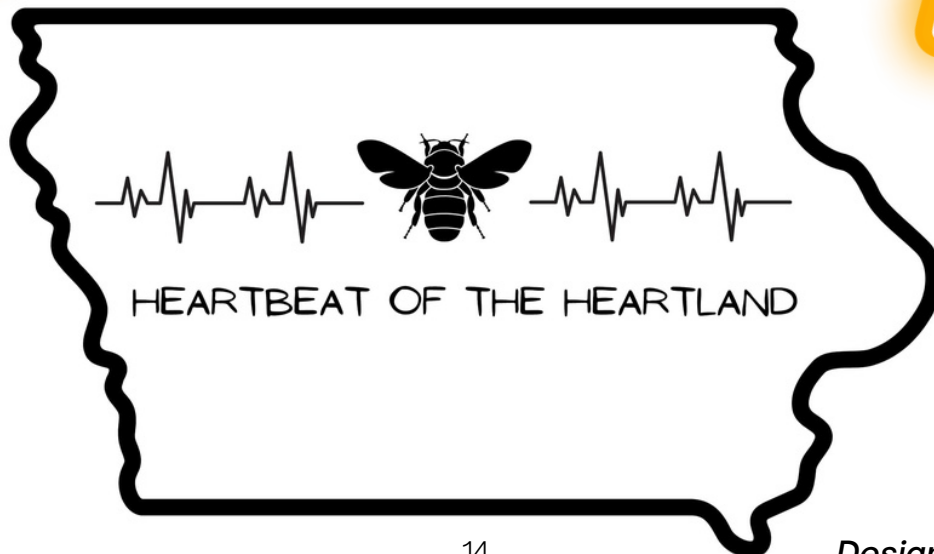
Tom Seeley



Lewis Bartlette

Look!!!

New T-Shirt Design



APIARY - BEES AND HONEY

Agriculture Building, Upper Level

Superintendent - Andy Joseph, Des Moines

Apiary exhibits will be open to the public during building hours each day of the Fair.

If you have questions, please contact the Iowa State Fair Entry Department at 515-282-3111 ext. 243 or entryintern1@iowastatefair.org.

RULES

1. Iowa Family Living general rules and regulations apply in this department. In case general rules conflict with Apiary Department general or special rules, the latter shall govern.
2. **SUBMITTING ENTRIES.** Entries may be made online at www.iowastatefaireentry.org. Entries may also be made by printing the Iowa Family Living form available at www.iowastatefair.org. Complete entry form and return it with full payment of all fees to: Iowa State Fair, Iowa Family Living Entry Department, PO Box 57130, Des Moines, IA 50317-0003.
3. **ENTRY DEADLINE IS JULY 14.** Entries must be submitted online or postmarked on or before July 14. **NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED.**
4. **ENTRY FEE.** Each exhibitor, as a requirement for entry, shall pay a fee of \$2 per entry. This fee applies in all classes except Limited Class 21 which is \$4.

