

The Buzz

Newsletter of the

Iowa Honey Producers

Association



June 2025

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

SUMMER FIELD DAY

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IOWA STATE FAIR



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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

Failing to plan means planning to fail.

Sometimes I wonder what to write about. Should I try to be funny? Should I try to be serious? Usually it just ends up with my thoughts falling onto the keyboard. This month is a little different. It's about planning. Lately, I have found myself on the road for work more than I have been in a very long time. In fact, I think I have had no more than 3 days in Iowa per week for the last 8 weeks. It was a lot, but then I need this so I can pay for my beekeeping hobby. That said, traveling and being a beekeeper, it's sometimes a little daunting. I'm not commercial. I'm a borderline small business, and I don't have the time during the week to work on my bees. So what does that mean? PLANNING. In 2024 I set out with a simple goal: be more efficient when inspecting bees. This carries on into 2025 but planning is taking a big step forward with my goal setting.

We all know in the world of beekeeping there are a lot of things going on in short bursts of time. Adding on other tasks (aka the full time job, trying to get to the gym, have some kind of personal life) means finding ways to maximize the weekends I had free so I could keep plugging away. What did this mean? I filled my outlook calendar with tasks that needed to be completed so I could sort of have an action plan for the year.

In early January, despite losses, I started looking over all my equipment. I knew I had some boxes that have simply seen better days and frames that needed to go. I made a plan to review what needed to go, stay and what I needed to purchase so I could watch sales as they came and went. Through this, I was able to get all the boxes and frames at



Above and below: Chris worked with his bees with his mom on Mother's Day.



Letters from the Wildhills

a really great price. It wouldn't have happened without planning. I also managed to get a little overzealous with the frames and now have an extra 100 deep frames and zero deeps left to put those in, but that's for another day.

While working on this, I knew I also needed to start planning my mite checks and treatments. I knew I wanted to get in there early and clean up anything that's going on. So watching the colonies grow, I planned to add my formic (what I decided on) when I was flipping rotating boxes. My theory was those fumes would drift downward into the existing brood cells. This also happened to be the time when my work travel jumped into high gear. Reviewing the plan I had, on my calendar, watching my travel dates, I knew exactly when I needed to get into those hives and add the treatments so I would have them completed early on, before I needed to worry about swarming, supers and all that. Again, having a plan saved me from being caught off guard.

Moving forward, I knew I had packages and nucs coming in and with that, full hive management, and I'm sure the folks who I got them from were getting somewhat annoyed with me verifying dates, but again, I was in a time crunch. On my calendar, I had it scheduled as detailed as the day prior making syrup so I had it right away. It makes the installation process as perfect as possible, and now, on the schedule I set, I'm looking to add supers in the near future. Oddly, I've already planned extraction dates, mite checks and treatment plans. I'm even planning on some upgraded extraction equipment and when to order it so I can pick it up at Summer Field Day and save 10% (planning your budget is just as important as your time).

So I guess what I'm saying here is having a plan for your year can make this amazing hobby or business go a lot smoother than you could expect. It's worked great for me thus far. My bees are bursting, I got what I need to have done on time, and even with a few hiccups and a lot of travel, I'm right where I need to be right now. Just remember, give yourself a little grace, because things will go wrong, things will come up. For example, this year picking up bees, I had planned on a particular trailer to use, then found it was out of commission, so I got to take a stock trailer, which broke down, twice. I'll include the photos for everyone but let's just say, if I wasn't able to exercise a little flexibility, life would have been a lot worse last weekend. A little grace goes a long way as well, as does the ability to sit back and have a laugh when it seems the world is working against you.



IHPA Officer & Director News

Ramblings from The Russian Bee Guy

Past President, Jason Foley

Hello all and welcome to June. Sorry I wasn't part of last month's Buzz, but I was running around like a chicken with his head cut off. That would have been April 15th when I would have needed to get the Buzz article written and submitted. I was just back with the first load of package bees on the 11th and after distributing them, my bees were back and it was a mad dash to get them set, and then rush on back down to Mississippi to get the Russian packages for our April 19th/20th distribution weekend. I had to just tell our editor, Sara Sleyster to please skip me that month.

So here it is now May 15th and I am so burned out, it's not even funny. So in the last 3 to 4 weeks I've managed to split out 150 new colonies, placed another 7 yards (done at night after full days of working), caught 22 swarms including one I shot out of a tree, built Tyler Holton 133 oversized nucs, made 150 new migratory lids and painted them, emptied out and placed the supers from my 20-foot shipping container, emptied out and palletized all my supers from the walk-in freezer (then put them out on hives), redid and planted our garden, fixed our tiller three times in that process, put in irrigation, cleaned up multiple downed trees on our 11 acres that had fallen across our hiking trails, got a new mower and mowed all the trails, beeyards, mating yards, and actual yard around our house (lol), cleaned out our plugged culvert crossing, rented heavy equipment and built a big raised pad in the beeyard to keep colonies above the 500 year flood mark, surfaced the pad with gravel, re-surfaced our drive path back to the mating yard area, today marked my third week of doing queen grafts for the mating operation and a few days ago I set out the first 150 loaded mating nucs ("loaded" meaning I put a queen cell, a cup of bees, and corn syrup in the feeders), shook loose bee packages to have for the queen operation, worked on a number of IHPA projects and website updates as well as swapping out the payment system on the site, had some candle orders come in needing made, an IHPA board meeting tossed in, spent a day helping my mother find an apartment and another day helping her start to pack up her home for the move, and, really, God only knows what else that I can't even recall.

