

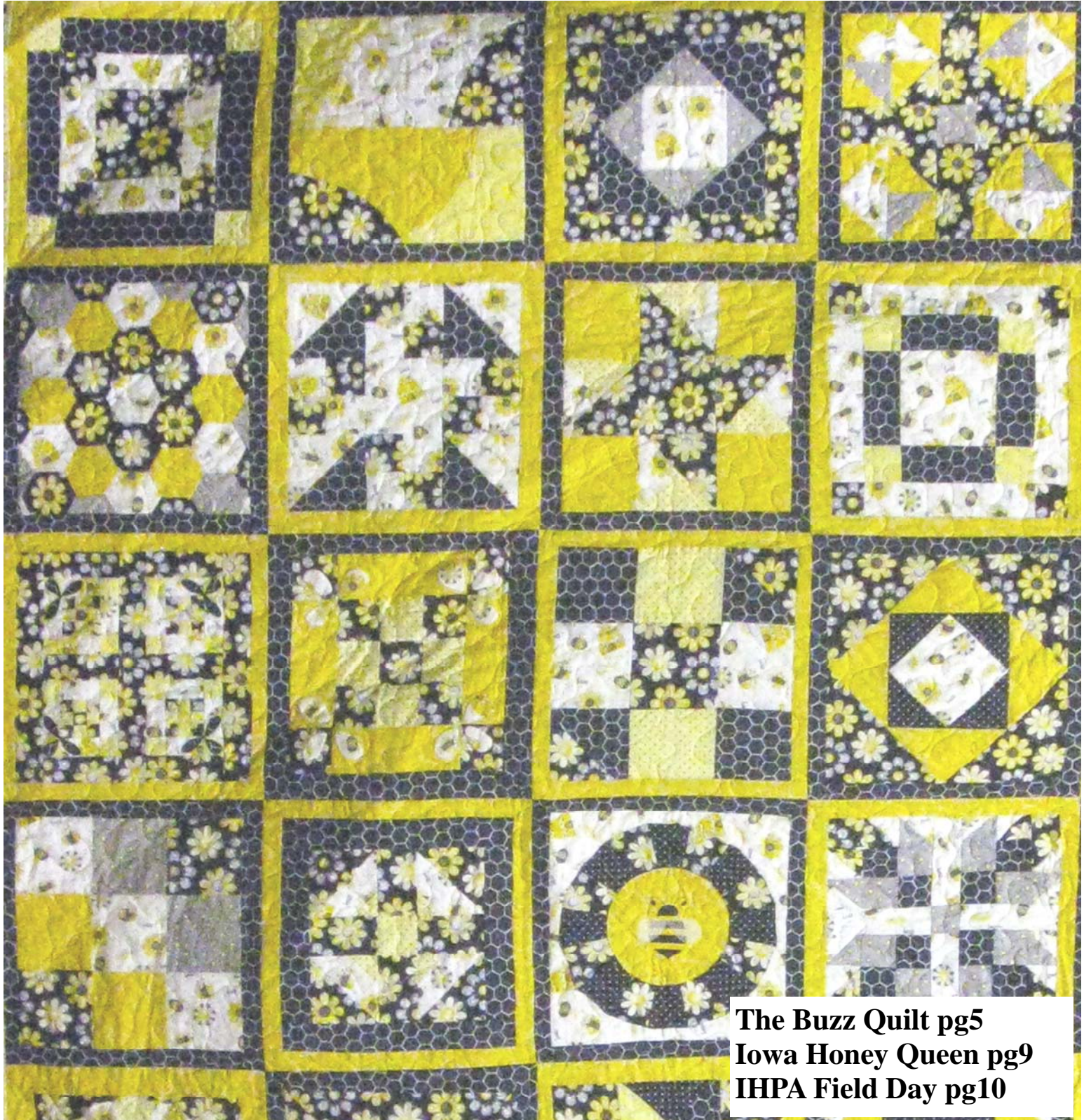


The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



July 2013



**The Buzz Quilt pg5
Iowa Honey Queen pg9
IHPA Field Day pg10**



August 8-18th Iowa State Fair
September 29th IHPA Board Meeting, 3pm at DMACC/Ankeny
October 31 IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm at Marshalltown prior to the Annual Meeting
November 1 & 2 IHPA Annual Meeting in Marshalltown, IA



MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

New lower prices

	BUZZ (includes shipping)	NEW BUZZ PRICE (includes shipping)	PICK UP PRICE	NEW PICK UP PRICE
HONEY POT	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$15.00	\$14.00
UTENSIL CROCK	\$36.00	\$33.50	\$25.00	\$22.50
100th ANNIVERSARY HIVE TOOL	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
COFFEE CUP WITH SPOON	\$17.00	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$5.50
MAGNET	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
COOK BOOK				
1-9 BOOKS	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$5.00	\$5.00
10 OR MORE	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$4.00	\$4.00
IHPA BALL CAP	\$8.15	\$6.65	\$10.00	\$8.50
IHPA VISOR	\$15.00	\$13.50	\$10.00	\$8.50
T-SHIRT				
YOUTH S,M,L	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$8.00
ADULT S,M,L,XL	\$15.00	\$13.00	\$12.00	\$10.00
ADULT 2X, 3X	\$17.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$12.00
POLO SHIRT				
ADULT S,M,L,XL	\$35.00	\$29.00	\$31.00	\$25.00
ADULT 2X, 3X	\$37.00	\$29.00	\$33.00	\$25.00
APRON	\$12.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$8.00

T-Shirts - we have a few of the 100th anniversary shirts left. Please indicate if you would like the 100th Anniversary T-Shirt if available in your size. We will make every attempt to fulfill your order as you request. There are a limited number of Honey Pots, Crocks and

Hive Tools left.

Please contact Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer, at 515-724-2124 with questions. Please send your check payable to Iowa Honey Producers to 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 50049

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex` Ebert by email to **TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com** (also alex.ebert@eberthoney.com) or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnvillle, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.** The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.

President's Message, July 2013

It's mid June as I am writing this and the bees are really looking good for honey production, we have some yards with one or two full or partly filled supers. With the cooler and wetter spring, the hives seem more swarmy now. We thought we split them back enough to prevent swarming, but it looks like as if we should have done more. Sometimes Mother Nature does not cooperate. Keep an eye on your bees and hope for a good honey production year, with all the weather challenges we're having.

Hats off to Eli for the Summer Field Day! The summer field day went very well with many positive comments and over 70 people in attendance for the work-shops and hand-on classes. The Kansas State speakers and beekeepers - Joli Winer and Becky Tipton did an excellent job teaching us how to make value added hive products. They actually made several batches of soaps, (hot and cold process), lotions, hand & nail butter, lip balm, lotion bars, creamed honey, infused honey, and then gave away samples of the items made. They also gave process making tips, showing us how easy it is to make these and graciously shared several recipes for each, with hand-outs and answered all our questions. They also talked about the need for good equipment, like mixers and scales as well as using good quality products like oils and fragrances and how to properly mix lye for soap making. They also had dozens of books to look at and help you get started. They had a wealth of information and enthusiastically shared it with us.

Alex Ebert did a part on comb honey production and how they produce it in their operation. I think the Ebert's probably produce more comb honey than any other producer in the state. He also did a part on photography for entry in the Iowa State Fair. Alex does an excellent job with a camera. Thanks Alex for your time and the demonstrations.

With photography in mind, you have until August 1 to enter entries in the Apiaries Division at the Iowa State Fair.

There are a total of 21 entry classes and 3 classes for the youth. I'd really like to see the youth participating in the youth program enter these categories.

Bob Fassbinder also did a part on queen rearing with some hands-on with queen grafting. His operation program made you think about continuing to keep buying queens that are not suited for your area. Randy Oliver talked about this at Dadant's 150th Anniversary - on the importance of rearing queens in your own area. There are a quiet a number of people who are working on this in their own operations. Bob answered a lot of questions from a lot of newer beekeepers. I liked seeing new beekeepers interested in this. Keep learning and trying. Bob runs around 2,000 hives, he has not bought bees or queens since the mid 1990's - raising his own, all this with only a 20% winter loss. He is doing something we all need to take note of. Thank you Bob for giving us your time and sharing your expertise.

I'd like to put a plug in for the Iowa State Fair. It takes a lot of people to run the IHPA Booth. There are 3 shifts a day, for 11 days. Please consider helping volunteer to work a shift or more. We would greatly appreciate everyone's help. To sign up to work, please give Eli Kalke a call or e-mail her @ 641-512-4728 (Eli's cell) or fieldstonefarms@netins.net. Also see details listed in this Buzz Newsletter [page 7]. This is the event that funds our organizations activates.

Also in regards to the State Fair Booth, we have a team of 3 to manage the booth for this year. We are looking at 2014 and beyond for others who would possibly be interested. If this interests you, please contact me. Contact info on back page of "Buzz"

Keep adding those honey supers, get your entries ready for the state fair and I hope to see you all helping at the IHPA Booth during the state fair in August!!

BEE HAPPY
Pat

Trivia: how many drones do you need for good queen mating success?



Note: the question is not how many does the queen need to mate with? Answer on page 13.

A Response from the President with the cooperation of the Board of the IHPA, July 2013

I am going to start my article by quoting **The IHPA By-Laws, Article 11 states as follows:** "The objects of this Association shall be to coordinate the interest of the beekeepers of Iowa and bring them into closer relationship of mutual helpfulness by association, conference and correspondence; to sponsor legislation for the benefit and protection of the industry; to assist in the dissemination of information on the control of diseases; to inform the members and the public of the valuable use of honey as well as the importance of the honey bee in relation to the pollination of agricultural crops, and to support every effort to promote the advancement of the beekeeping industry".