ENTRY ELIGIBILITY

5. Exhibitors are limited to one entry in each class.
6. All honey and beeswax exhibits must be the product of the exhibitor's apiary and must be prepared by the exhibitor unless otherwise specified. Please check class description for eligibility.
7. Entries are to be submitted by a living individual, not by a business, club or organization.
8. A sticker with exhibitor's number must be attached to each container or exhibit (on lid when possible).
9. In all classes, adult and youth, items submitted must not have any reference to the exhibitor. This includes exhibitor's name, company name and/or logo. Any items so identified will be disqualified and will be on display only after judging is completed and if space is available. All containers must be unlabeled. Beekeeper's label may be applied only after judging.
10. Points will be deducted for entries with less than the specified amount.
11. Entries in the Beekeeping Photo Classes must have been taken by the exhibitor.
12. Exhibitors must provide bees in observation beehives with adequate ventilation and an exit hole, 1¼ inch in diameter with ball valve, located just above the bottom board on one end, so that it can be connected to the outdoors and a ¾ inch thick hive base 1 inch wider (not longer) than the hive so that it can be secured to the table with screws.
13. A youth (exhibitors 18 years and under as of the day of judging) can enter an Adult Class only if there is not a comparable class for youth. If there is a Youth Class available, youth must submit their entries in the appropriate Youth Class. This includes Class 23: Youth - Three 1 lb. Queenline or Classic Jars of extracted honey instead of Adult Classes 4, 5, 6 and 7; Class 24: Youth - Beekeeping Photo instead of Adult Classes 16 and 17; Class 25: Youth - Two Beeswax Candles instead of Adult Class 19; Class 26: Youth - Three 12 oz. Plastic Bears instead of Adult Class 9; Class 27: Youth - One Frame of Honey sealed, ready for extracting, wrapped in clear plastic wrap instead of Adult Class 12 and Class 28: Youth - One Frame of empty extracting comb wrapped in clear plastic wrap instead of Adult Class 13.

DELIVERY OF ENTRIES

14. Exhibits must be in place by Noon on Wednesday, August 9 and remain in place until 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 20. Exhibits may be brought in between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 6; between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 8 and between 8:00 a.m. and Noon on Wednesday, August 9. Exhibits must be in place by Noon on Wednesday, August 9. You will need a Pre-Fair Pass (request on entry form) to bring your vehicle onto the Fairgrounds to drop off your exhibit(s).
15. Observation hives must be in place by 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 9. Hives will be inspected by a State inspector prior to judging. Any hives not inspected at this time will not be allowed to be displayed and must be removed from the building. Limited to the first 12 entries.

JUDGING

16. Exhibits will be judged Wednesday, August 9 and/or Thursday, August 10. Entries not in place by Noon on Wednesday, August 9 will not be judged. Exhibits brought in after Noon on Wednesday, August 9 will be considered for display only, but will not be guaranteed display space.
17. Any entry may be withheld at the discretion of the judge or the Superintendent.
18. Any entry may be disqualified if it does not comply with the classification.

DISPLAY OF ENTRIES

19. The arrangements of exhibits will be directed by the Superintendent and will be classified whenever possible. Jack's Scale will be used in Classes 4, 5, 6 and 7 for color placement.

SALE OF ENTRIES

20. Apiary products cannot be sold during the Fair.

RECLAIMING ENTRIES

21. Entries must be picked up between Noon and 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 21.

LIABILITY

22. The Management will use diligence in caring for the safety of entries after their arrival and placement, but in no case will they be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.

