

The Buzz



March 2023

Newsletter of the
Iowa Honey Producers
Association

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

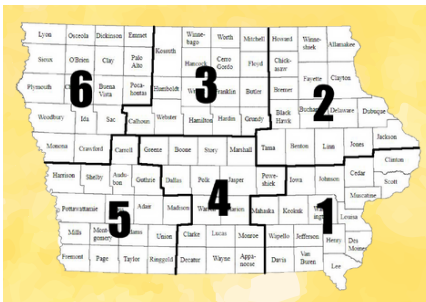


2023 IHPA Field Day June 17, 2023

The Red Shed
Clarion, IA

American Honey Princess

The 2023 American Honey Princess is our very own, Allison Hager! See page 2

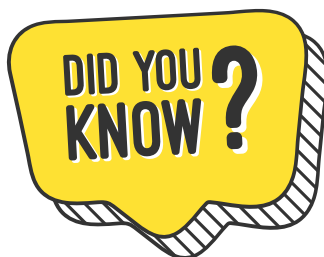


New District Map

The IHPA Districts have shifted. See page 7

Did you Know?

Updates from around your community, state, country and world. Did you know? See page 19



The Buzz

The Buzz is a monthly publication printed by the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA). This is one of the many perks of being a member of the IHPA!



You may opt to receive an electronic version of The Buzz, as a donation to the IHPA. Please contact the editor at: [ihpaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:ihpaiditor@gmail.com)

2023 American Honey Princess Hails from Iowa



The American Beekeeping Federation is proud to announce that Allison Hager was selected as the 2023 American Honey Princess at the American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Tradeshow in Jacksonville, Florida. Allison is the 22-year-old daughter of Danny and Tracey Hager of Bellevue, Iowa. She is a senior at Iowa State University studying Business Management, minoring in Entrepreneurship. Allison has an A.A.S. degree in Agriculture Business from Kirkwood Community College. She first became interested in beekeeping at the age of 13 and has been beekeeping and advocating for honey bees and other pollinators ever since. In her free time, Allison enjoys crafting, scrapbooking, photography, spending time with her pets, and of course, beekeeping. Prior to being selected as the American Honey Princess, Allison served as the 2022 Iowa Honey Queen. In this role, she promoted the honey industry in schools, through farmers' markets, fairs, festivals, and media interviews.

Allison will spend the next year promoting the beekeeping industry throughout the United States in a wide variety of venues, including fairs, festivals, schools, media interviews, and virtual presentations. To schedule an appearance or presentation with American Honey Princess Allison Hager, please contact American Honey Queen Program Chairperson Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.

The Central Iowa Beekeepers Association's Winter Seminar is approaching fast! You will NOT want to miss this informative program. It will be held at the beautiful Iowa Arboretum near Madrid, Ia. You'll get research results and practical information on multiple topics including how to get your bees through a REAL winter, tools for battling varroa, tips on making comb honey and so much more!

This is a well-attended event, attendance will be capped at 160 people so get your registration in now! This is a pre register event only- no walk-ins will be permitted as your registration also includes a delicious meal from Smokin Big Dawgs.

For more information and to register, go to:

www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org



IHPA Officer & Director News

Ramblings from The Russian Bee Guy

President, Jason Foley

Hello and welcome to another of my Ramblings. This month of February has been far less about beekeeping and far more about politics. Speaking of which, Honey Bee Day will be right around the corner for you readers. It is on March 16th starting at 7am at the state capital. Everyone is encouraged to attend and show support of beekeeping in Iowa. The day is actually pretty important because the representatives who make laws that affect beekeeping need to see that we are more than just a handful of people. They need to see that beekeeping involves thousands of voters across the state and the policies they pass will have real impact on our industry. Sorry, I'll step down from my podium now lol.

Your IHPA board met a week late on Feb 4th due to that storm the prior weekend. To keep membership more in the loop on matters I'll go into some of what all was talked about. For instance, the board is looking into pulling an old program out of the mothballs and giving it a fresh coat of paint. The IHPA used to send a representative to the two big nationwide conferences to represent Iowa. More debate and planning needs done on that initiative, but it's a possibility for the future. Another item is that we have changed the policies to allow some parents at our weekend bee camp retreat. We need to limit the amount because bee camp is intended for children and not adults. For every adult attending, that is 1 less open space that could be offered to a youth wanting to attend. And yes, the parents have to go through background checks just like all the other adults staying at the event. The IHPA board also solidified its list of legislative endeavors for the year. #1 We are still on the warpath for trying to get the honey bee designated as the state insect. We were on the precipice of getting that accomplished and then Covid hit, government shut down, and we got dropped to the bottom of the list. #2 We are also working to get a correction filed with the Department of Revenue. Iowa is one of the few states that still charges sales tax on honey bees, saying they aren't livestock. However, every other branch of our government does designate them as livestock. So for those of you who buy or sell bees, the sales tax will hopefully be a thing of the past very soon. #3 Your board is looking into the policies around the herbicidal spraying of ditches and what could be altered there. It seems like there is this ever present battle of the state planting pollinator forage and then people/county employees herbicidally spraying them back to plain grass. #4 From the comment