In all honesty there were a few times there where I



probably wasn't in the best mental health between the anxiety and constant work. At one point I realized I hadn't had a day off since sometime in March when I was in California and a day of rain forced us to just hang out instead of moving bees. My wife insisted last week that I take one day off. It was mostly successful. I got up and went to the gym, came home and was just going to lounge around and watch TV all day. Little did I know that IHPA board members were going to ask me to then play around with the website some more. Ah-well, at least I did that from the comfort of my couch.

I don't say this to get pity. It's more for you to poke fun at and maybe feel good that it wasn't you. It also is a glimpse at life for those of you in the sideliners phase of beekeeping that are thinking of going full time. I'm getting darn close to having to hire part-time staff. I just really don't want the responsibility of other people's livelihood in my hands or the government taxes and such.

Lastly I leave you with a photo I took today while grafting. I'm probably in one of the healthiest and most fit times of my life, yet look at how age is creeping up on me... This year I've had to resort to lenses to aid me while grafting. My near sighted vision is failing me to a point where I can't see the ideal small larva. I can see the larger ones you can't use, but the day or two hatched ones are nearly impossible for me. Good news is, the lenses give me super vision and grafting is a breeze now.

IHPA Historian

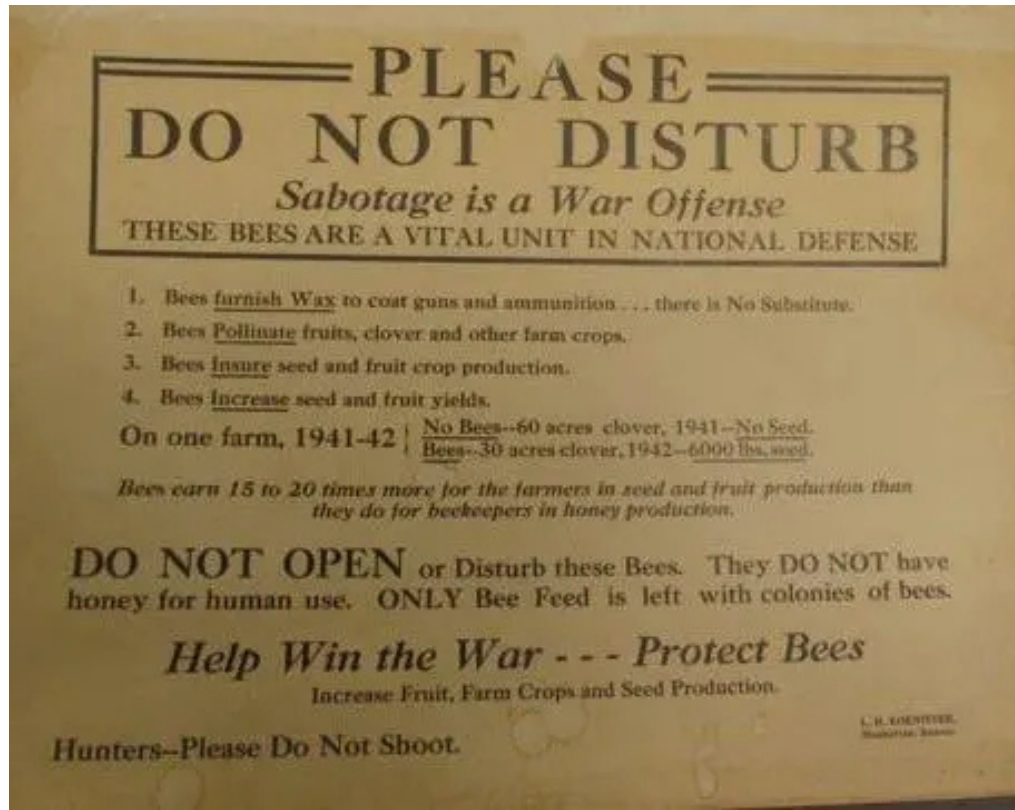
Why did you get into beekeeping?

If you are a beekeeper, you have probably answered this question at least once. It's actually the way we start our first night of beginning beekeeping classes. Why are you here? What is your goal in keeping bees? For us, once upon a time, the answer was...we were looking for ways to become a little more self-sufficient...and my Great Uncle was a beekeeper.

My only experience with a beekeeper, before becoming one, was a family story of my Great Uncle who wasn't selected to join WW II because he was a beekeeper. He was the oldest of 3 boys. More importantly, he was the man of the house as the war was gearing up, as Grandpa Ed succumbed to cancer in June of 1939. With a sizable acreage to farm and honey bee hives to attend, he was given a deferment, when he registered October 16, 1940 for the draft.

I grew up around Uncle Roy. He was a quite man, who never married, and lived his passions each day, mostly painting and caring for plants. As such, he cared for his mother until she passed at 76 years of age. He was a photographer as well, for which I am fortunate. One of my current projects is sorting through his projector slide collection. Oh, the treasures that have lied within. As I sit here today, his paintings are on my wall, and the passion that he and his two brothers had for plants, trees, conservation, and preservation is instilled in all that knew them.

As a child growing up, I never knew Uncle Roy to be a beekeeper. I think he left that in Nebraska when they all



moved to Iowa and started a nursery. The story has remained however; a beekeeper who escaped war action. I think it is fascinating to think about. Our humble honey bee so important that a buff 30-year young man could escape the draft for being their caretaker.

Due to the wages of war, sugar shipping routes were greatly altered. As we don't really supply our own sugar needs in this country, steps were taken to preserve its availability. The value of the honeybee was more than just supplementing sugar needs though. It was way more than that. Beeswax was used for waterproofing (and rust proofing) ammunition, communication equipment, tents, tarps, and airplanes. Honey was used on the battlefield for its inherent antiseptic qualities, preventing infection and minimizing scars.

