



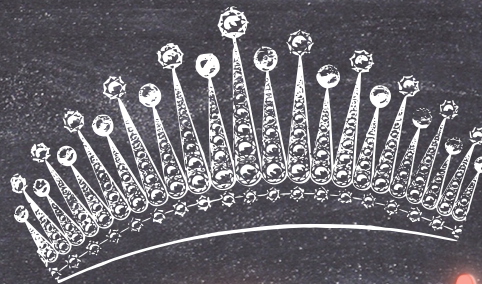
The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

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

December 2022

Inside the Issue



New Royalty!

*Renew
Membership
Soon!!!*

Dues increase to \$30 on Dec 1, 2022.
\$5 for each additional beekeeper at the same address.

Each membership will include a free MAILED
& emailed copy of The Buzz.

Please visit <https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/> for
membership and conference registration forms

Please send dues and your first and last name, street address, city, state and
zip code, phone number (including area code), and email address to:

IHPA Treasurer, Lisa Montgomery
2543 170th St. Livernore, IA 50558



IHPA OFFICER & DIRECTOR NEWS

Ramblings from the Russian Bee Guy

President, Jason Foley

Hello and welcome to another addition of my ramblings!

Today is November 15th and the IHPA Annual Conference wrapped up this last weekend. I may have been smiling and friendly but I felt like walking death... As you recall from last month, my truck had a fire in the engine compartment and it was just my luck the parts finally came in after a month. Of course they wanted my truck on the 14th meaning I would need to move all my bees (and Andy's bees) before then or else I wouldn't have a flatbed to use. Andy Joseph and I normally tackle both of our bees together. 1 of us mans the smoker and hops up on the truck to set boards and straps while the other runs a loader. We both run our flatbeds so we can pull 24 pallets at a time. It just is the most efficient way we have come up with over the years for getting the work done. Whatever we couldn't get done by Monday would mean it would take twice as long with us being down a truck. Long story short, I got home Thursday morning at 5:30am and really didn't get a chance to go to sleep... Then the board meeting that evening and the anxiety of the impending conference the next day really had me wound up enough I couldn't sleep much that night either. Saturday I was just so darn tired so I'm glad I was as well received as I was that morning and during the business meeting with membership.

Back to moving bees; those of you who attended the banquet got to hear Curt alluding to my truck fire and then about maintenance with my bobcat forklift (all to poke fun at me). He was one of the only people at that point who knew of yet another mishap that occurred the night we were moving bees. About half way through our night I suddenly noticed what looked like my loader tire was wobbling. I set down the pallet I had and backed up. As I did that the tire slanted over to a very visible angle and then popped back. I got off the loader and found out 4 of the 6 lug nuts had worked off and the 2 remaining ones were on by just a few threads... I couldn't believe it... So there we were in the cold dark night trying to figure out how to limp by for the rest of our moving. Andy fortunately had a socket that was close enough to grab the bolts and

we tightened the 2 back into place and ended up barrowing another 2 from the back of the machine. Good enough fix to let us do the other half of the night. That however was not the end of our mishaps. There towards the very end Andy was up on the stack. He had forgotten a board or something and needed to scale the double stack to fix it. When he went to jump down there was a lid nail that was sticking up that caught his jeans. Thankfully it didn't catch his flesh too or else Andy would have a 2nd booty hole. It completely ripped the whole backside of his pants open like he was wearing cowboy chaps lol. It was juuuust warm enough that a few bees were flying with us moving them around and such so he had to bounce away for a bit given how exposed he was.

Going back to the loader, I'm not entirely sure how that happened. Some of the other lug nuts were loose as well. The only thing that comes to mind is this summer I did a ton of maintenance on her. I changed the oil & filter, the fuel separator, the fuel filter, cleaned out the air intake filter and put new oil in it, fixed the starter with a new solenoid, rewired the lights and installed the 6 new red LED floods, lubricated all the fittings, and repainted the machine... I repainted the rims on the loader, so when I installed them it is possible that the paint layer against the bolts left them slightly loose... I tightened the crud out of them the next day and Sunday when Andy and I went to move all his bees the loader did just fine. I'm sure there will be stories to tell next month as the weather shows we will be loading 2 semis in the snow, yay....