cards and surveys we heard a need for the state to have more bee inspectors and are working on that as well. The board is formulating a letter to Mike Naig (the Secretary of Ag) to express our ideas on having a number of part-time employees that would be in the far recesses of the state. They would be used in times of high demand rather than sending Andy Joseph running all around like a ping pong ball. #5 is taking a look at the Sensitive Crop policies and seeing if some sort of teeth can be put into the program. As it stands currently, it has rules to protect bees, but zero consequences for breaking the rules. When an incident occurs it is solely on the shoulders of the plaintiff to file a lawsuit. #6 is the final legislative piece we are looking into. Many other states offer tax credits for bees on agricultural land. So we are endeavoring to bring that practice to Iowa as well. The tax credits would make bees and beekeeping more appealing to farmers and create more places for commercial beekeepers to place honey yards. It would also instill more concern with honey bee healthy environments. Outside of legislation, your board looked into paid positions that we currently have and the addition of any new ones. Some motions were proposed to add a couple of spots, but the majority of the board voted to turn them down, and thus they were denied motions. We also are investigating the possibilities around a youth membership. This would be independent of regular memberships in that it would have perks just for kids and possibly an emailed newsletter geared for kids with bee related coloring pages and the like. The IHPA Secretary, Heidi Love, is coming up with a more formal proposal on the matter. Lastly, the IHPA Facebook page will be growing. We are branching it out to include a group page that will afford our visitors the ability to post their comments, concerns, and ideas publicly for everyone to interface with.

Boy, this has probably been the most boring ramblings I have done, but at least you have gotten a good insight on the number of projects we are tackling in addition to the yearly events we throw. As always, your board is here to serve you. Feel free to write me an email or call me with anything bee related. And for those clubs out there, don't forget about the directors in your district. Hit them up for coming and visiting; heck, hit any of us up for a visit!

Jason Foley
russianbeeguy@gmail.com
515-664-6072

Youth Bee Camp

May 6-7, Indianola



Bee Camp is coming up! Do you have a child (or know someone) between the ages of **13 and 17** who is interested in bees?

If so, then the 2nd Annual Youth Bee Camp may be for them!

When: Saturday, May 6 from noon until Sunday, May 7 around 2:00 p.m. (tentatively)

Where: Camp Wesley Woods, 10896 Nixon Street, Indianola, IA 50125

Cost: \$75 per youth for IHPA members and \$105 per youth for non-IHPA members

*****The non-member rate includes a 1-year membership to the IHPA.*****

(This cost breaks down to \$35 for accommodations, \$25 for food, and \$15 for a bedding pack)

While at camp, students will work with Andy Joseph, the State Apiarist, gaining hands-on training in bee hives. A class on queen rearing will be taught by Jason Foley, current IHPA President and owner of Foley's Russian Bees. The other planned class as of right now is one on value added products which will give students a foundation in selling and marketing honey and honey products, taught by Sara Todd, current IHPA Vice-President and owner of Holton Homestead.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/youthbeecamp>

For more information, feel free to reach out to:

Stephanie Meyers, IHPA Youth Scholarship Coordinator at sonshinefarmsia@gmail.com



IHPA members never know who will stop by their booth when they're selling honey. Well, this is what happened to Mike and Cheri Van Sickle (VanSickle Bee's) when HGTV star Ty Pennington visited their honey booth at the Omaha Home and Garden Expo in Omaha, NE. Ty visited with Mike and Cheri and enjoyed their new flavors of honey sticks. Ty was a guest star at the Expo and shared his experiences hosting the TV shows "Extreme Makeover and Trading Spaces"

Iowa Honey Bee Day 2023



For those of you that are new to beekeeping and have not heard about Iowa's Honey Bee Day. I want to highlight the most important fun aspects of participating in the day. Since this is the 5th year of HBD, we have had established a great tradition of beekeepers meeting their Legislators.

The Iowa Honey Producers Association is hosting a Legislative Reception/Breakfast this March. All elected officials, honey bee keepers and citizens that care about the future of our pollinators are invited.

It is going to be Thursday March 16th from 7 AM to Noon at the Iowa State Capitol. We have the Rotunda reserved for only Iowa Honey Producers which is on the first floor of the Capitol. This is one floor below where the House and Senate chambers are. This is an excellent location for our visibility to the people that pass the laws that regulate our industry. The public is also impacted since the media is there as well.

The opportunity that we have as beekeepers to highlight the importance of honey bees (and pollinators) to Legislators and the public could not be better. We will be setting up many displays. Including an Observation Hive, which we had to get special permission to bring them into the building. To our knowledge this is the only livestock to ever be brought into the Capitol. Of course, many other displays will be set up. A flow hive will be there as well as a traditional Langstroth hive.

We have asked Governor Kim Reynolds to sign a Proclamation designating March 16th as Iowa Honey Bee Day along with many City Mayors and County Supervisors across the state. In the proclamations they will be stating that honey bee and native insects are important pollinators for a third of the food we eat. Honey bees face serious threats from invasive pests, decreasing bee friendly forage, variable climate and increasing pesticide and herbicide pressure.