Heralding all these benefits led to beekeeping being declared by the government as "war-essential", right up there with munitions manufacturing and ship building. Thus, beekeepers were encouraged, educated, and protected universally. They were providing life to the cause, doing their own patriotic service both to the men fighting abroad and to those on the home front taking the charge. It's a good thing our honey bees and our beekeepers are so industrious!

What a day to be a beekeeper, huh? A day where liquid gold played such a vital role. Where Allied forces were sustained by your product. A time when great advancements were pioneered in the beekeeping world, that we still utilize today. As was a slogan then, I'll say again now "Let the Bees Wax the Way to Victory!"

Until next time...Waggle More, Sting Less

Tina Marshall, IHPA Historian

IHPA Officer & Director News

Well, well, well—look who’s back! It’s swarm season, folks, and the bees aren’t the only ones buzzing. The Iowa Honeybee Sales Tax Bill—now formally known as HF 1004—has once again taken up residence at the feet of the State Senate leadership, waiting patiently (or not-so-patiently) to be scheduled for a vote. If this legislative dance feels familiar, that’s because it is. Two years in a row, we’ve gotten this far before the whole thing stalls out like a car with a bad alternator.

We’re doing our best to nudge, prod, and politely pester the Senate into action, but so far, we’ve been met with the bureaucratic equivalent of a shrug. Luckily for us, the legislature is heading into extra innings this year, meaning they won’t adjourn until they pass a budget. That gives us a little extra time to make some noise. So, if you feel inclined to help us make this bill “*beecome*” law, now’s the time to make your voice heard!

Now, onto sweeter things! I’ve had the pleasure of serving on the IHPA board for nearly four years as District 2 Director (Northeast Iowa). In addition to those duties and my role as the Legislative Liaison, I team up with the wonderful Sara Holton as co-chair of the IHPA Annual Conference and Trade Show. And guess what? This year, we’re back at Prairie Meadows Resort in Altoona on October 24-25. The conference has become one of the

biggest and best beekeeping events in the Midwest, and we have big plans to make it even bigger.

In fact, we started planning the 2026 conference the day after the 2025 event wrapped up. Talk about dedication! Contracts for meeting spaces are locked in, vendors are prepped, menus for food functions are mapped out, and we’ve secured an exciting lineup of major speakers. We’ll be announcing our headlining guests at the June Field Day and in the July Buzz, so stay tuned! As always, our breakout sessions evolve with the ever-changing needs of Iowa beekeepers, and if you have a topic you’d love to see covered, just shoot me an email at countryviewhoney@gmail.com.

And here’s an exciting addition to this year’s event: The State of Iowa Division of Weights and Measures will be on-site Friday, October 25, to certify and register honey scales. If you’re selling honey by weight (not volume), the state requires a certified scale — it’s a quick, painless process and only costs \$9 per year.

So, as we roll into swarm season, remember: Split or swarm, sink or swim! And in the immortal words of “The Hunger Games,” May the odds be ever in your favor!

H.R. Cook, Legislative Rep for the IHPA

Iowa Honey Bees Crossword

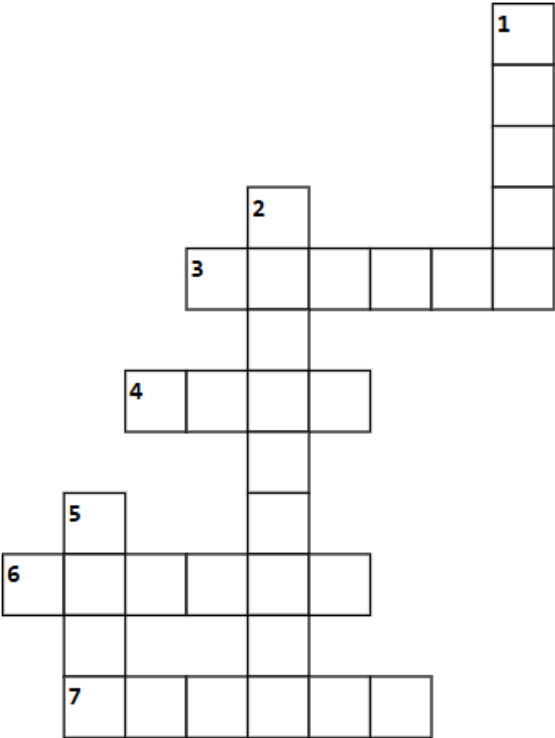
ACROSS

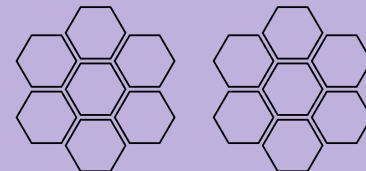
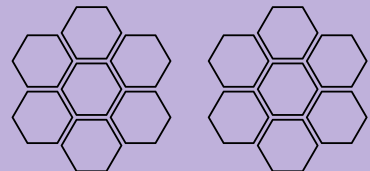
- 3. A fair in your local area
- 4. The top ribbon at the fair
- 6. When the field day takes place
- 7. Free bees?

DOWN

- 1. It comes in jars, sticks and lemonade
- 2. What you need to do at IHPA State Fair booth
- 5. Starter colonies

Answers on page 16.





Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced in April that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship awarded 33 Choose Iowa value-added grants to Iowa farmers and small businesses located in 28 counties. Grant recipients were eligible to receive up to \$25,000 in cost-share per project to increase or diversify their agricultural product offerings, expand markets and shorten supply chains. Choose Iowa awarded \$463,000 in value-added grants to leverage a total investment by grant awardees of \$1,325,710.05 to expand the availability of Iowa grown, Iowa raised, and Iowa made food, beverages, and ag products.