BEEES, APIARY PRODUCTS

Premiums in Classes 1 through 20 - \$20, 15, 12

Premium in Class 21 - \$40, 30, 25

Premium in Class 22 - \$20

CLASS

- 1 **Observation Hive of Bees and Queen - Any Race - 1 ½ story, deep brood comb with medium or shallow frame or sections on top**
- Score Card**
- | | |
|--|-----|
| Uniformity of Color & Markings for Breed | 15 |
| All Stages of Worker Brood..... | 15 |
| QUEEN: | |
| Size and Shape | 15 |
| Color and General Appearance | 15 |
| HIVE: | |
| Brood Comb Attachment, and Frame of Honey..... | 15 |
| Overall General Appearance | 25 |
| TOTAL..... | 100 |
- 2 **Six Round Sections - White Comb Honey**
- Score Card - Cleanliness of sections (plastic) 10; comb attachment to section, 20; CAPPING: uniformity of color and finish, 30; no stain and absence of pollen, 10; honey color, 10; moisture content, 20. TOTAL 100.
- 3 **Six Cut Comb in Hard Plastic Box, 4 1/2 inches x 1 1/8 inches**
- Score Card - Accuracy and neatness of cut edges of comb, 20; uniform depth and filling of honey cell, 20; complete, uniform and clean cappings, 20; quality, quantity and uniformity of honey, 20; freedom from leakage and general appearance of pack, 20. TOTAL 100.
- Jack's Scale will be used for color placement in Classes 4, 5, 6 and 7.
- 4 **Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline or Classic Jars White Extracted Honey**
- Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.
- 5 **Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline or Classic Jars Light Amber Extracted Honey**
- Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.
- 6 **Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline or Classic Jars Amber Extracted Honey**
- Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.
- 7 **Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline or Classic Jars Dark Amber Extracted Honey**
- Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.
- 8 **Three 2 1/2 lb. Square Wide Mouth One Piece Lid Jars Combination Chunk and Strained Honey**
- Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; cleanliness and general appearance, 20; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 5; moisture content, 20; quality and neatness of comb honey, 25; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 5. TOTAL 100.
- 9 **Six 12 oz. Plastic Bears**
- Score Card - Container: free from defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 10; color of honey, 20; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 15; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities including foam and granulation, 15. TOTAL 100.
- Class 10 and 11 - Plain lids only. Lids must not be decorated.**
- 10 **Six 12 oz. Hex Jars Creamed Honey (A pure honey developed by controlling the process of natural granulation. Noted for its fine texture and ease of spreading at normal room temperature.)**
- Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; color, 10; firmness (not runny but spreadable), 25; texture of granulation (smooth and fine), 20; uniform and accurate volume of honey in all containers, 10; absence of impurities, including froth, 15; flavor: free from burnt taste or other off flavors, 15. TOTAL 100.
- 11 **Six 12 oz. Hex Jars Flavored Creamed Honey with the Flavor Specified on the Container Lid**
- Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; color and appearance, 10; flavor, 25; firmness (not runny but spreadable) 20; texture of granulation (smooth and fine), 20; absence of impurities, including froth, 10; uniform and accurate volume of honey in all containers, 10. TOTAL 100.
- 12 **One Frame of Honey, sealed, ready for extracting, wrapped in clear plastic wrap**
- Score Card - Cleanliness of frame, 5; completeness of comb attachment, 10; uniform and completely filled honey cells, 25; uniformity of color of honey (comb, cappings, honey), 25; thickness of comb for ease of uncapping, 10; completeness, uniformity and cleanliness of cappings, 25. TOTAL 100.
- 13 **One frame of empty extracting comb wrapped in clear plastic wrap**
- Score Card - Cleanliness of frame, 10; comb attachment and finish, 25; uniformity of cells, 25; uncapped finish, 30; color of wax, 10. TOTAL 100.