I and the IHPA board feel this is the duty of The Buzz Newsletter - to stay on course with our by-laws and the information in The Buzz should be positive, educational, truthful and about beekeeping.

In regard to future articles, the board and editor of the Buzz feel that it is best to stick with beekeeping information as the newsletter is not intended to have an opinion section, as these kinds of articles do nothing to help unite the Iowa Honey Producer members and promote beekeeping.

I know there will be others in the organization that may disagree. The board made their decision as best we could with the facts we had and did what they felt was best for this organization.

The discussion on this matter is **DONE**we move forward from this point. We have beekeeping to talk about.

Pat Ennis, President IHPA



Ever considered submitting an entry in the Apiary Class at the State Fair?

For all those people who have never tried entering the Apiary Class at the fair, I would thoroughly recommend it. Dale Fields and I did this for the first time last year and learnt a lot from the experience and would like to encourage other beekeepers considering doing this for the first time or felt discouraged and didn't try again. I thought I would see if our very own 2012 Blue Ribbon winners would be willing to share some advice or tips for newcomers. Unfortunately I wasn't able to get a response from everyone in time to meet the Buzz submission deadline. However thank you very much to those who did respond at such short notice.

Observation Hive: To prevent burr comb build up on the frames, take your hive into the fair the morning judging begins.

*[Observation hives must be in place by 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, **August 7**. 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.]*

Six Cut Comb in Hard Plastic Box: There are several main points to be emphasized for comb honey for state fair. 1. Be sure you don't crush the comb when cutting the 6 pieces for your class. I use a sharp knife and cut along the outside edges of the rectangle. Cut straight up and down. 2. Drain your comb at least 2 days or longer for the fair. 3. With a tooth pick, pick off the loose pieces of wax after you cut your comb. 4. Cut more than 6 pieces of comb - that way you can choose your best 6.

White Extracted Honey: After extracting the honey, strain it through a stainless steel basket made of mesh and or nylon cloth and let it settle for a few days, to allow particles to rise.

Amber Extracted Honey: Some amber honey will have a strong offensive, pungent flavor, so choose your best flavored example and fill all entries from the same batch.

Flavored Creamed Honey: Prefer non-alcohol based extracts, also best to experiment with concentration of flavor.

Photography – Specific Subject: Shop for photo matting at Hobby Lobby when they have their 50% off sale (pre-cut photo mat cost about \$1). Be sure to take your picture in with you and spend some time comparing and contrasting different colors to see what highlights your photo in a way you like.

Beekeeping Photo Youth: The photography class is a great way to provide the general public a close up view of bees. It's fun to compete. Hobby Lobby has the foam board that is used to mount the photos on. There is also spray on photo adhesive that can be used to mount the photos.

Hope this advice may be of help to you. Good luck at this year's State Fair!

Help Make the IHPA Booth a Success Once Again in 2013!

The IHPA is once again planning for the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines and are inviting you to be a part of this wonderful calendar event! The dates for this year's fair are August 8-18.

If you like talking to people and lending a hand, this is a great opportunity for you to help support the IHPA and also meet fellow beekeepers. The fair runs for 11 days with 3 shifts per day and have plenty of times and dates to satisfy anyone's schedule, bring your family and friends along too! Every volunteer receives a free pass into the State Fair for the day.

For more information go to page 7.

Keep on buzzing!
Eli Kalke

IHPA Booth Bid Selection

To all IHPA members

Please find below bid acceptance information for vendors of products at the 2013 IHPA State Fair Booth. This will only be for this years (2013) fair:

1. Low bid will be accepted for the BULK honey used for the honey lemonade.
2. With the exception of the 1lb glass, all other liquid bids for the different weights will be a lottery draw. If the drawn vendor cannot supply necessary quantity, another will be drawn to fill those quantities needed; both will be used.
3. Creamed honey will be chosen by quantity, bid, weight and flavors needed to fill the fair's needs.
4. The candles, lip balms, etc will be chosen by the needs of the booth also.

This information will be available in the July Buzz and the IHPA website.

Dale Fields
Bidding Committee Chair



The BUZZ Quilt is Done.

Jodi Kraft brought the BUZZ Quilt to the Field Day. It is BEAUTIFUL!!



I would like to thank the following quilters for their participation in what I hope is the first of many quilts to benefit the Queen Program.