Several Iowa honey producers received Choose Iowa value-added grants including:

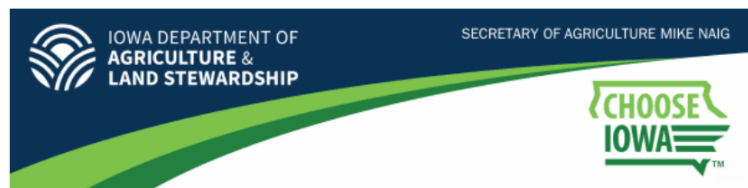
Lone Oak Honey Company in Sioux City: \$1,164.54

Purchase a honey extractor and chest freezer to improve the efficiency of honey production.

Total project budget: \$2,329.09

Iowa Bee in Latimer: \$13,050

Purchase equipment to produce honey straws.



Total project budget: \$26,100

The Ardent Apiary in Lake Mills: \$2,237.50

Add honey extractor and lavender distillation equipment to expand operations.

Total project budget: \$4,475

Wetzel Honey Farm in Corning: \$7,669

Improve honey harvest with the purchase of an uncapper, extruder and melter.

Total project budget: \$15,337

Honey Hollow Apiary and Gardens in Indianola:

\$2,676.99

Purchase a labeling machine to increase production of Iowa mead.

Total project budget: \$5,353.98



Buzzz...worthy items to WAGGLE about in June

Submitted by Jim and Tina Marshall

- Looking for some summer travel ideas? Check these out: Northeast Kansas Beekeepers' Association Fun Day on June 7, [NEKBA BEE FUNDAY](#) or Missouri Bee Day on June 21, [Missouri Bee Day 2025 - Missouri State Beekeepers Association](#)
- Honey bees use plants to self-medicate. They can do this best when we let some of our vegetation bolt. This particularly applies to our herbs. As an herb gardener it can be hard to let that happen. It shortens our use of the plant. If that is too much to sacrifice, consider planting two – one for you and one for the bees.

- Going on vacation to a unique climate? Consider seeking out a varietal honey to bring home. It not only brightens up your morning toast, but can be a fun thing to share with other beekeepers.
- June is a popular month to plug in to a Honey Bee Field Day. There are lots to choose among, from colleges, local bee clubs, neighbors, etc., but I'd personally recommend the IHPA one on June 21!
- Father's Day is upon us. It can be so hard shopping for the man in our lives. But ... I bet he would love a pollinator-friendly tree. Some of our favorites include apple and honey locust.
- June 16-22 is National Pollinator Week! Join others by taking the pledge to promote pollinator health and well-being. Find a way to celebrate, protect, or preserve the value of bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles, moths, wasps, hummingbirds, and flies in the ecosystem around us. For more buzz, check out [Pollinator Week | Pollinator.org](#)
- This time of year it is critical to inspect our hives every 7-10 days. Don't let them run out of space! Have extra equipment ready to super up when the time calls.
- Sometimes the best way to acquire a "silver spoon" is to simulate a swarm, by making a walk away split.

IHPA Summer FIELD DAY



**Saturday, June 21st
At Ebert Honey**

1090 IA-1N, Mt. Vernon, Iowa 52314

10 a.m. to about 4 p.m.

Register at IowaHoneyProducers.org

By now, you've seen the yellow ad about summer field day and we are beyond thrilled to be able to have this great event at Ebert Honey this year. The day is going to be filled with informational sessions, live demonstrations and panels just to name a few things. When putting this event together, we wanted to make sure we tailored this to hobbyists with a couple colonies up to the folks starting a small business to ensure it's beneficial for all. In addition, we have some great vending options!

Sessions include:

Ross Rounds and Cut Comb Honey

Who doesn't love comb honey? Who doesn't like the challenge of making comb honey? This session is set for those who want to learn the process of getting bees to draw our frame or ross rounds so you can either produce this for home use or as a value-added product to offer to your customers. We are thrilled to have Phil Ebert and Shannon Bardole-Foley walking us through the process of making this happen.

Identifying Pests and Diseases

This session will be featuring our own State Apiarist, Andrew Joseph providing the information we need to identify issues with hives, and how to deal with those. From the common varroa mite to discussion of AFB, Andrew will be talking about how we keep our bees healthy and strong to face the Iowa winters.

Best Practices in Honey Harvest

As a beekeeper, honey harvest is one of the most exciting

times. We get to see the fruits of our labor finally pay off. This session is going to be reviewing how to know when it's time to pull honey supers, storage and bottling - including the elusive label requirements (not the elusive, but it's a great refresher).

Starting a Bee Business: What you need to get going

Don't mistake this session for only those wanting to get into farmers markets or the commercial space. There's a lot of questions that come when starting your beekeeping journey. This session is going to be part presentation, part panel from hobbyist to commercial beekeepers sharing their story, challenges and advice on how to have the best beekeeping operation, regardless of the number of hives, or aspirations. Come with questions ready to go, it's encouraged!

Live Hive Inspections & Splits

We can't have a Summer Field day without getting into some hives and Ebert Honey has been kind enough to provide the bees! These sessions will be led by Tyler Holton and you can expect the IHPA board to come in with an assist. Bring your bee suits, things will be buzzing!

10% Summer Field Day Discount



CODE: IHPA0625

For the 10% discount on HillCo Bee Supply, orders must be placed in advance and picked up at the event. There is no shipping with discount



Honey Hollow Apiary & Gardens will be onsite with their mead and specialty honey products for purchase!



Save time and order your bottling supplies now! Place your order online to pick up on the day of the event, and save on shipping!

Summer Field Day Registration Form



Join us for a great day of learning with beekeepers of all levels. This registration is for members of IHPA and offers the membership discount.