Another draw is food and drink that will be served that is made with honey. These food items are free to the Legislators as well as to the public. This is always a hit and when they have an opportunity to get State Fair Lemonade -- they do not pass it up.

IHPA queen -- Rachael Vakulich and IHPA Princess -- Britta McCollum will be there. Everyone likes to get their picture taken with them. I know I will :-). Also Central Iowa Beekeepers Association's Queen -- Bethany Kelly and CIBA's Princess -- Leah Casey will be there. All four of them will be mixing with the crowd promoting beekeeping.

All of our Scholarship students and their families are invited to not only attend the event, but it also will be an opportunity for them (as well as anyone else) to tour the Capitol building. This building is owned by us, and it is something that is really outstanding to see and understand its history. I have set up a tour of the building after we finish visiting with Legislators. Just this tour is worth it in coming.

This event is free so take some time off work and get there. It is extremely important for us beekeepers to make a large showing. We do have an impact on legislation that favors honey bees and the future of beekeeping in Iowa.

For more information about this special day please contact:

Jamie Beyer

District 4 Director and Legislative Representative
Iowa Honey Producers Association

269 U Ave.

Boone, Ia 50036

Home 515/433-0194

Work/Cell 515/231-0215

beyersbog@aol.com



IHPA Officer & Director News

Updates from your Event Coordinator

Event Coordinator, Cheri Van Sickle



2023 IHPA Field Day

June 17, 2023



The Red Shed
Clarion, IA

Hi everyone,

This past month was very exciting for the Event Committee and myself. There was the signing of venue contracts, visiting with speakers for Field Day, and the 2023 Fall Conference. Locking in prices for meal planning is an almost impossible task with the way food prices are going up. We are working on new ideas for each event. Our April issue of the "Buzz" will be filled with lots of exciting information about these events.

The Event Committee welcomes Sara Todd as a new member of our Event Committee. Please reach out to her with any new ideas that you would like to see at 2023 events. (ihpa.vp@gmail.com)

Remember to mark your calendar for our Field Day on June 17th.

Event Coordinator
Cheri

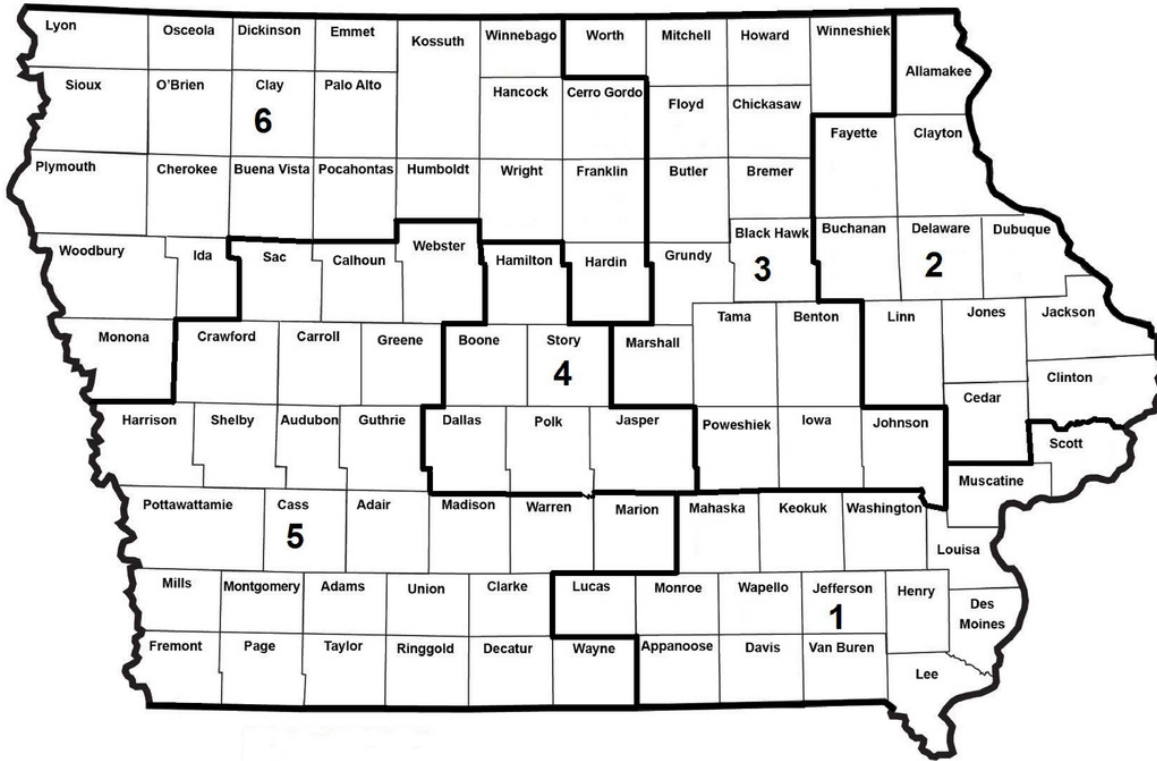
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Please submit all information for an advertisement by 11:59 p.m. on the 10th of the month PRIOR to The Buzz you want to see it in.