Marlene Boernsen
Connie Bronnenberg
Martha Shrock
Sandy Zeleny
Sharon Burman

Carol Kolb
Chelesa Bronnenberg
Patty Phillips
Donna Davis
Hazel Smith

Deb Husak
Jackie Beard
Vickie Seddon
Jodi Kraft

Deb Nielson
Renae Beard
Becky Elsbernd
Fern Nelson

It was decided that instead of sending the quilt around the state with the Queen and Princess, we will send a book of pictures as to what the quilt looks like. We can make up as many books as needed that way. More books mean more opportunities to raise more dollars for the Iowa Honey Queen Program. That way there is less cost and less chance of something happening to the quilt in the process. The raffle tickets for the quilt will be sold for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. If you would like to buy tickets, please contact Rhonda Heston, 515-724-2124. If you would like to sell tickets, please contact Rhonda for a book and tickets.

Thank you to everyone who made blocks. Thank you Jodi for the great job on the quilting, binding and the amazing label. Good luck to all. Remember the Queen program benefits from your donations.



IHPA at the Iowa State Fair

Do you like interacting with children? Do you like having fun? Are you able to volunteer 30 minutes of your time? Are you available on one of these days August 8-18? If you answered yes to all these questions, we are very keen to hear from you.

Each year, a short presentation is given to children of all ages, 3pm daily at the Iowa State Fair Knapp Learning Center. We are looking for volunteers to give a light hearted fun 30 minute presentation. You don't even have to create anything, as this has already been done for you.

To sign up or for more information please contact Dale Field (IHPA Education Committee) at 641-691-4729 or fieldstonefarms@netins.net

Submitted by Dale Fields



State Apiarist

Hi everybody.

The field day was great. Thank you to Eli and everyone who helped put it together. The presentations were impressive. I learned a lot. Also, good to see so many of you there.

I have just a couple things to share this month. First, we have a new apiary inspector for the western side of Iowa. Meet Erik Wray. He's just been getting started over this past month or so, but I can tell he'll be great. Erik and his family live over in the Council Bluffs area. He's an active beekeeper heading towards a hundred or so hives this year. I should have prepared myself before sitting down to write this – I need to get his permission to publish his contact info in the Buzz. For now, if you're in western Iowa and would like to request a bee inspection, get ahold of me, and I'll get you in touch with Erik. We'll plan to get his phone and / or email printed up for you in here next month.

Boyd Palmer and I are still inspecting bees too, of course. If you have a question about something you're seeing in your bees, or would just like another pair of eyes in there, let us know. This slow, cold, rainy, late spring has held us back (just like the bees), but we're in high gear now (also just like the bees).

Colonies all over Iowa basically just sat there, not terribly active, until about the second or third week in May. ... incredibly late. They've been quickly making up for lost time. We've been seeing many hives with wall to wall brood. Some splits which were made a few weeks ago received empty deeps of comb for the second hive bodies. They promptly plugged the boxes out with nectar. Watch out for this crowding of the brood chamber in regards to swarming. Many of my own hives have filled two supers now (June 18th) and I've heard stories of much better than that in some areas. It's on. Be sure your bees always have plenty of space.

There have been a lot of swarms this year. Probably not much more than an average year, but as I'm writing this, we're in the middle of the swarm season – and it's mid-late June! Again, as we all know, things are incredibly late this year. Last year was a big year for calls for "cutouts" of bees in buildings. I haven't received too many of those calls this year for some reason.

Varroa counts (ether rolls mostly) have been very low this spring. My guess is that Varroa numbers got so bad last year, that they took out the majority of the hives which went untreated. We had high losses over the winter here, maybe 50% or so of Iowa's colonies were found dead this spring. Not all of this is related to Varroa, but in my opinion, you can't hate the mites enough. Varroa numbers always climb through the year. Just because the numbers are pretty low in most colonies right now doesn't mean you don't need to be concerned about them later on this summer / early fall. Similar to any pest situation, we all need to be in the habit of keeping tabs on mite counts and making pro-active decisions regarding treatments.

Now, don't forget about the State Fair! Here is a link to the apiary competition "premium book" which provides all the categories for entry, rules, and deadlines: <http://www.iowastatefair.org/upl/downloads/competition/premium-books/apiary-bees-honey-23.pdf>. Entry deadline for the apiary competition is August 1st, but I recommend not waiting til the last minute.

[ENTRY DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1.

Entries must be submitted online or postmarked on or before August 1. Entry tags and admission tickets (if ordered) will be mailed to the entrant ONLY if the entry form is submitted online or postmarked by July 14. All entries submitted online or postmarked after July 14 require the exhibitor to pick up entry tags and admission tickets (if ordered) at the Entry Department on the Iowa State Fairgrounds on or after August 1 until August 5 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.]

All categories are just \$1 per entry (except for the window box displays which are \$4) ... so go crazy with it. If you get too busy and can't fulfill a category, you're only out a buck. Entries can be made online at <http://www.iowastatefair.org/entry> or by paper form also found on the www.iowastatefair.org website.

See you.