IOWA STATE FAIR * AUGUST 10-20, 2023 * APIARY

- 14 **Block of Beeswax - 3 pound minimum.** Bulk beeswax as prepared for the commercial market. (Wax that will be used for making candles, cosmetics, floor waxes and numerous other products.) Entry will be a plain block of wax without design or added color.
Score Card - No cracks, 20; color, 30; cleanliness, 20; aroma, 20; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.
- 15 **Beeswax Art** - Entries are to showcase the natural beauty of beeswax. No added color will be allowed.
Score Card - Workmanship: No cracks or bubbles, wax color and cleanliness, 20; design, 20; originality, 20; difficulty, 20; aroma, 10; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.
- 16 **Photograph - General Beekeeping** - (maximum size 8x10 inches, unframed, but matted with a maximum two inch border) Subject of photo must be honey or beekeeping and may depict harvesting, processing, marketing or packaging bee hive products.
Score Card - Technique, 30; composition, 30; impact, 30; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.
- 17 **Photograph - Specific Subject** (maximum size 8x10 inches, unframed but matted with a maximum two inch border) Subject must be honeybees and must not have people in the photo. Please note: The specific subject for 2021 will be "Life Inside the Hive".
Score Card - Technique, 30; composition, 30; impact, 30; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.
- 18 **Two Beeswax Candles (dipped)** any size - Entries are to showcase the natural beauty of beeswax. No added color will be allowed.
Score Card - Color (natural) 20; uniformity of appearance, 20; cleanliness, 20; workmanship, 20; odor, 20. TOTAL 100.
- 19 **Two Beeswax Candles, all others** (e.g. molded, various shapes, rolled, etc.) - Entries are to showcase the natural beauty of beeswax. No added color will be allowed.
Score Card - Color (natural or artificial), 20; uniformity of appearance, 20; cleanliness, 20; workmanship, 20; odor, 20. TOTAL 100.
- 20 **Gift Basket, maximum size 12 inches x 20 inches** - A basket full of honey and other beehive products and beekeeping-related items attractively displayed. Items that are not honey or beeswax do not have to be a product of the exhibitor. Honey and beeswax must be from the exhibitor's apiary but may have one (1) item of honey (example: honey sticks, bundles of five or less) from another source and must be identified as such with the name of the Apiary or source it is from. Failure to do so will disqualify the entry.
Score Card - Quality of products, 20; packaging of products, 20; originality and creativity, 20; variety and sales appeal, 30; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.
- 21 **Limited Class - Entry Fee \$4**
Window Display (four feet wide by four feet high by two feet deep) depicting most attractive way to promote honey, wax and beekeeping. Materials used in this display may not be used in any other class. Two shelving tracts (**total of three shelves**) and fluorescent lighting provided on inside of window display box with a locked, glass front. Entry must be prepared and placed by the exhibitor. The exhibitor must do the majority of the work on the window but may have some help with the display. Each window must contain a minimum of 21 items. Honey and beeswax must be from the exhibitor's apiary but may have up to three (3) honey or beeswax items from another source. Each must be identified with the name of the Apiary or source it is from. Failure to do so will disqualify the entry. Limited to first four entries. Contact Superintendent for more details.
Score Card - Originality and suitability, 25; educational aspects, 20; variety and sales appeal, 20; economic importance of bees (value of products and pollination services), 25; lighting, 10. TOTAL 100.
- 22 **The Best Honey in Iowa!** - Submit one small (2 oz - 8oz) jar of your best liquid honey extracted as part of this year's crop. The jar must be "blacked out" to hide the appearance, color and clarity of the honey. This may be done with black paint or black tape applied to the outside of the jar. The jar may bear no individual labeling in order to maintain the exhibitor's anonymity. **Only 1st Place Blue Ribbon will be awarded.**
Score Card - Taste; The Best Honey as perceived by our Iowa State Fair Apiary Judge: 100 pts. TOTAL: 100.

YOUTH CLASSES - Open to ages 18 and under

Premiums in Classes 23 through 28 - \$10, 8, 5

- CLASS**
- 23 **Youth - Three 1 lb. Queenline or Classic Jars of extracted honey**
Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; color of honey, 20; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 20; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.
- 24 **Youth - Beekeeping Photo** (maximum size 8x10 inches, unframed but matted with a maximum two inch border) Subject of photo must be honeybees, honey or beekeeping related.
Score Card - Technique, 30; composition, 30; impact, 30; overall appearance, 10. TOTAL 100.
- 25 **Youth - Two Beeswax Candles**
Score Card - Color (natural or artificial), 20; uniformity of appearance, 20; cleanliness, 20; workmanship, 20; odor, 20. TOTAL 100.
- 26 **Youth - Three 12 oz. Plastic Bears**
Score Card - Container: free from defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 10; color of honey, 20; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 15; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities including foam and granulation, 15. TOTAL 100.
- 27 **Youth - One Frame of Honey, sealed, ready for extracting, wrapped in clear plastic wrap**
Score Card - Cleanliness of frame, 5; completeness of comb attachment, 10; uniform and completely filled honey cells, 25; uniformity of color of honey (comb, cappings, honey), 25; thickness of comb for ease of uncapping, 10; completeness, uniformity and cleanliness of cappings, 25. TOTAL 100.
- 28 **Youth - One frame of empty extracting comb wrapped in clear plastic wrap**
Score Card - Cleanliness of frame, 10; comb attachment and finish, 25; uniformity of cells, 25; uncapped finish, 30; color of wax, 10. TOTAL 100.