IHPA OFFICER & DIRECTOR NEWS

Event Coordinator, Cheri VanSickle

Connie Bronnenberg, Queen Chair

Hi everyone,

Wow! What an exciting 2022 IHPA Fall Annual Conference! Lots of new faces, vendors, and sponsors.

We filled two double vendor rooms with new items, reputable bee suppliers and handmade items. Something for everyone. Our speakers were very knowledgeable and shared their studies and findings with our members. Congratulations to our new IHPA Queen, all of the new 2023 Youth Scholarship recipients, our new Vice President, winners of our different contests, and our door prize winners. A huge thank you to all of our vendors, sponsors, and volunteers. All of you helped make the conference a success!

Planning for our venues, food, and speakers has already started for our 2023 Field Day and the 2023 IHPA Fall Conference. The locations have been chosen for each of these events, but we will have to wait until mid-December before they can be announced because the Iowa sports calendar hasn't been decided yet. More details about these two events in our next Buzz.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

Cheri



I was blessed with two beautiful queen candidates this year! Britta McCollum and Rachel Vakulich. I am sure that my judges had a very tough decision again this year, as both of these young ladies were GREAT candidates! Congratulations Rachel Vakulich, 2023 Iowa Honey Queen! Also, congratulations to Britta McCollum, our 2023 Iowa Honey Princess! I look forward to working with you this year!

Thank You from the Queen Program
“A Huge Thank You” to all of you that donated items for our silent and live auctions for the queen program!

Live auction raised \$3498.00
Silent auctions raised \$734.00!
The quilt raffle brought in \$670.00!

for a total of **\$4902.00!** The money raised will help with expenses to get the Honey Queen to your events!

If you would like to have the Queen help you out at an event, you can contact me at 515-480-6076

Thank you, Jodi Kraft for all that you do to make our quilts every year!

Thank you, Roy Kraft, for being our auctioneer again this year!

Our 2022 Honey Queen, Allison Hager, will be competing for American Honey Queen in Jacksonville, Florida January 3rd through January 7th! We wish you the best Allison! She is currently selling raffle tickets for a quilt that will be raffled in Jacksonville. If interested in tickets you can contact Allison ah052018@gmail.com



Iowa Honey Producers Association Awards 2022



Left to Right:
Duane Bajema - Education Award
Kelly Family - Distinguished Service Award
Jason Foley - Sweepstake Award
Not pictured, Madison Stewart - Outstanding Youth



IHPA Conference & Annual Meeting





Greg is 😂 preventing Kris Silvers from any more bidding!



Royal Proclamation

Allison Hager- 2022 Iowa Honey Queen



Hi everyone,

It has been a busy, final month as the Iowa Honey Queen. In October, I traveled to my hometown of Bellevue to visit Marquette Catholic Elementary and High School, where I was able to give a quick presentation to every Elementary classroom and talk to high schoolers about the scholarships we offer. The kids loved trying on the beekeeper jacket and getting to take home a honey stick! I was also honored to be a judge for the Bellevue Costume Contest on Halloween weekend. It was awesome seeing all their hard work put into their costume for Trick-or-Treating.

In October I traveled to Ankeny to give a presentation to a group of students ranging from Kindergarten to 3rd graders for the 360 Homeschool Co-op. The kids had so many questions and many of them already knew quite a bit about honey bees already! Each one got to try on the beekeeper jacket, and they all found it very fun!



A Marquette Catholic student is excited to try on a beekeeper's jacket!



2022 Boone River Bee Queen, Britta McCollum, 2022 North Iowa Honey Queen, Veronica Vonderohe, 2022 Iowa Honey Queen, Allison Hager, 2022 East Central Iowa Honey Queen, Rachel Vakulich

My last days as the Iowa Honey Queen were at the annual conference in November. It was great getting to see so many familiar faces and having great conversations with so many individuals. I had the honor of introducing several of the amazing speakers and helping out wherever it was needed. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend this wonderful event!