Andy

Andrew.Joseph@iowaagriculture.gov
515 326 5765

FOR SALE: Husky 10 cu ft. 2 wheel wagon, used very little, \$110.00 (new \$140) Great for moving hive bodies/ supers around avoiding heavy lifting over long distances.

Bee Blower with new hoses. Same as shown in Dadant catalog page 68 (M00780 - MRP \$529), only with Tecumseh engine. \$225.

Fieldstone Farms
Call: 641-477-8521.



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 8-18.

For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building; selling honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise etc. This is our main fund raising 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, offering honey samples etc. We will provide you with a free entry pass to get into the fair.

We had a successful 2012 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 also encourage new members, bee clubs throughout the state to participate in this event too, because we need everyone's support to make this event a success.

We have three shifts daily, 9am-1.30pm, 1.30pm-6pm and 6pm-9pm (11-14 people needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 8-18 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 fieldstonefarms@netins.net or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Eli Kalke (IHPA Vice President)
1445 165th Street, Clemons, IA 50051.
Cell: 641-512-4728

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone no. _____ Email address: _____

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you. (Fair dates August 8-18.)

Date:	9.00-1.30pm	1.30pm-6.00pm	6.00pm-9.00pm
Date:	9.00-1.30pm	1.30pm-6.00pm	6.00pm-9.00pm
Date:	9.00-1.30pm	1.30pm-6.00pm	6.00pm-9.00pm
Date:	9.00-1.30pm	1.30pm-6.00pm	6.00pm-9.00pm
Date:	9.00-1.30pm	1.30pm-6.00pm	6.00pm-9.00pm
If you think it would be helpful to advertise the available time slots on the Iowa Honey Producers website, please check this box.			

We appreciate any help you can provide!

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Our featured beekeeper for this month is Trent Allison. He is another participant in the IHPA Youth Mentoring Program. Trent lives at North English, Iowa with his parents Mark and Renee, two sisters and one brother. Trent is the oldest sibling and attends school at Williamsburg, Iowa. This fall he will be in the 11th grade. His interests are band, cross country, robotics, wrestling and soccer. After graduation he is thinking about student at Iowa State focusing on engineering.

Trent says his dad thought it would be cool for the family to have bees so they signed up for the scholarship at the state fair. Matt Stewart is his mentor and he took his beekeeping classes through Kirkwood at Washington, Iowa. Trent says he had a good time learning about bees. He helped out at the IHPA booth at the state fair. He also learned the hard way not to mess with honeybees after 7:00pm. In the future he plans to get more bees.

Thanks for your story Trent it looks like hiving your first package of bees went well, good luck.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



Trent Allison gives the thumbs up for his first package of bees. Trent is another successful Youth Mentor Program participant.



State Fair Entry Deadline

The entry deadline for the Apiary department is indeed August 1st. If you want your tags and tickets mailed to you the deadline is July 14th.

I have included this information a couple of places in the Buzz as it is not always convenient to pick up your tags and tickets in person at the fairgrounds [between Aug. 1 and 5th; 8am-4:30pm at the Entry Department). Below is the actual deadline specification as it is listed in the Apiary competition booklet.

GUST 1. Entries must be submitted online or postmarked on or before August 1. Entry tags and admission tickets (if ordered) will be mailed to the entrant **ONLY** if the entry form is submitted **online or postmarked by July 14.** All entries submitted online or postmarked after July 14 require the exhibitor to pick up entry tags and admission tickets (if ordered) at the Entry Department on the Iowa State Fairgrounds on or after August 1 until August 5 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.]

These deadlines are only for sending in your entry to the state fair competition. You do not submit your actual items for exhibit at this time.

Exhibit items must be in place by noon on Wednesday August 7th. The Apiary Competition Booklet on the state fair website lists days and times starting

Aug. 4th when exhibits can be delivered to the fair.

You can download the Apiary booklet from the Iowa State Fair website www.iowastatefair.org

Click on the Competition tab, then select Categories / Premium Books. You can then select the Apiary— Bees & Honey booklet to get the complete Apiary entry information.

These exhibits are a great way for us to show the public how much fun beekeeping can be and display the wonderful products the bees produce. Let's fill up those displays at the Ag Building and have another excellent exhibit at the Iowa State Fair!

Alex Ebert

Honey Queen Report



Hello Everyone:

I hope old and new hive are doing well in the "Floods of 2013". My bees are doing wonderful in this humid hot weather. I am planning on taking a couple of frames off to test taste the quality and to see where the moisture count is. I am planning on scrapping off both wax and honey from the frame. I got big plans for the wax since I found out how easy it is to make soap, lotions, and lip balm.

I saw many of you at the Annual Field Day in Clemons where we all learned about; soap, lotion, and lip balm making, comb honey harvesting, making creamed honey, and the best ways on how to capture blue ribbon pictures of our bees. In the afternoon we hopped skipped and jumped over to Fieldstone Farms to learn how to raise queens. It was such a great day not just because of the events, but seeing a lot of new IHPA family members.