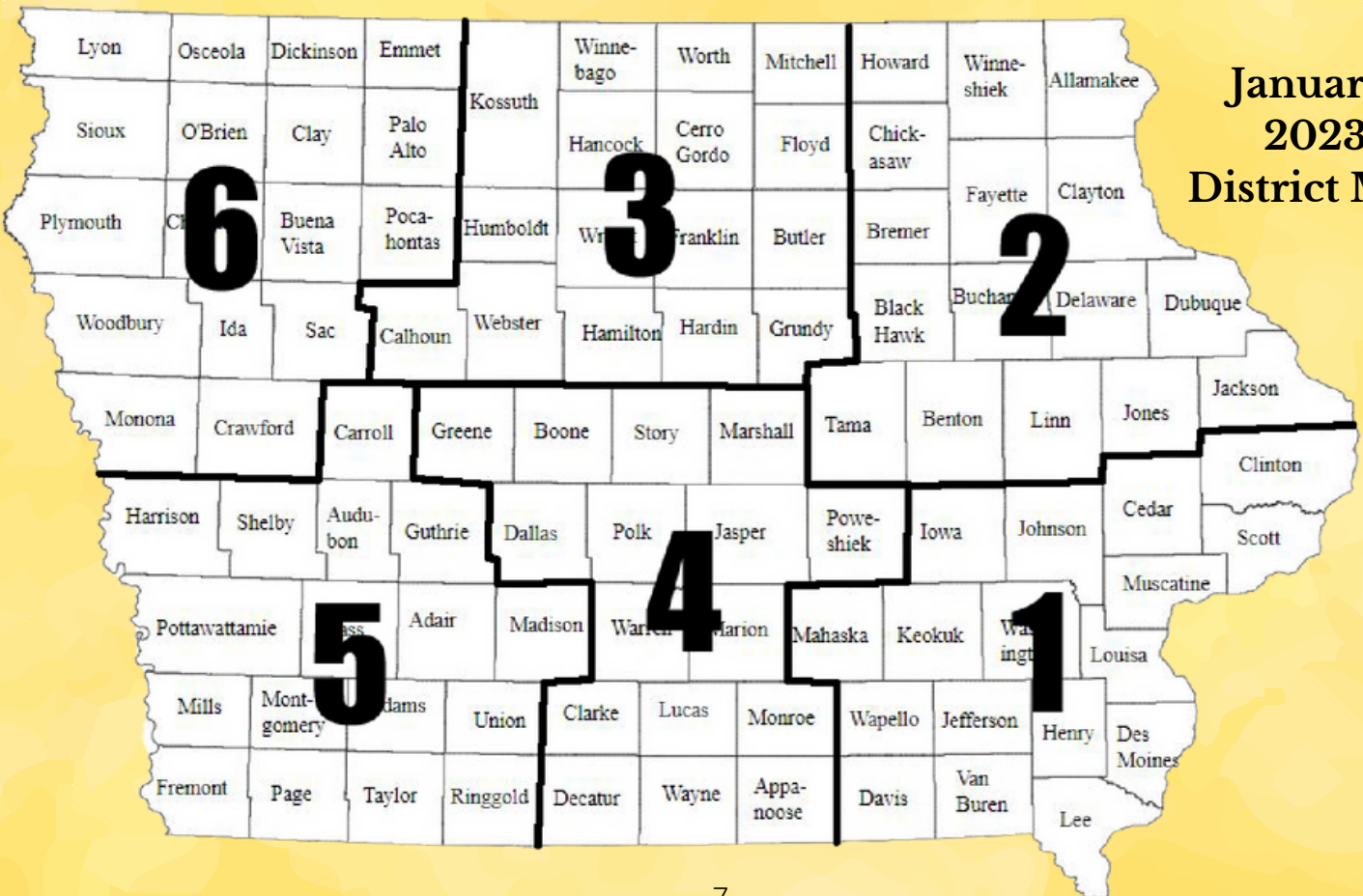
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Type of Ad	Mo Price (\$)	Year Price (\$)	Size Horizontal	Size Vertical
<i>Classified</i>	5	50	1"Tx3"w	3"Tx1"w
<i>1/8 page</i>	25	250	1.3"Tx2.1"w	2.6"Tx2.1"w
<i>1/4 page</i>	50	500	2.6"Tx4.1"w	4.1"Tx5.3"w
<i>1/2 page</i>	70	775	5.3"Tx8.25"W	10.75"Tx4.1"w
<i>Full Page</i>	90	1000	n/a	10.75"Tx8.25w

IHPA District Map has changed!!!