I would also like to thank everyone who has helped me along my journey. Abigail Kelly, 2020 - 2021 Iowa Honey Queen, helped me get started by giving me advice, tips, resources, contacts, and everything in between. She was always there to answer my questions and always made time for me. Thank you for everything Abigail!

Royal Proclamation

Allison Hager- 2022 Iowa Honey Queen



**2023 Iowa Honey Queen, Rachel Vakulich,
with 2022 Iowa Honey Queen, Allison Hager**

Huge thank you to the Queen Chair, Connie Bronnenburg, for always being a person to answer my many questions and helping in any way you can. I would not have been successful or had as much fun without you!

**Left: Heidi Love and Connie Bronnenburg with
the 2022 Iowa Honey Queen, or as they like to
call her, Ellabellemé!**

Every member on the IHPA board, and every person that helps with it, deserves a big thank you as well! Jason, Kris, Heidi, Lisa, Zack, Roy, Andy, Kelsey, Cheri, Stephanie, Carole, Doyle, and all our district directors. I am so glad to have gotten to know many of you so well over this last year and appreciate all your help to both me and the association!

Lastly, thank you to all the local honey queens I worked with this last year. Rachel, Ellie, Olivia, Britta, Veronica, and local honey princess, Vannessa, all helped me out in one way or another, especially during the Iowa State Fair. And with that being said, I would like to congratulate our 2023 Iowa Honey Queen, Rachel Vakulich and our 2023 Iowa Honey Princess, Britta McCollum on their accomplishments! I am so excited to see their journeys and everything they accomplish this next year.



Royal Proclamation

Allison Hager- 2022 Iowa Honey Queen



Altogether, I did about 38 presentations, 15 events, 4 radio interviews, and 1 TV program at about 15 different locations across the state of Iowa. It truly was an amazing experience, and I am so honored to have been a part of such a great organization. With that being said, I have decided to continue my journey by running for the 2023 American Honey Queen position, upcoming in January. I am very excited for this opportunity and would like to thank everyone who has and is helping me with this!

Thank you all so much for this last year,
Allison Hager
2022 Iowa Honey Queen



Secretary of Agriculture of Iowa, Mike Naig, and the 2022 Iowa Honey Queen, standing with the auction quilt.

Warm
wishes

Royal Proclamation

Rachel Vakulich - 2023 Iowa Honey Queen

Hello fellow Iowa beekeeper (or those aspiring to be beekeepers),

I am honored to introduce myself as your 2023 Iowa Honey Queen. I am the daughter of Alex and Natasha Vakulich. I have 3 sisters and 2 brothers. We are an interesting family with one working on her first marathon, one being in 4H, a couple kids who love to train horses, and the rest scatter around our property making things happen. When an 911 call drops, the EMT at our house runs off hoping that the call is very dramatic! We live outside of Wellman Iowa on a small farm with ducks, chickens, geese, dogs, cats, honeybees, one horse, and one pony (can we add the one frog, two fish, and two snails that live inside the house?). One of my sisters has said that we live in a zoo!

My dad, sister, and I take care of the eight hives that are on our property and some about five miles away at some friends' houses. We run our operation differently in that we incorporate some of the practices of beekeeping from Belarus where my dad came from. I am a seventh generation beekeeper and I love working with the honeybees.

Education wise: well, I did my honor's project on colony collapse disorder. If you really want to know more about it, I would be happy to send you my research. I am completing the RN-BSN program at the University of Iowa which is fully online. I graduated from Kirkwood Community College this past May with my associate's degree in nursing. I work as a nurse in the NICU at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. I love taking care of little babies. I discovered the Iowa Honey Producer's Association at the Iowa State Fair in 2019.



The following September, we joined the East Central Iowa Beekeepers Association. In 2021, I was crowned as the East Central Iowa Honey Queen. It was a great experience, and I would recommend holding a local honey queen position because you learn so much as a person about honeybees. During the 2022 reign, I was able to exceed my goals and reached over 2,800 people. I did 9 presentations and attended 7 events. I am very passionate about honeybees and will get protective over my hives.