Do not hesitate in contacting Connie Bronnenberg at 515-480-6076 or at cbronny823@aol.com. You can also contact me directly at hannah.vanwyk93@yahoo.com if you have an upcoming event, farmers market or youth oriented day that Rachel, Joy or I could attend. If I do not see you till State Fair stay safe, and keep your bees to the sunny side.

Here is a great county fair, picnic, and hiking snack.

This is a home made recipe so you can tweak it to suit you.

Mama Cathy's blue ribbon honey crunch

- One bag of corn flake cereal
- A type of unsalted nut (I like to use almonds)

Lots of honey

Get a big mixing bowl and mix all ingredients. Grab a cookie sheet and cover with wax paper (easier to clean and peel honey crunch off). Grab clusters of crunch and smooth it out onto the sheet. Let it harden a bit and now you have some honey crunch for any type of snack. I love it on French vanilla ice cream.

May the bees keep buzzing in your favor.

*Safe travels, and happy buzzing,
Hannah L. VanWyk
2013 Iowa Honey Queen*



Here I am with Becky Tipton and Joli Winer at Field Day. They taught us how to make soap, lotions, lip balms, and creamed honey.

2013 IHPA Field Day

The 2013 IHPA Field Day was held on June 15th in Clemons, Iowa. With around 70 people attending, the field day was full of fun, demonstrations, good food, and a lot of beekeeping knowledge. The weather held and everybody had a great time. Demonstrations included lotions, lip balms, creamed honey, cut comb, photography, and queen rearing. A big thanks goes out to Eli Kalke and Dale Fields for hosting the field day and providing their Fieldstone Apiary for the queen rearing demonstration. Thanks also goes out to all the volunteers who helped at the field day. Here are just a few of the activities that made for another wonderful IHPA Field Day.



Becky Tipton and Joli Winer had a great group to demonstrate how to make soap, lotions, lip balms, and creamed honey.



Bob Fassbinder gave a very good talk on queen rearing and the importance of raising local queens with good genetic traits.



2013 Iowa Honey Queen Hannah VanWyk tries her hand at grafting larvae into queen cups to raise some new queens.



Bob talks about how successful queen rearing requires good nutrition, good genetic traits, and an attention to detail.

Pre World War II & Honey Price Support Program

By HARRY A. SULLIVAN

(A bit of history on our honey industry...how things have changed,)

Agricultural Economist, Price Support and Loan Division, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

BEEKEEPING IN THE UNITED STATES

AGRICULTURE HANDBOOK NUMBER 335

Revised October 1980

Price support programs for agricultural commodities were undertaken as a result of the depression of the 1930's. For some years, price support operations were restricted to what were called the "basic" commodities (corn, cotton, peanuts, rice, tobacco, and wheat), but gradually other commodities were added.

Factors Leading to Honey Price Support Program:

Sugar rationing during World War II and the requests by the Government to increase the production of honey led to a large increase in colony numbers and a proportionate increase in honey production. With the end of sugar rationing, prices for honey dropped close to pre-war levels. Due to the depressed economic situation facing them, representatives of the beekeeping industry requested assistance from Congress. In taking note of the industry's request, the House Committee on Agriculture had this to say:

"Since the close of the war, the price of honey has dropped to the point where beekeepers are finding it impossible to obtain their costs of production. It appears obvious to the committee that, if these vitally important insects are to be maintained in sufficient numbers to pollinate our crops, the beekeeping industry must have immediate assistance. Until the time comes when beekeepers can receive an adequate return from pollination services, the committee believes that a price support program for honey, as provided in this bill, is the only answer to this problem".

Honey Price Support Legislation:

The Agricultural Act of 1949 re-

quires that honey, along with several other commodities under the heading "Designated Non-basic Agricultural Commodities," be supported at a level between 60 and 90 percent of parity. In determining the actual level of support within the prescribed limits, the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to consider the following factors:

- (1) Supply in relation to demand.
- (2) Price levels at which other commodities are being supported.
- (3) Availability of funds.
- (4) Perishability of honey.
- (5) Importance of honey to agriculture and the national economy.
- (6) Ability to dispose of stocks acquired through price support operations.
- (7) The need for offsetting temporary losses of export markets.
- (8) The ability and willingness of producers to keep supply in line with demand.