2022 District Map



January 2023 District Map

Iowa Honey Royalty



Rachel Vakulich - 2023 Iowa Honey Queen

Hello Iowa Beekeepers,

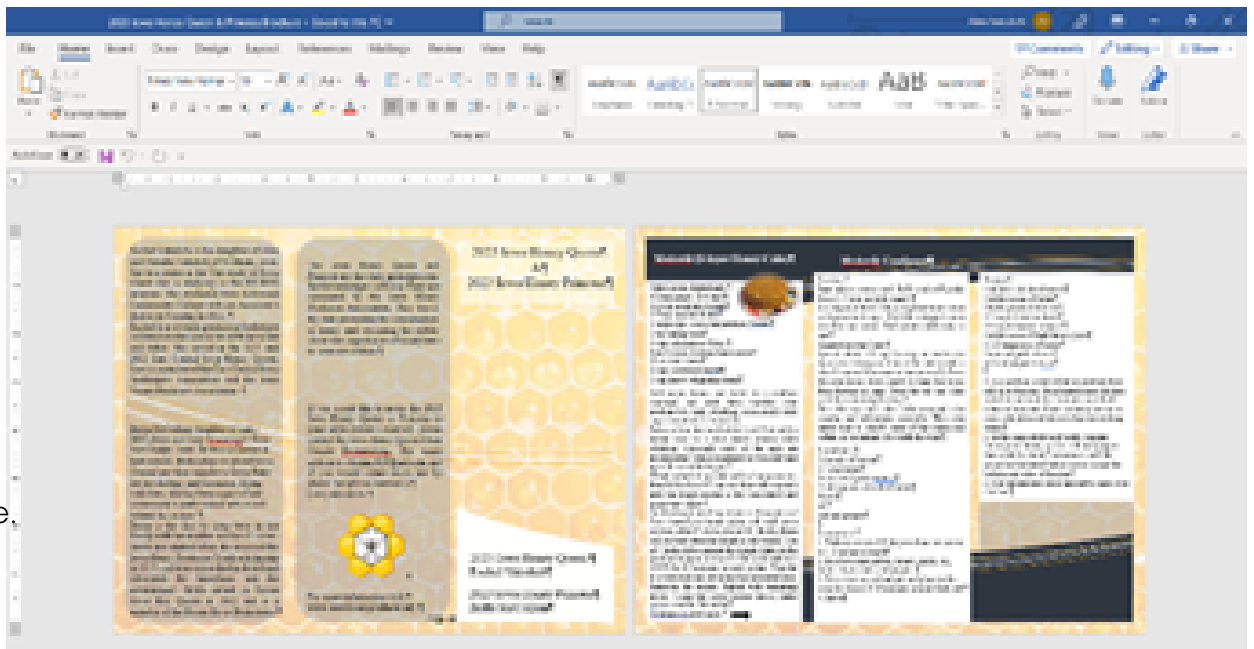
Happy March. Wow! I cannot believe that I am saying that. It is with great excitement to announce that I am going to be going to the 2023 Iowa Honey Bee Day at the Iowa Capital. Please come and join me and other beekeepers as we meet with lawmakers.

January found me scheduling events, dealing with canceled events, and other queen duties. In January, I had a photo session in the cold so that I have great pictures to put into the brochure and the website. I wanted some pictures with the snow in the background. But the first half of January really felt like March. So when the snow finally came, I had to catch on that opportunity.

On January 7th, the 2022 Iowa Honey Queen Allison Hager was crowned the 2023 American Honey Princess. Congratulations Allison on such a high honor. It is exciting to see another Iowa Honey Queen advance so high. In fact, Allison is the 9th Iowa Honey Queen to be chosen as an American Honey Queen or Princess. There were 6 Iowa Honey Queens that advanced to the American Honey Princess role and 3 Iowa Honey Queens that advanced to the American Honey Queen role.

Britta and I have been faithfully working on the 2023 Iowa Honey Queen and Princess brochure. We have some exciting recipes that use honey in it. For those of you that like to be

adventurous in the kitchen, I have included a very unique recipe that my family really enjoys. I hope to have it done and printed by the end of February.



Iowa Honey Royalty



Rachel Vakulich - 2023 Iowa Honey Queen

On February 2, 2023, I got to do a presentation in Pleasant Hill. A homeschool group invited me and I was excited to share with them about what a beekeeper does and how the hive works. The children were very attentive and were happy to touch the tools and try the bee suit on. I also brought a frame of honey that the children were able to hold. They were surprised at how heavy it was in comparison to the empty frame. After the presentation, the children were able to roll a beeswax candle. The honey sticks were a great hit and many wanted another one. It was a very fun event.



Rachel is helping kids roll wax candles

If you would like to host the Iowa Honey Queen or Princess at your event or even beekeeping meeting, please contact Connie Bronnenberg. Britta and I would be happy to come and give a presentation about honeybees.

Rachel Vakulich
2023 Iowa Honey Queen



Rachel is showing a picture of the life cycle of the honey bee to a group of homeschool students

Iowa Honey Business Spotlight



Foley's Russian Bees Honey Hollow Apiary & Gardens

Indianola, IA

**Owners: Jason Foley and
Shannon Bardole-Foley**

Tell us about your business, and what product do you sell the most of? Honey Hollow Apiary & Gardens LLC is owned and operated by Shannon Bardole-Foley and Jason Foley north of Indianola. Honey Hollow is the home of Foley's Russian Bees, Franklin Broom Works, and Little White Lye Soap. In the spring of 2020 we opened up a homestead store on our farm that allowed us to combine our professions and hobbies and offer products to the community. Honey Hollow features year round beekeeping supplies, various honey and honey products, and handmade brooms and gifts of various types. Our biggest sellers year round are our whiskey and rum barrel aged honeys and our Dutch Letter creamed honey. From January to March our biggest sellers are pre-orders of packages, nucs, and hive equipment. Throughout the summer we are busy producing Russian queen bees that we ship all over the country. Besides our store we also market our products in a number of venues and gift shops in Des Moines and Indianola area, such as Des Moines Mercantile, Willow Moon Apothecary, Heart of Iowa Marketplace, and Zanzibar's Coffee Adventure.