Summer Field Day will be located in Mt. Vernon, Iowa at Ebert Honey. The event gets started early in the morning on Saturday, June 21st and runs until about 4 p.m. So prepare yourself for a day of geeking out over bees with your friends and colleges.

Lunch to include: BBQ by Smokeaholics & a smoker lighting contest. Win a Yeti Cooler provided by Chris Puetz. Again, the registration cost does include lunch.

Address of event is: 1090 IA-1N, Mt Vernon, IA 52314

Event Check in starts at 9:15 a.m. Event starts at 10 a.m. Ends at 4 p.m.

Attendee Name: _____

Member cost \$30 Non- Member \$40 \$_____

Membership (renewal or 1st time) \$30 \$_____

Additional Attendee Name: _____

Member cost \$30 Non- Member \$40 \$_____

Additional Attendee Name: _____

Member cost \$30 Non- Member \$40 \$_____

IHPA Donation: \$_____

Total Due: \$_____

Please make checks payable to Iowa Honey Producers Association. Mail your registration to IHPA Attn: Lisa Montgomery 2543 170th Street
Livermore, Iowa 50558 Mail-in registration cut off is June 19th. Must be postmarked by 6/19/2025.

From the Beeyard

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

Written by Phil Ebert

I have always liked Fords. There are a lot of them around and junk yard parts have been plentiful. I thought the '01 was going to be resurrected with a junk yard rear axle assembly. Sand Hills Salvage said they had one. They shipped it over, but it was not even close to being right. We had no success finding one anywhere else. I took the batteries out of the truck and sold it to Lynnville Repair. If anyone needs a good 7.3 engine, you can find it at Lynnville Repair in Sully. The batteries went into the '95 (Queen of the Fleet with 320,000 miles). One of the batteries I took out had been in there since 2018.

I watched a program on Monarch butterflies on PBS. Part of it involved tagging the butterflies. Who was in charge of this? None other than 87-year-old Chip Taylor—the founder of Monarch Watch. He was at Kansas University for years working with bees. He did a lot of work with swarms and drone congregation areas. I was at a meeting somewhere. I think it was either in Kansas or Nebraska. I can remember sitting with Marion Ellis. Anyway, Chip had two swarms out in an arena. He was able to make them move around at will. It was quite interesting. Since he is not that much older than I am, I found it inspiring that he was still in the game. “Don’t look back. Someone might be gaining on you.”

Our nucs arrived May 5th. It was so cold the bees stayed clustered in the boxes. Saturday was overcast but there was strong flight with both pollen and nectar coming in. The following days were perfect with temps in the 70’s. Nighttime lows were in the 50’s so it did not take it long to warm up in the mornings. All the nectar has helped some pretty lame looking nucs make an amazing turn around. They went from light to heavy in a hurry.

I split the two colonies that are sitting by my steel building in mid-April. Since there were only two colonies, I went thru them and found the queens and counted the frames of brood. They both had 9 frames. I took five from each colony for a total of 10. I divided them up into four splits. One of the queens failed. The bees in that box migrated into the other splits. I made the splits in nuc boxes so I could sell them. By May 9th, the parent colonies were full. I put supers on them.



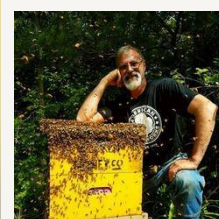
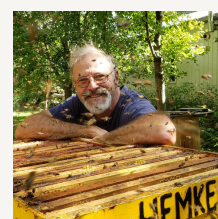
At this writing (May 8), Adam and Alex are still in Texas making splits. The bees have done well down there but operating in Texas inhales money. This is the third trip and there will be another one after this. They will wind up spending 6 or 7 weeks in Texas all told. If we don’t make a crop with the bees, it is going to be a lot of money down the toilet. I am a glass half empty kind of guy.

Overall, the bees are ahead of schedule this year. Remember that swarming is precipitated by congestion in the brood nest. Sometimes, just putting another box on does not relieve that—especially if you use a queen excluder. Reversing the brood boxes can help if there is space in the lower box. If you do not want to make increase, pulling two or three frames of brood and placing it above an excluder to emerge can help relieve congestion. I have had reports of quite a few swarms already.

Happy spring to everyone. Let’s hope for a good summer!!



From the Honey House



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

The Power of Networking

Networking can sometimes be the lifeblood of a beekeeper. We are inundated with so much information on beekeeping from written to online that it is sometimes difficult to sort it all out.

In another lifetime I was hired on as a safety consultant. Our consulting group had internal conferences where we learned, and discussed safety among ourselves. I asked the boss one day how our internal meetings related to information of the safety industry. The realization hit, and we started going to outside conferences, to learn from a variety of sources, and to network. We learned a lot more about the mainstream world of safety, and ways of becoming more effective.

The same is true with beekeeping in our area. We can look around and find a lot of beekeeping information, but how is it applicable to our hives? In the beekeeping world, beekeepers discuss information, but also experiences. Other beekeepers can help us interpret what is working, and point us in different directions. Beekeepers have different backgrounds, levels of knowledge and understanding, as well as successes and failures. And sometimes opinions.

As a new beekeeper and very inexperienced, I did what has worked for me in safety. I asked questions, and sought out other beekeepers, listened, and observed. When travelling I would see beehives, stopped and introduced myself. We discussed beekeeping! Equipment, practices, medications, feeding, pulling honey and extracting, and

general beekeeping stuff. The beekeeping world opened up and I started to better understand. I was introduced to county and state beekeeping groups, and my network grew.