Parity prices are a measure of the price levels needed to give agricultural commodities a purchasing power with respect to articles that farmers buy equivalent to the purchasing power of those agricultural commodities in a base period. The formula used to determine parity prices for agricultural commodities has been outlined by Congress. The parity price calculations and determinations are made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Operating Features of Price Support Program:

The price of honey presently is supported through warehouse- or farm-storage loans or through purchases, or both. Loans at the applicable price support rate on warehouse- and farm-stored honey are made available to beekeepers during the crop year on any or all of the honey produced during that year. By obtaining immediate cash for his crop, the beekeeper can hold his honey and market it when he thinks the price level is satisfactory to him. However, if the market price fails to rise above the support price, he may cancel his loan by delivering honey, of a value equal to the loan value, at the end of the year unless arrangements for earlier delivery have been made.

If the beekeeper has not made use of the loan feature of the program for a part of all of his production, he can then use the purchase option. The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) stands ready to buy at the applicable support price any of his production he wishes to sell and which is not already obligated to CCC as loan collateral.

The beekeeper obtains loans, or payment from a CCC purchase of his honey, at his Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county office. The U.S. Department of Agriculture carries out price support operations through the field offices in most of the more than 3,000 counties in the country. The offices also issue delivery instructions as to time and location for honey deliveries being made to CCC.

Quality and Quantity Determination:

For loan purposes, the beekeeper's statement is accepted as to the quality of the honey offered as collateral. He then receives 90 percent of the value (price support rate times quantity) of the collateral. When honey is actually acquired by CCC through purchase or loan default, quantity is determined by the actual weight of honey delivered. Quality is then determined by the Agricultural Marketing Service, in accordance with U.S. standards for grades of extracted honey based on samples drawn by ASCS representatives supervising delivery. CCC bears the cost of this quality and color determination.

Color and Class Differential Structure:

Honey is supported on the basis of color and class. Color and class differentials for the 1977 crop are as follows:

For the 1977 crop, the national average support rate on a 60-pound and larger container basis was 32.7 cents per pound.

Fees and charges:

A producer pays a nonrefundable fee for each loan disbursed. The farm-stored loan fee is \$10 per loan plus \$1 for



Color:	Class and
	<i>Table honey: Cents per pound:</i>
White and lighter	33.5
Extra light amber	32.5
Light amber	31.5
Other table honey	29.5
Non-table honey	29.5

each lot of honey covered by the loan. The warehouse-stored loan fee is \$6 plus \$1 for each warehouse receipt. A delivery charge of one cent per hundred-weight is assessed on the quantity of honey delivered to CCC. The producer also pays all charges relative to insurance premiums, storage, and handling.

Early Support Program:

The Department first decided that mandatory honey price support could be most widely and effectively assured by working through existing marketing machinery. Under the 1950 program, packers of honey signed contracts with the Department, under which they agreed to pay beekeepers 9 cents per pound delivered to their packing plants for all the honey acquired from them that met the requirements of the program. These requirements were especially concerned with the cleanliness of the honey, its moisture content, and flavor. The Department, in turn, agreed to accept from the contracting packer all the honey the packer offered and to pay the support price, plus established charges for handling, storage, and any processing requested by the Department.

In the 1951 season, a similar program was operated, except that a price support differential related to the degree of acceptability of honey for table use was introduced. The differential was 1.1 cents per pound between honeys of "general national acceptability" and "limited acceptability" for table use, reflecting to a degree the difference in market value for variations in this regard.

The type of price support program in operation during those first 2 years did not give universal satisfaction. The 1952 season saw the producer (i.e., beekeep-

er) loan and purchase agreement type of program develop, which is now in use for honey and for most of the other agricultural commodities.

Summary of Price Support Activity:

As indicated in table 1, activity under the price support program was rather modest until 1964, with small quantities

placed under loan and even smaller (or none) acquired by CCC. With the dropping of the official inspection requirement as a prerequisite for obtaining a loan, activity increased rapidly. A peak of 45.7 million pounds of honey placed under loan was reached in 1969. Loan activity declined subsequent to 1969, due to declining domestic production and rising honey prices. Reduced program activity led to the discontinuation of the loan provision of the program for the 1975 and 1976 crop years. However, after repeated requests by the honey industry, the loan provision was reinstated in 1977.