This year, I plan to reach at least 10,000 people and do/attend at least 50 presentations or events. I know that it is a lofty goal, but I am sure that I can reach it with all of your support. I am very grateful that Britta McCollum is going to join me as the Iowa Honey Queen. It is a daunting task to be the Iowa Honey Queen, but I have an excellent princess who would be happy to do presentations and events. Please reach out to Connie Bronnenberg if you have any events or club meetings that you would like us to attend. I want to thank the young individual who gave me his prize of the American Bee Journal subscription. I am excited to read those magazines. A huge thankyou to everyone who support the honey queens through the

Royal Proclamation

Rachel Vakulich - 2023 Iowa Honey Queen

raffle tickets, silent auction, and the live auction. It was fun to set all those up and help bring the items to you. Jody Kraft did such a great job on the quilt this year and I want to thank her for her many years of putting this quilt together. Thank you to the 2022 Iowa Honey Queen Allison Hager for her year of promoting honey and beekeeping. I wish her well as she gets ready to compete for the American Honey Queen position. I am sure that she will do very well in representing Iowa. Since it is December, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas. May your Christmas be filled with laughter, joy, and gladness. I want to wish you all a Very Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas from the 2023 Iowa Honey Queen,

Rachel Vakulich



Left to right:

Rachel Vakulich -2023 Iowa Honey Queen,
Allison Hager -2022 Iowa Honey Queen,
Britta McCollum -2023 Iowa Honey Princess

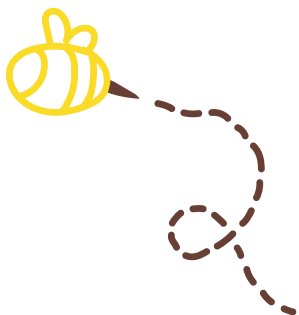


Royal Proclamation

Britta McCollum - 2023 Iowa Honey Princess

My name is Britta McCollum, and I am your 2023 Iowa Honey Princess. I have been keeping bees for about four years now. I started with the 2019 Youth Scholarship. I have had many adventures since receiving this scholarship from advocating for honey bee urbanization, to getting my hives getting robbed by people rather than neighbor bees, and much more.

Along with honey bees I have been an avid participant in all types of band activities, speech events, ambassadors, environmental club, robotics, working at Starbucks, being 18, a senior in high school, and giving presentations in my community about honey bees. I plan to attend Iowa Central Community College next year for psychology and my ultimate goal is to become a forensic psychologist. What does that have to do with honey bees? Well, it doesn't, but I plan to keep honey bees until I can no longer lift the boxes. This year I am very excited to attend the full week of the Iowa State Fair with Rachel and Joanna. I am excited to visit schools, Bible schools, 4-H groups, garden clubs, and nursing homes. Two days after our Annual Conference I had the pleasure of presenting to Friendship Haven where I had a special person in the audience, my grandma. I plan to continue to wear my heart on my sleeve when it comes to talking about how to make our environment a sweeter place for our honey bees.





IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This scholarship has been developed to honor several association members who are no longer with us but live on in the work we do to support and promote the importance of honey bees. Their dedication and hard work has made it possible for us to be a successful organization for over 100 years!!!

TO THE APPLICANT:

There is a recipient selected from each of the six districts in our state. That deserving student will receive \$500 after the successful completion of their first semester. If you do not know which district you belong to, or the directors to contact if you are interested in more information about the IHPA, a map of the districts and their directors are available on the IHPA Website at: <https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org>

Before completing this application, read the informational page which specifies the criteria for both eligibility and selection. Since the members of the Scholarship Committee haven't met you, carefully consider the content and completeness of your responses to the information being sought.

Additional pages of narrative or supporting documentation can be added to any section. This may include copies of newspaper clippings, photos, letters of recommendation from people within your school and/or community, and other materials which will give the committee a better insight about you, your school, and your community activities. PLEASE MAKE COPIES. These materials will not be returned.

SECTION III MUST BE IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING. Be certain your handwriting is LEGIBLE.