It is up to each of us to sift through the pile of information, and pick out what might work with our hives. Beekeeping meetings, conferences, and the internet are great for getting information, but people help us to interpret and use some of that information. Not everyone is comfortable talking to strangers about beekeeping and opening up about their experiences. Fortunately, talking seems to come naturally to most beekeepers, and it's mostly good. There are many different ways of beekeeping, and the secret I discovered is to listen and decide what works best for you. Instinct is a good moderator for figuring things out. Networking with other beekeepers also works for finding equipment. Whether it's an immediate need, or some long-term plan, my buddies and I communicate needs, and availability of beekeeping supplies. If I'm headed to the beekeeping store, friends may need something, and I can save them a trip. And likewise. Find a deal on stuff, but you only need part of it, spread the wealth. Networking sometimes means helping each other out.

There are a lot of good things in keeping in touch with other beekeepers. Reach out today. The honey flow is on, and keep your supers handy.

Andy Hemken, Bee Guy
andy@hemkenhoney.com



State Fair Bid Rules

RULES FOR 2025 STATE FAIR PRODUCTS BEING SOLD AT THE IHPA BOOTH

1. There will be a 3-Person committee including the booth manager.
2. Applications must be sent by email to all 3committee members: Kris Silvers Kristin.silvers@gmail.com, Heidi Love ihpasecretary@gmail.com, and Roy Kraft kroyster.rk@gmail.com
3. Acopy of Application shall be sent by USPS (United States Postal Service) to Kris Silvers; 2088 310 th Ave. Woodburn, Iowa 50275
4. **Firm cutoff date of June 1 , 2025 (must be postmarked by this date)**
5. The committee will meet on June 7, 2025 at the Ames Public Library. The meeting will be held in a predetermined neutral place. The general IHPA membership will be allowed to witness. (in person only)
6. All comb honey is to be from 2025 harvest.
7. All glass honey containers and creamed honey containers must have a protection seal.
8. All plastic honey containers must have a pressure seal. (This includes all large containers)
9. All products must show proper labeling (Supplier, name, city, phone #)
10. Any item **not listed** on the application sheet or any specialty items you wish to market at the IHPA State Fair Booth needs to be approved by the booth manager by the committee deadline. **(June 1, 2025)**
11. **ALL CONTAINERS NEED TO BE CLEAN, NON STICKY; AND ARE SUBJECT TO REJECTION BY BOOTH MANAGER.**
12. Honey for the Honey Lemonade (50-pound buckets) will be a sealed bid only. Low bid takes it all.
13. Pollen must have a "US Pollen" label
14. **Due to the time frame of honey styx production it will be a one year commitment starting 2026.**
15. **ALL HONEY MUST BE FROM IOWA HARVEST**
16. One application per household. Must be current IHPA member.
17. **All Bid winners are required to work two shifts at the fair booth (or have someone work for you)**
18. These rules will be reviewed by the Iowa State Fair Bid Committee annually.

SOLE CLASSES:

- 1) There will be one person that will have a sole class of honey or item based on price list. For example: one person will have ALL 24 oz. bears for the state fair based on price list. If 2 or more producers apply for that item, it will be decided by a draw, winner will take the whole class.
- 2) You will only be allowed to win every other draw, however if you are the only one that entered that class you will get the class and be eligible for the next draw.
- 3) Draw order is per list on application sheet

OPEN CLASSES:

- 1) All beeswax products (candles, ornaments, blocks, soaps, lotions, lip balms etc.) must be packaged to maintain cleanliness and for presentation. (This will be the booth managers discretion)
- 2) Please submit a list of what you would like to market at the Iowa State Fair for 2025. Please provide a phone number where you may be reached if committee has questions.

State Fair Bid Rules

CREAMED AND FLAVORED HONEY RULES: MUST BE IOWA HONEY:

- 1) Flavored honey and creamed honey must come from a certified kitchen.
- 2) A copy of the license must be on file with the booth manager and booth manager must have them with them at the state fair. **(License must be attached and mailed with application package)**
- 3) If more than one person is wanting to bring a flavor, a draw will decide who brings the flavor.
- 4) You are required to provide a 1 ounce sample, by committee deadline, if you wish to bring pure creamed honey. (MUST HAVE SAMPLE TO **HEIDI LOVE BY NOON ON JUNE 1, 2025**)

CASE LOTS:

- 1) **EVERYONE MAY PARTICIPATE IN CASE LOTS. YOU MAY BRING 1-POUND GLASS AND OR 1-POUND PLASTIC. YOU MUST REQUEST IT ON THE BID APPLICATION.**
- 2) Case lot classes are 1-pound glass, 1-pound plastic
- 3) Case lots will be in case quantities of 24 bottles
- 4) You may bring no more than 4 cases of each class. **This is subject to change based on participation.**
- 5) Minimum is one case of 24 for a class.

CUT COMB, ROSS ROUNDS and CHUNK HONEY:

- 1) Must be in a sealed container
- 2) Must be well-drained without liquid honey (Chunk honey excluded)
- 3) Quality standards will be used (clean capping with all the cells capped)
- 4) Needs to weigh at least 14-ounces (Chunk honey excluded)
- 5) **MUST** be frozen for a minimum of 48 hours prior to arriving at the Iowa State Fair, subject to rejection, booth manager's discretion. (Chunk honey will need to be frozen as well.)

DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS:

- 1) All products must be delivered to IHPA booth at the Iowa State Fair
- 2) **Product must be delivered between Sunday to Tuesday hours are as follows: Sunday Noon-6PM, Monday 10AM-6PM, Tuesday 10AM-6PM (unless other arrangements are made with the booth manager)**
- 3) **YOU MUST PROVIDE AN INVOICE WHEN PRODUCT DELIVERED AND EVERYONE MUST HAVE COMPLETED A W-9. (W-9 will be provided on site if we need one from you.)**
- 4) Please make plans to pick up unsold product on Sunday evening 9PM-10PM or Monday between 8AM-NOON. (unless other arrangements are made with booth manager)



State Fair Bids

HONEY - SOLE CLASS											
		Amount Sold in 2023	Amount Sold in 2024	PRICE	I want this class			Amount Sold in 2023	Amount Sold in 2024	PRICE	
	2 ounce bear	308	665	\$ 1.55			Honey for Lemonade				
	(light honey) 8 oz honey bear	198	173	\$ 3.30			Honey for Lemonade - 50 pound pails	2742	2641		
	(light honey) 12 oz honey bear	96	231	\$ 4.40							
	24 ounce bear	255	482	\$ 6.33			SPECALITY ITEMS				
	2 pound jug										
	3 pound jug	85	83	11.55			Comb Honey (Clamshells & Boxes)	612	373	\$ 11.00	
	5 pound jug	40	49	17.60			Ross Rounds				
	12 pound gallon jug		35	\$ 38.50			Chunk Honey - 12 oz		84	\$ 8.00	
	4 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	54	26	3.30			Bee Pollen 8 oz	125	144	\$6.00	
	8 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	69	34	4.68			Bee Pollen (1 pound)			\$ 12.00	
	16 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	124	97	7.15							
	Honey Stix-For the year 2025	25589	29562	0.15							
							Hot Honey	172	128	\$ 9.00	
							Double Barrel Aged Honey	180			
HONEY - CASE LOT - 24 PER CASE							Whisky Barrel Aged-11 oz	157	178	\$ 12.00	
		Amount Sold in 2023	Amount Sold in 2024	PRICE	Limit 4 cases per class		Whisky Barrel Aged-19 oz	56	40	\$15.60	
	1 pound glass (liquid honey)	169	228	\$ 5.78			Rum Barrel Aged-12 oz	90	86	\$12.00	
	1 pound plastic (light honey)	192	333	\$ 5.50			Rum Barrel Aged-25 oz	22	22	\$21.00	
CLEAN-UP											
	1 pound glass										
	1 pound plastic	20									
CERTIFIED KITCHEN - SOLE CLASS							BEESWAX PRODUCTS				
	Flavored Honey- 8oz	Amount Sold in 2023	Amount Sold in 2024	PRICE	I want this class						
							Beeswax Bar - 1 ounce	54	32	\$2.00	
	Apple Cinnamon	96	100	\$ 5.00			Beeswax Bar - 1/2 pound	15	15	\$4.00	
	Blackberry	46	50	\$ 5.00			Beeswax Bar - 1 pound	22	27	\$7.00	
	Butter Rum	61	75	\$ 5.00			Wooden Honey Dippers	59	48	\$1.75	
	Chocolate Mint	17	25	\$ 5.00							
	Cinnamon	50	75	\$ 5.00							
	Peach	79	100	\$ 5.00			List your candles, lotions, lip balms, products with price				
	Raspberry	87	100	\$ 5.00							
	Creamed Honey - 1 pound	Amount Sold in 2023	Amount Sold in 2024	PRICE	I want this class						
1.00	PURE	416	328	\$ 7.50							
2.00	Cinnamon	256	224	\$ 7.50							
3.00	Apple Cinnamon	166	185	\$ 7.50							
4.00	Apricot	96	71	\$ 7.50							
5.00	Bavarian Crème	197	296	\$ 7.50							
6.00	Blackberry	105	125	\$ 7.50							
7.00	Blueberry	140	160	\$ 7.50							
8.00	Chocolate Mint	99	102	\$ 7.50							
9.00	Cranberry/orange	96	125	\$ 7.50							
10.00	Dutch Letter	453	384	\$ 7.50							
11.00	Lemon	176	224	\$ 7.50							
12.00	Mango Habanero	88	96	\$ 7.50							
13.00	Mango Tangerine	96	82	\$ 7.50							
14.00	Pecan	96	141	\$ 7.50							
15.00	Pumpkin Spice	76	32	\$ 7.50							
16.00	Raspberry	190	118	\$ 7.50							
17.00	Raspberry Jalapeño	140	112	\$ 7.50							
18.00	Strawberry	109	137	\$ 7.50							

State Fair Volunteers

WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR BOOTH!! AUGUST 7-17, 2025

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 7-17, 2025. 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. We will still continue to schedule volunteers for candle rolling for the Queen Program. 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 product, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, candle rolling, and offering honey samples, etc. If you get thirsty while working at the booth, you will be given free honey lemonade, a free pass to the fair, and the chance to enjoy the fair's entertainment before or after your shift.

We had a successful 2024 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had wonderful members, family, and friends volunteer their time, and we 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 it a success.

Every day, we have three shifts: 8:30 am-12:30 pm, 12:30 pm-4:30 pm, and 4:30 pm-8:30 pm, each requiring 11-14 people. We want to hear from you if you can volunteer for one or more shifts from August 7-17. All you need to do is mail the completed slip below, email the same details to ihpasecretary@gmail.com, or call 515-729-1761. If you need any clarification or have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary) 1180 H Ave, Scranton, Iowa 51462. Cell: 515-729-1761

Name of Volunteers: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone no.: _____

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you. (Fair dates August 7-17.) We appreciate any help you can provide!