Photo of Honey Hollow's homestead store



Barrel Aged Honey

What is the hardest obstacle that you have overcome, or are working on while creating your business? The toughest obstacle that we overcame was the construction of our property. In 2017 we bought an acreage near Summerset Winery and began construction on our home, store, and honey barn. We've made great strides in sweat equity. Everything else has just been an easy progression of growth. The more hives we had, the more honey we made and products we produced.

Iowa Honey Business Spotlight



Foley's Russian Bees Honey Hollow Apiary & Gardens

Indianola, IA

**Owners: Jason Foley and
Shannon Bardole-Foley**



Shannon Bardole-Foley tending bees

What is the best piece of advice you can give to beekeepers who want to start a business? There are two key principals to success in our opinion. The first one is an analogy that everyone has heard a million times - "don't put all your eggs in one basket". Plain and simple, diversify your business and products. If all you sell is honey, and you have a really bad year due to weather conditions or something else, your business could crash. Always be looking for new products or areas of growth that you can expand into. Our bee business initially started with Jason rearing queens, which expanded to sales of packages and nucs. As he built hive equipment for our operation, it made sense to build more for others to purchase. At some point we started having an abundance of honey and beeswax to sell and create new products out of. And, of course, we send bees out to California annually for almond pollination. The second crucial piece of advice is to always buy more than what you need. Don't break the bank buying 10 years of honey bottles, but also don't cut yourself off at the knees by just buying enough containers for 1 event, or I'd even shy away from 1 season worth of bottles. There is huge value in stocking up on supplies. You'll get them at bulk prices and if you buy several years' worth, it usually works out that the next year(s) prices never are the same or cheaper than what you could get right then. Yes, it ties up some of your funds, but you are ensuring a healthy profit margin.

Who's Next!?

Do you have, or know of someone with an Iowa Honey Business that could be featured in The Buzz?



Email tips to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com



Recipes by Emma Ingram

Happy March! I have so enjoyed this nice weather we have been having and even planted a few seasonal flowers the other day. As I know the rest of you agree, it is so exciting to see the weather getting warm enough the bees are able to break cluster and take a few cleansing flights. I know the business is just getting started, but I can't wait to be able to pop some tops and check on my girls. In the mean time, I decided to try a recipe that reminds me of summer and one that takes into account how crazy summer can become. I tried making honey cabbage rolls and honey breakfast cookies. Although I did enjoy both dishes, they were not quite what I was expecting.

Breakfast Cookies (Pg. 35)

1/2 cup softened butter	3 tablespoons honey	1 teaspoon baking soda	1 cup flour
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar	2 eggs	1/4 teaspoon salt	1 cup Post Grape-Nuts cereal
1/2 cup sugar	2 teaspoons vanilla	2 cups rolled oats	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat butter and sugars in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Add honey, eggs, and vanilla; mix well. Add baking soda, salt and flour. Mix. Stir in oats and grape nuts. Drop by rounded tablespoons, 2-inches apart onto greased cookie sheets (or Silpat lined cookie sheets.) Bake for 10-14 minutes or until golden brown. Cool 2-3 minutes; remove from baking sheets. Cool completely on wire racks. Store in an air tight container.

Emma's Notes: These cookies were very tasty; however, they were incredibly crunchy. I love crunchy cookies, but the recipe claimed they were soft and chewy, so I was a little surprised by the texture. I did reduce the cooking time to 9 minutes to see if that helped with the crunchiness, they were a little less crunchy, but still pretty dry. If you have this problem, consider adding a little bit of cornstarch to dough to hold in a little more moisture and a softer texture. The other thing that I was surprised by was how little honey this recipe used. Usually, the primary sweetener in a recipe I do is honey; this recipe mostly contained sugar and I really didn't taste any honey flavor at all. They were still very yummy and we really enjoyed eating them. The recipe suggestion of freezing the cookies works really well and they keep both their original flavor and texture! These will certainly be a freezer "must have" for this busy bee!

Cabbage Rolls (Pg. 40)

8-10 large cabbage leaves	1 1/2 cups cooked brown rice	2 tablespoons milk	Sauce:
Stuffing:	1 egg, beaten	1/8 teaspoon pepper	1 cup tomato juice, or more, as needed
1 pound lean ground beef	1/4 cup chopped onion	1/8 teaspoon garlic	1 tablespoon honey
			1 tablespoon lemon juice

Place cabbage leaves in a large pot of boiling water. Cover, remove from heat, and let stand for 5 minutes. Drain well. Cut thick ribs off back of each leaf and discard.

To make the stuffing: Combine beef, rice, egg, onions, milk, pepper, and garlic powder in a medium sized bowl. Mix well.

Place a large spoonful of stuffing on top of each cabbage leaf. Roll leaf over stuffing, snugly tucking in ends. Place cabbage rolls, seam-side down, in a large baking dish. Preheat oven to 350° F.