From the Beeyard



Written by Phil Ebert

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

We finally got our bees back that went to Washington state for apple pollination. It was the third week of May. Adam was worried about them. He asked if he should have someone feed them. We were assured they were in good shape. When they got back to Iowa, 155 of the 360 were dead. There were masses of dead bees but not a lick of food. The ones that were alive were heavy. They had obviously had access to forage that the dead ones did not. We can make up the death loss but it is a tremendous amount of work to clean out the boxes. We have a barrel of dead bees (literally) and we are not finished yet. We did get the pollination fee for all of the colonies so it was not a total disaster.

So far, mite tests have been zero. We will be putting in extended release oxalic pads when we super. As I write this (early June), we still have 400 colonies to move onto locations. We hope to get supers on next week. The hot weather has brought on a great flow. The splits are still in single boxes. Many of them have too much honey in them. This is not much space for the queens to lay eggs. We need to get a 2nd box on them. Given how late it is, we will probably run some of them as singles. Like most things with beekeeping, this decision is a bit of a crap shoot. Singles have proven harder to keep alive over the last few years. If you pull the honey off in mid-July and give them a 2nd box, they have a chance. If you pull later, they never get into the 2nd box. They still have a lot of bees but it doesn't seem to be enough. We lose a lot of them. We did this successfully for years but it doesn't work anymore. Two thirds of our revenue is from honey sales. The temptation to go for honey with singles is pretty strong.

Bees easily detect the odor from a box of queens. The bees in the picture are gathered around the box of queens. There were hundreds of colonies in close proximity. Once the bees have gathered there, they don't go home. This was the 2nd box of queens this happened with. The first bunch filled up a deep box. We gave them a queen and let then set up housekeeping.

Our broker in California was Bee Heros. They gave us sensors to put in the hives (see pix) that read the internal temperature. There was a small sensor that slipped over one of the frames in each box. Then there was a larger sensor on the outside of one of the boxes on the pallet. The large sensor read the other smaller ones and sent a reading to the office. By reading the temp, they could estimate the size of the clusters. I was a little apprehensive about how well this was going to work. In the end, it was all good. We got the highest average per colony payout we have ever gotten.



I have had several people call me who were worried about the effect of hot dry weather on the bees. It is the best thing that can happen!!! Drought is great for a honey crop in this area. It is different in the Dakotas. The only time we need rain in Iowa is during soybean bloom. We don't need a lot—just enough to stimulate nectar production.

Here's hoping for a productive summer.





From the Honey House



*Written by: Andy the Bee Guy
(Andy Hemken)*

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

Monday Morning Surprises

Beekeepers in the northern half of Wisconsin are used to, and deal with black bears. Six strand electric fences with solar chargers and deep draw batteries are standard. In southern Wisconsin we get the occasional wondering bear, and 18 years ago I had a few hives ravaged and eaten. In the last few years there have been increasing sightings, mostly younger males going after bird feeders. Twenty years ago, the black bear population was estimated at 5000. Currently the estimate is 25,000. During mating season, the older males chase the younger ones away from their territory. Subsequently, the bears are on the move.

As the bear reports and photos published were getting more numerous, and looking at the locations, I started visiting my beeyards for a quick look, a few times. I have 21 locations spread out in a 35 mile wide territory. A neighboring beekeeper started having bears take out his beeyards. Around here, we tend to network, and the phone calls were increasing.



We were blessed with an early honey flow this year, and I'm busy making the rounds, supering up beehives. I rolled into my third yard of the morning, and found five of twenty-four hives tipped over, with parts scattered. Typically the bears rip apart the brood chamber, and eat up all of the yummy bee larvae. Fortunately, This youngster had a sweet tooth, and eat a few honey supers.