Also, you must SIGN and DATE your application in order for it to be considered complete and valid.

This application must be postmarked no later than: February 1, 2023

All applications and correspondence should be sent to the:

**Iowa Honey Producers Association
Scholarship Selection Committee
% Dick Ostercamp or Roy Kraft
15920 Hickman Road
Ste 400 PM446
Clive, Iowa 50325**

Identification Data (use pen)

Name_____

First Middle Last

Address_____

City

State

ZIP Code

Telephone # with Area Code (____)_____ Email address_____

High School Name_____

High School Address_____

City

State

ZIP Code

Telephone # with Area Code (____)_____ Graduation Date_____

Month Year

Academic Record

Grade Point Average_____ Rank in Class_____

ACT Score (if taken)_____ Date Taken_____

SAT Score (if taken)_____ Date Taken_____

Date when above information was compiled_____

Attach (or forward under separate cover) a current certified transcript of your credits signed by a school official and embossed with official seal by February 1, 2023. If your school does not provide certified transcripts until after graduation, the transcript must be sent directly by the school with a letter stating the school policy.

Students who are homeschooled are encouraged to apply as well!!! (Documentation will be required)

Personal Resume: You must complete this section in your own handwriting. Write about yourself, your home, family, interests and your future education or vocational plans. How does beekeeping, or your knowledge of the importance of pollination, fit into your future plans? This will give the committee the best picture of you as an individual (2 page minimum). Brag about yourself !!!

School Activities: List those high school activities in which you have participated in and what leadership position you may have held. Indicate the grade (9,10,11,12) you participated in those activities as well. Describe any interesting things you were able to do while taking part in these activities.

Community Service: Describe the ways in which you, a volunteer, have been of service to your community in general and/or to certain people in your community in particular. This service may have been performed as a member of an organization and/or on your own as an individual. Indicate any leadership roles you may have had in this area.

From the Beeyard

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

Written by Phil Ebert

The honey is in the barrel. The bees are a mostly fed and looking good. Brood rearing has continued thru the warm weather. There should be a lot of young bees for winter. The roundup is under way as we move the bees into holding yards. We lost our place in California. Adam is looking for a new one. The water shortage has resulted in the older trees being torn out. This cuts the demand for bees. I had a call from the Cedar Rapids Gazette. They were pursuing a story on a pollination survey the USDA was doing. I talked to the reporter for a while. They did a story on us that wound up on the front page.

We got syrup a couple of weeks ago. As the tanker was backing out of the driveway, he managed to drop both of his tandems into the road ditch. The truck was perpendicular to the road with both axles in the ditch. The trailer was jackknifed at a 45 degree angle. The axles were so far in the ditch that the trailer dollies were on the ground. My neighbor is a retired farmer. He still has a 4020 John Deere. We offered him the opportunity to make a rescue. I was not optimistic we were going to get the truck out. The first couple of tries, the tractor just spun its wheels. He kept trying different angles. Finally, it came back up on the road. I breathed a sigh of relief. The road had been totally blocked. I had thought we were going to have to call Haniphan or someone else out of Des Moines.

If you don't have your mites under control by now, it's too late. You might still want to hit them with an oxalic vapor treatment or dribble for a final cleanup but most of the work should have been done earlier. We are seeing 0-4 on most of the mite tests from 300 bee samples. I had one test with five but they were all male mites. I found that really strange. The male mites have no exoskeleton and are white. They are easy to identify.

Honey prices are holding. For the most part, semi load lots are running 40-50cents/lb more than last year. We raised store prices 70 cents/lb. That makes me nervous but we have to maintain margin. We can't afford to work for fun.

That's it for this month. There is not much news. By the time you read this, the annual meeting and Thanksgiving will be in the rear view mirror. Hopefully, happy holidays lie ahead for everyone.



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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

HELP WANTED

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, (NASDA) working with USDA is hiring FIELD STAFF.

Work is part time collecting data for the USDA/NASS. A farm background is preferred. Qualifications- a good work ethic, a self starter, and good communication skills.