To make the sauce: Combine tomato juice, honey, and lemon juice in a small saucepan. Stir over low heat until honey has melted. Pour sauce over cabbage rolls and bake for 45 to 60 minutes, or until cabbage is tender. Add more tomato juice if necessary to keep rolls moist during baking. Makes 4 servings.

Emma's Notes: This was a very unique recipe! So far, I have not done a recipe quite this outside my comfort zone, but I really enjoyed trying something new! The filling did not have a lot of spices so I was a bit concerned that it would be rather bland. The sauce was really yummy and the cabbage was really fun to roll, but the overall flavor of all three was pretty bland. Next time I make this, I will add a little more pepper and garlic to the filling. I think my favorite part of this recipe was rolling the cabbage. The first two were a little lumpy, but after that it went much better! Although it is a time consuming recipe, I think it would be a fun activity to try with kids or a group of friends.

Tales from a Migratory Beekeeper



Written by Tyler Holton

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

It's February 7th at the time of writing this. I only know that because I had to look it up. Time is flying by and moving bees into the orchards well into the night has my time perception a little out of wack.

I suspect we will be seeing some early variety almonds blooming end of this week, with full bloom to be hitting around the 14th. We are getting to the end of the road, and it looks like (hopefully) smooth sailing from here on out.

If you read my last article it mentioned the heavy rains and flooding in California. It's been quite the experience. One holding yard of ours in particular had approximately 3000 hives with standing water, and mud that reminds you of quicksand. We resorted to renting track loaders to lighten the weight on the mud, but even that was a task. We would send one out into the mud to recover a pallet and if it was unsuccessful, the second machine would pull it out. Long and painfully slow process, but we were able to succeed. I think this mud may haunt my dreams.

On top of almond pollination we also are fortunate enough to pollinate stone fruits and blueberries while we are here.

Besides the bees we bring from Iowa, we receive bees from Texas, Georgia, Florida, Missouri, Mississippi and a few more I may be forgetting. It's estimated up to 2.5 million bee hives are in California this time of year for the almond pollination.



Tales from a Migratory Beekeeper



Written by Tyler Holton

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



Almond pollination is attractive to commercial beekeepers for the financial aspect, but also the almond pollen is the highest nutritional value pollen. It allows them to really grow into a large healthy hive. With almonds being a mid February bloom it is significantly earlier than anything we have in the midwest like our first big dandelion bloom. So that puts us a few months ahead of schedule and can provide much stronger hives in preparation for our main honeyflows and allow hive splitting to be done sooner.

Hope that was enough rambling

Stay Sweet



From the Editor

Kelsey Wigans, IHPA Editor

Gilmore City-Bradgate Elementary Seed to Table Manager

Iowa Conservation Education Coalition Teacher of the Year 2022

Humboldt County Conservation Teacher of the Year 2022



Hello Fellow Beekeepers!

Things seem to be a blur from seeing some of you at the Annual Meeting and Conference! We have been working diligently to expand our plant population in the greenhouse at Gilmore City-Bradgate Elementary after losing almost \$5,550 worth of plants from a greenhouse malfunction when it was -40 degrees and blowing 70 mph. This was a major setback, in which we learned we do not qualify for an insurance claim on our plants because many started as donations/cuttings, etc. Oh well..live and learn I suppose!

I have been working on a new adventure of my own, where I started my own blog called the Iowa Family Gardening Homestead where I share about simple, family living, gardening, beekeeping and every day life tips! You can follow along at <https://lowafamilygardeninghomestead.com>

I am in the process of planning a large vendor show called the Limestone Capital Market in Gilmore City on June 17, 2023. If you're interested in attending, it's just a short trip from Clarion where Field Day will be. I would appreciate you spreading the word about this event, as the funds raised from it will help us recoup our costs from what was lost in the greenhouse. Additionally, if you have contacts for vendors you love to visit, I'd LOVE to have their business name and contact information for another special surprise in the works. Please email me at kwigans@gcb.k12.ia.us



**Choose Iowa requests
IHPA input on THIS survey!**



- To access:
 - QR code
 - Direct link to the survey – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChooselowaInput>
- [chooseiowa.com](https://www.chooseiowa.com) --> scroll down until you see a blue button that says "TAKE THE SURVEY NOW"



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.

Russian Nucs **\$180.00**

Russian Queens **\$35.00**

Russian package bees with Russian mated queen
3lb - \$135.00

Carniolan package bees with Carniolan mated queen
3lb - \$132.00
2lb - \$109.00

Discounts on bulk bee orders

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

THE HOLTON HOMESTEAD



Elkhart, Iowa

5 frame nucs
2023 Queen

At least 3 Frames
of brood & 2 frames
of food

Grown & monitored
for 3 to 4 weeks to
prove queen quality.

Pick up is in May -
dates to be
determined.