The police station is a quarter mile away, and I made out a report, and the nice officer came and took some tourist photos. FleetFarm is two miles away in the city of Oconomowoc, and I picked up a solar charger with battery, and all the electric fence materials I needed. Up went the fence. My brother-in-law, the bear hunter, came out that afternoon, and showed me where the bear slept, and was marking his territory, 100 feet from my hives. That evening, I spent a couple of hours next to the yard at dusk, just checking.

In the last two weeks, the bear has not been back, but the reports around the area continue, with pictures and stories. The in talking to fellow beekeepers, it appears that there are at least three bears in the area. Yipee. I call our Wisconsin DNR, and they are sorry about the damage to my livestock, but unless humans are directly threatened, they continue to do, nothing. With the damage, I could sign up for their bear program for a year, get a free fence (which I already bought and installed), but I would have to allow any bear hunter access to the property for hunting during the season. I don't think the church wants hunting in their parking lot.

Andy the Bee Guy andy@hemkenhoney.com



Beekeeping OOPS (for my Husband)

Respectfully Submitted by Sheila Weldon

We store our beekeeping jackets on some wall hooks in our attached garage. Once in a while, our honey bees find their way into the garage (usually attracted to something bee related in our gator). In late May while still in the garage, my husband put on his beekeeping jacket and heard buzzing in his hood. He immediately thought well, "it can only sting me once." He was promptly stung on the top of his head and assumed that the bee was now dying. He then heard more buzzing which made him think that there must be a second honeybee and was stung on the neck. Once again, he heard buzzing and was stung a third time. The jacket he was wearing is more difficult to put on and take off, but provides better protection than his old favorite. However, the 3rd or 4th sting inspired him to remove the jacket. He quickly discovered one bumble bee still hanging onto life and he put it out of its misery.

My husband will say that the sting was not nearly as painful as the honeybee's sting and he didn't have to pull out any barbed stingers. I have never ever been stung by a bumble even though we have a large quantity on our acreage. Perhaps, checking the inside of our jackets might be good idea.



A BEEKEEPERS' FIELD DAY is a wonderful opportunity to learn by doing and meet a great group of people. The Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) invites you to join them for their annual summer field day on Saturday, July 22 at the Iowa Arboretum & Gardens, 1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid. Wear your bee suit for a full morning of hands-on stations (hive inspections, making splits, processing bees wax). Then enjoy lunch (free will donation) and afternoon speakers in the air-conditioned comfort of the main arboretum building. Speakers include commercial beekeepers Curt Bronnenburg, Pat and Peggy Ennis, and Eric Kenoyer, plus Becky Masterman from the University of Minnesota Bee Lab and the Minnesota Bee Squad. Details on the CIBA website:

<https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/> or contact Don Moody (515) 770-5754, ds.moody1@hotmail.com

Volunteers Needed

Wednesday, August 9

Walk in the Iowa State Fair Parade! Wear either an IHPA t-shirt, or part of your beekeeping gear.

Near the Iowa State Capital in Des Moines.

More details to come.

Please contact **Julie Swett** if you'd like to be added to a list of volunteers at funcity@aol.com

10 frame observation hive. Frames included. \$25.00. Bondurant Tony Christensen (515) 240-4957.