Source: BEE SOURCE.COM
Peggy Ennis, Historian

TABLE 1.—Honey: Price support activity, 1950–77

Year	Price support rate	Support as percent of parity	Quantity placed under loan		Quantity acquired by CCC
			Amount	As percent of production	
	Cents	Percent	Million pounds	Percent	Million pounds
1950.....	9.0	60.0	(¹)	-----	7.4
1951.....	10.0	60.0	(¹)	-----	17.8
1952.....	11.4	70.0	9.3	3.4	7.0
1953.....	10.5	70.0	3.1	1.4	.5
1954.....	10.2	60.0	1.5	.7	0
1955.....	9.9	75.0	1.9	.8	0
1956.....	9.7	70.0	1.6	.7	0
1957.....	9.7	70.0	2.9	1.2	.1
1958.....	9.6	70.0	5.6	2.1	.2
1959.....	8.3	60.0	1.3	.5	0
1960.....	8.6	60.0	1.1	.4	0
1961.....	11.2	75.0	4.2	1.5	1.1
1962.....	11.2	74.0	3.4	1.2	0
1963.....	11.2	67.0	3.2	1.1	0
1964.....	11.2	65.0	9.6	3.8	2.2
1965.....	11.2	63.0	17.3	7.1	3.3
1966.....	11.4	61.3	33.9	13.7	4.1
1967.....	12.5	64.0	31.0	13.9	5.4
1968.....	12.5	66.8	24.9	12.5	.1
1969.....	13.0	66.7	45.7	16.2	3.5
1970.....	13.0	63.7	40.6	17.3	(²)
1971.....	14.0	66.7	22.9	11.1	0
1972.....	14.0	62.8	19.8	9.3	0
1973.....	16.1	60.2	12.1	5.1	0
1974.....	20.6	60.0	12.5	6.7	0
1975.....	25.5	60.1	(³)	-----	0
1976.....	29.4	60.0	(³)	-----	0
1977.....	32.7	60.0	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)

¹ Direct packer purchase program.

² Less than 100,000 pounds.

³ Loan provision of program discontinued.

⁴ Loan provision of program reinstated—data not available.

THE UP'S AND DOWNS TO BEEKEEPING!

You have likely discovered that this Spring was not an ideal Spring for colony development. It seemed there were few blossoming plants and the rain and cold prevented the ones that bloomed from producing nectar and pollen. The bees had very few hours between times to forage at all.

About fifty years ago we had such weather which continued through much of the Summer and the final result was a 25 pound per colony average of surplus honey. That came right in the midst of years when the entire State was getting good, average crops. After the end of the 1930's in Southern Iowa where it was so dry that no blossom could be found, we moved the bees to Story Co. in Central Iowa where it was only the one year that was a near failure.

I started beekeeping in 1927 and there has been only about three crop failures since that time. From Central Iowa, east and west all the way north good crops have been produced. Agriculture has changed drastically so it is in only isolated spots where excellent crops are produced.

I have no colonies at the present BUT I predict that there has been a slow build-up of colonies and there will likely be a very short crop of surplus honey. With luck the bees will keep the brood area well filled and be prepared for the coming dearth period of a few months.

The farm practices have not been favorable to beekeepers. They continue to spread insecticides known to kill bees as well as butterflies and all other insects. The Chemical companies know full well they are the killers of bees BUT now they want to test each one to see which is the culprit. They may as well save their time and money because wherever some of

these are used, the bees are dying. All of Europe has banned ALL chemicals that could possibly kill their bees. The United States should do the same BUT the Chemical Companies want to make their Billions first. The one chemical make and produced by the Bayer Co is applied to seeds which then has to be mixed with powder so the seed will feed through the planter, the dust from the powder floats through the air SO all living things are breathing contaminated air.

My last word from the Environmental Protection Agency IS "they want to study the kill for another year as if they didn't know.

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The run-off of farm Chemicals have contaminated all of Iowa's water ways and lakes. That alone is likely enough to kill our bees. There is hardly any water now that is suitable for humans.

I wish all of you good Luck and hope you at least have some honey for you pancakes later.

Glen L. Stanley

The IHPA Website

The IHPA website has been redesigned over the past year to help provide information to the membership without hav-

ing to wait for the next issue of the Buzz Newsletter. The first design largely had the newsletter as the majority of the content. With the redesign the website continues to host the digital copies of the Buzz, but has now expanded to have many more subject areas to cover the different programs and events that the IHPA sponsors each year. The Queen Program, Youth Mentor Program, IHPA Field Day, and Annual Meeting are just a few.

The website also is your source for downloading registration forms and information flyers. These downloads are typically found under the Media tab.

You will also find information about becoming an IHPA member if you are not already, as well as a nice selection of IHPA merchandise is available.

It has also unfortunately been the case that some people have been having difficulties connecting to the website. In early June, some technical

adjustments were made with the websites host company. These connection problems should now be fixed. I would like to encourage anyone who had trouble connecting in the past, to go to the website www.abuzzaboutbees.com to see if your connection works now. We would love to hear from people who have had problems in the past but can now connect to the website. Please send feed back to either address below: thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com alex.ebert@eberthoney.com

Alex Ebert
Buzz Newsletter / IHPA Website Editor

Answer: All queen producers need to maintain strong colonies of desired stock to provide an adequate drone supplies for mating. Produce abundant drones to mate with each queen. I estimate that 100 sealed drone pupae are needed to provide enough sexually competitive drones in the mating arena to mate with one queen. Drones experience losses in all stages of development and one California study showed that less than ten percent mate. Source: Page 55 from "Queen Rearing Essentials" by Lawrence John Connor



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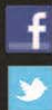
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The Buzz Newsletter

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