Starting wage is \$15/hr. Mileage allowance is 62.5 cents. Find more info at Nasda.org.

For more information call Cindy at 515-450-8573



Pre order your queens, packages, and nucs for the 2023 season! We begin taking orders on all our Russian products starting January 1st at 10am via our website www.russianbee.com. Carniolan packages are available to order just as soon as pricing for the year has been set (typically January 15th).

Russian Nucs **\$180.00**

Russian Queens **\$35.00**

Russian package bees with Russian mated queen
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Full hive kits **\$250.00**

Includes 2 deeps, 2 mediums, all the wax coated frames to fill out the hive, 1 gallon frame feeder, bottom board, entrance reducer, inner cover, and telescoping top cover

Mini hive kits **\$170.00**

Includes 2 deeps, all the wax coated frames to fill out the hive, 1 gallon frame feeder, bottom board, entrance reducer, inner cover, and telescoping top cover.

We carry many other bee related items in our farm store - come out for a visit some time!



To place an order, check us out on the web

www.RussianBee.com

13778 Summerset Rd, Indianola, IA 50125
515-991-4666

FOR SALE: Approx. 40 new 4-way clip pallets with "U" clips. We ran out of pallets in California and had to buy these. \$40 each. We also have some used pallets for \$15. Contact Phil at 641-521-6361 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net



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Pat & Peggy Ennis
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641-444-4767

Packages, nucs, singles and equipment for 2022:

Packages - 3 lbs w/ Italian queen.

1-10 = \$150.00 / 11+ \$145.00 / over 100, call for pricing (plus tax)

Nucs - 5-frame w/laying Italian queen.

1-49 = \$180.00 50-up = \$170.00 plus \$30 nuc box deposit & tax

Singles - w/laying Italian queen. \$225.00 (plus tax)

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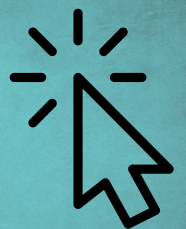
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ihpaeditor@gmail.com

<https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/>
for up-to-date information about leaders, Annual
Meeting and more!



***There are several working committees in addition to these positions.
If you would like more information on how you can be involved please contact us!
We would love your help!! Many hands make light work.***



Hello fellow beekeepers,

I have had a busy few weeks! Phew! Here's to slowing down and enjoying the season!

I brought three students with me, and our trusted GC-B helper to the IHPA Conference this year. We had a blast presenting, and we hope you enjoyed too! I'm so proud of our students! Contact us for questions!



Left to right: Lily H (8th Grade), Olivia D (7th Grade), Kelsey Wigans, Reese B (6th Grade)

The following Tuesday after conference I was awarded the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition's Iowa Conservation Teacher of the Year for grades K-8. Then that Thursday I hosted an appreciation Harvest Supper utilizing potatoes from our school garden.



😊 Our daughter, Leah, got in on the action!

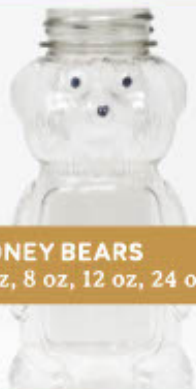
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2023 Queen
At least 3 Frames
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prove queen quality.
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- Hourglass Squeeze Grip
- Jugs & 5-Gallon Buckets
- Honeycomb Cases
- Spout, Snap Cap & Flat Lids

...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.

EBERTHONEY.COM

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f @eberthoney



14808 South 102nd Ave. East
Lynnville, Iowa 50153



1090 Highway 1 North
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314

The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association
c/o Editor, Kelsey Wigans
402 SE E Avenue
Gilmore City, IA 50541



*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!

January Buzz topics of interest:

- How to know when to start feeding syrup. What's the ratio again? How do you feed?
- Should I consider buying bees from another beekeeper in Iowa?
- How do I know which one to choose?
- Do I need new bees every year?
- What equipment should I purchase this winter? What can I make myself?
- What should I be planning now while it's too cold to be outside with the bees (probably)?

Deadline to submit information for the January Edition of The Buzz

Saturday, December 10th at 11:59 p.m.

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