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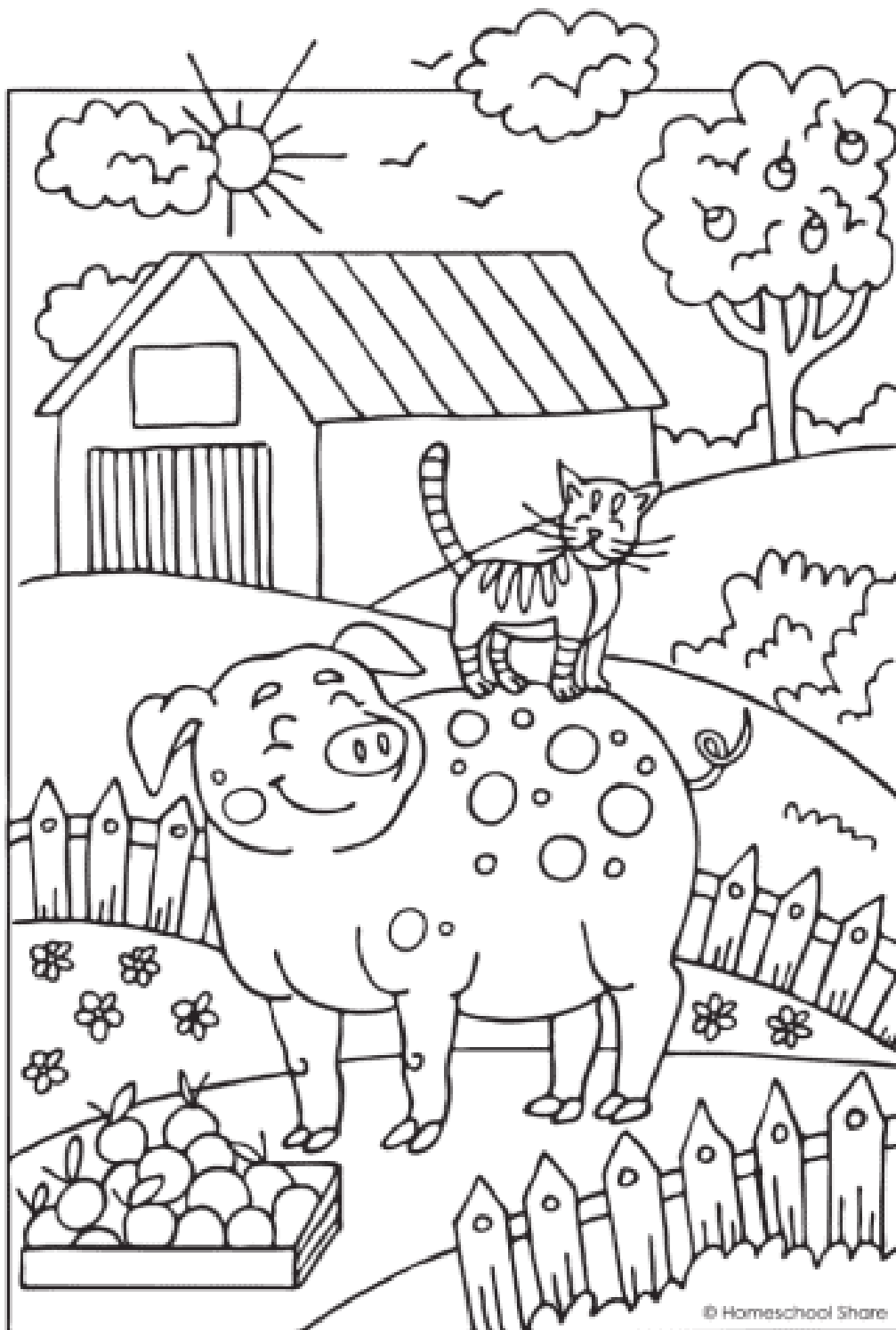
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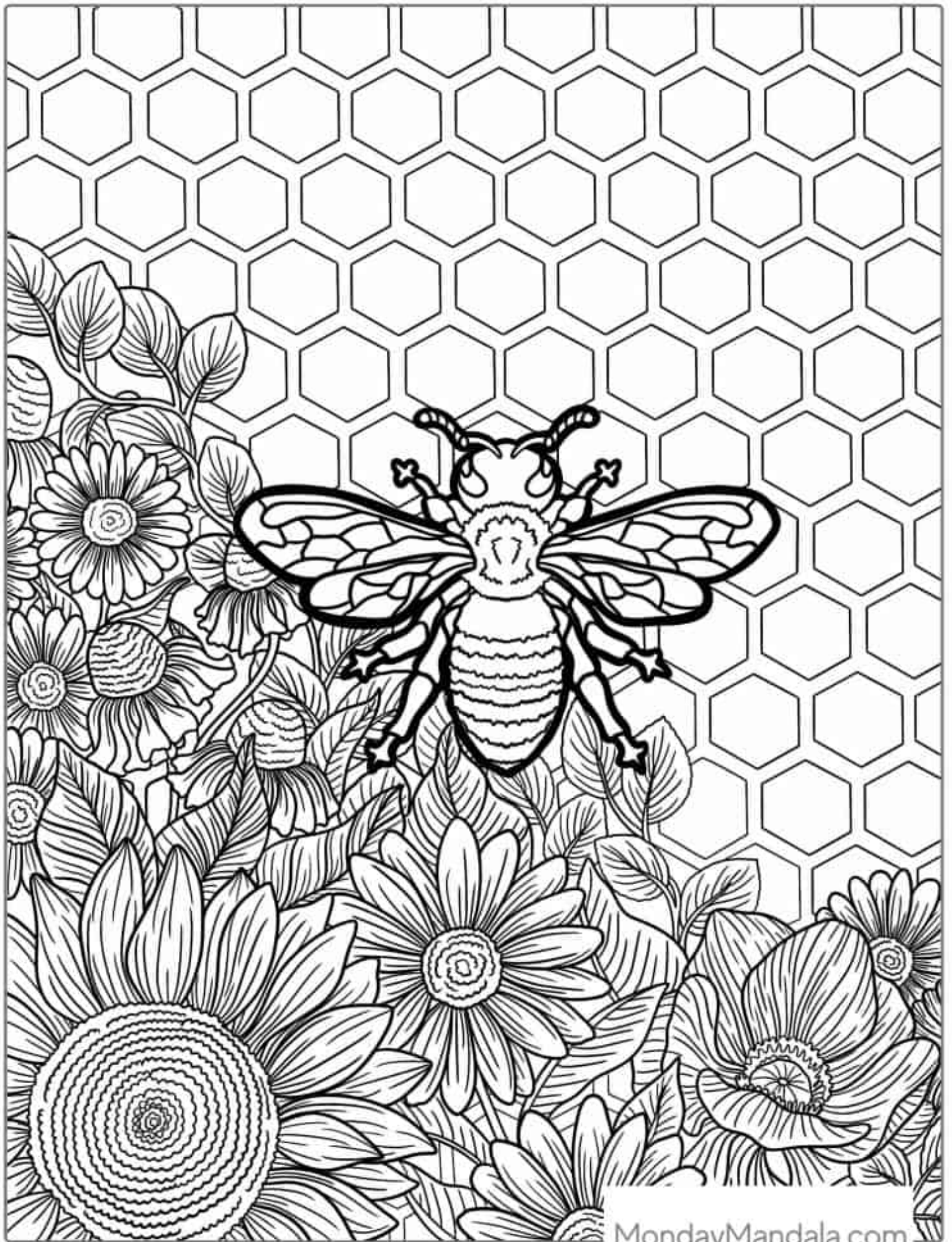
Iowa State Fair 2023 Ag Art Contest

Kids can enter their best Fair Ag Art! Each entry should be a drawing demonstrating the theme "Farmers are Heroes" on 8 ½"x11" white paper. Each drawing should be in color, using a medium of your choice. Find rules and entry forms below.

<https://www.iowastatefair.org/visit/kid-friendly-activities>

Due: July 10





The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association
c/o Editor, Kelsey Wigans
1255 Virginia Avenue
Renwick, IA 50577



The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association 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 July Edition of The Buzz

Monday, July 10th at 11:59 p.m.

If you need assistance designing your advertisement, information is due to Kelsey Wigans one week prior, on Monday, July 3rd at 11:59 p.m.

Please submit materials to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com