Date or Dates: 8:30am-12:30pm 12.30pm-4:30pm 4:30pm-8:30pm

FOR SALE: Approx 50 empty deep boxes in good condition-- \$12 each. Approx 60 empty medium boxes--\$8 each. Approx 120 clean honey barrels--\$12 each. Contact Phil at ehoney37@netins.net or call 641-521-6361



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
www.RussianBee.com



SUPPORT HONEY BEES

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Order your honey bee decal: \$10 for one or \$15 for two. Make checks to IHPA. Send to Iowa Honey Producers Assoc. c/o Lisa Montgomery 2543 170th Street Livermore, IA 50558

Type of Ad	Mo Price (\$)	Year Price (\$)	Size Horizontal	Size Vertical
Classified	5	50	n/a	1Tx4.1W
1/8 page	25	250	2.7Tx4.1W	5.25Tx2.0625W
1/4 page	50	500	4.1Tx5.25W	5.25Tx4.125W
1/2 page	70	775	5.25Tx8.25W	10.75Tx4.125W
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

Crossword answers from page 6:

Across: county, blue, summer, swarms
Down: honey, volunteer, nucs

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 pjlenn1@gmail.com

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

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



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

Heartland Bee Club: contact Tom Hart at tomhart1107@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 qcbecclub@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



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...AND MORE!



ABOUT OUR CONTAINER LINE

Ebert Honey offers competitive pricing on a full lineup of professional honey packaging supplies, featuring over 20 container and bottle styles. We welcome orders of any size!

We proudly offer high quality products paired with friendly, local customer service.



ABOUT YOUR CONTAINER ORDER

Choose local pick up or convenient shipping. Our streamlined website makes ordering and shipping fast and easy!

Pick up is arranged ahead of time and is available at both of our locations. We ship via USPS, FedEx, or Speedee Delivery.

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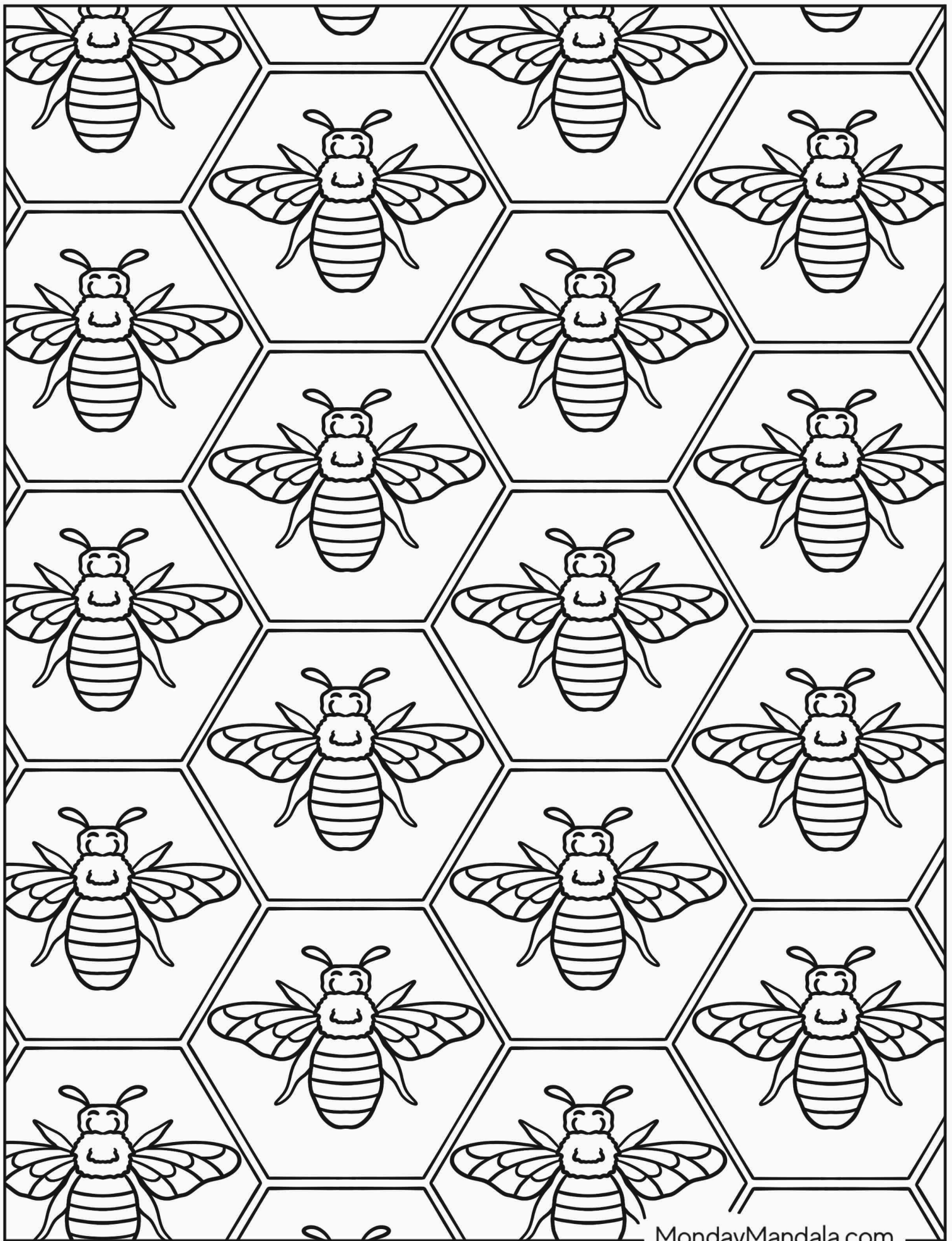
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Lynnville, Iowa 50153



1090 Highway 1 North
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314





IHPA Officers & Directors

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

Voting Members

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Vice President	Sara Holton	ihpa.vp@gmail.com
Secretary	Heidi Love	ihpasecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lisa Montgomery	ihpatreasurer@gmail.com
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Summer Field Day Coordinator	H.R. Cook	stagemaster35@gmail.com
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Advertising Committee	Jason Foley	Russianbeeguy@gmail.com
Bee Ambassador	Tyler Holton	holtonhoneybees@gmail.com

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
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*

June 10th at 11:59 p.m.

Please submit materials to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com