\$180

HoltonHoneyBees@
gmail.com

(712) 898-5736



2023 Package Bees & Queens

2 loads arriving in Washington, IA: 1) late March/early April & 2) late April/early May

3-lb. Package with unmarked queen (Italian, Russian/Italian Hybrid, Carniolan, & Buckfast available)

Qty 1-9= \$142/each*

Qty 10-99= \$133/each*

Qty 100-499= \$128/each*

Qty 500+= Call for pricing

Additional mated, unmarked queens (Italian, Russian/Italian Hybrid, Carniolan, & Buckfast available)

Qty 1-9= \$38/each*

Qty 10-99= \$36/each*

Qty 100+= \$35/each*

*plus 7% IA Sales Tax

5-Frame Nucs with unmarked queen (Italian & Carniolan available)

Pick up at our Sullivan, WI location only—mid-April through mid-May

Qty 1-9= \$185/each*

Qty 10-99= \$170/each*

Qty 100+= \$158/each*

*plus 5.5% WI sales tax

Order online at: www.heritagehoneybee.com

Or

Call Tim Wilbanks at: 319-321-2494

Heritage Honeybee, LLC, PO Box 117; N6007 Hillside Drive, Sullivan, WI 53178

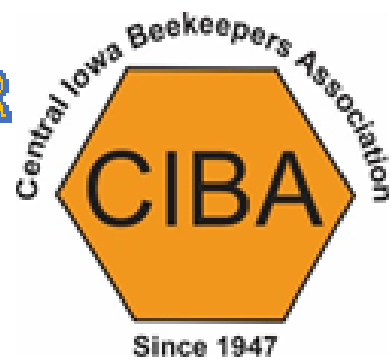
Tim Wilbanks ph: 319-321-2494

email: timwilbanksbees@gmail.com

website: www.heritagehoneybee.com



AUCTION REMINDER



Registration is now open
<https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org>

Don't be last! Register now to get a good lot position. Register as a buyer at the same time!

Early registration allows us to post items consigned online. Increasing your chance of selling them.

CIBA member get a reduced fee when registering before April 1.

Here is a partial list up for auction with more coming as sellers register.

1. 10 frame Double deep live hives- (10)
2. Extractor 4/8 manual
3. 4 frame electric extractor
4. 10 frame outer covers
5. 10 frame inner covers
6. Ross round boxes and inserts 1-2
7. 10 frame Screened bottom boards
8. Bottling supplies
9. Display rack

Location: 18930 210 th St., Minburn, IA 50167
Date: April 15, 2023, starts at 10:00 A.M.
Consignments begin unloading at 8 A.M.



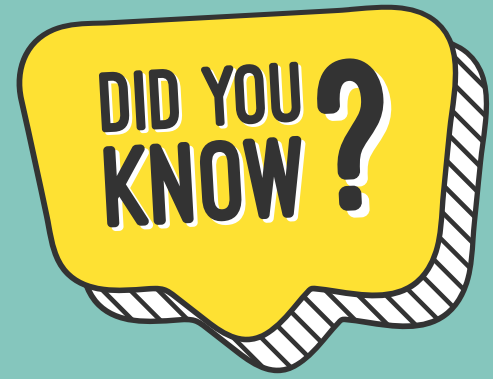
The hunt is on!

We are looking for someone willing to be the District 6 Director!!!

For questions and inquiry please email: ihpa1912@gmail.com



**A collection of information you may want to know,
information you may want to stay up to date on
from Iowa, around the country,
and around the world**



The following information has been pulled from Earth Justice's website and is an update to an Earth Justice court victory in late 2021 that halted use of the insecticide sulfoxaflor – a neonicotinoid like chemical that has been shown to have devastating effects on colonies of bees – within California. The courts are allowing the use of the pesticide while the review continues. Please know that Earth Justice represented beekeeper Jeff Anderson, the Pollinator Stewardship Council, and the American Beekeeper Federation.

December 21, 2022

EPA to reconsider the use of bee-killing pesticide sulfoxaflor

Court allows the use of the pesticide while review proceeds

CONTACTS

Alejandro Dávila, adavila@earthjustice.org, (760) 595-3518

SAN FRANCISCO, CA —

Today, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reconsider its decision to expand the use of sulfoxaflor, a pesticide infamous for nationwide honeybee die-offs, and for killing other pollinators, too, like the seriously imperiled monarch butterfly.

The ruling comes some three years after Pollinator Stewardship Council, American Beekeeping Federation, and commercial beekeeper Jeffrey Anderson, represented by Earthjustice, sued EPA for removing key safeguards as they allowed the bee-killing pesticide back on the market in 2019.

<https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2022/epa-to-reconsider-the-use-of-bee-killing-pesticide-sulfoxaflor>

Please consider reading the complete article on line. They're trying to help beekeepers and all pollinators. This organization has been fighting in the courts for years to protect us all.

Respectfully Submitted by Sheila Weldon



Iowa Honey Producers Association

@iowahoneyproducersassociation
533 subscribers



The IHPA has a YouTube Channel, SUBSCRIBE today!



From the Honey House



Written by: Andy the Bee Guy

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

Beekeeping History

Over the years I have acquired a pile of old bee magazines and such, mostly around the 1940's 50's 60's. I never have time to read them, but they keep piling up in the back shelf of the honey house, a little dusty, forgotten and with every intention of getting read one day. When I retire. And have time, maybe. I was out in the honey house, trying to find room for more storage of honey containers, buckets, and stuff, and was rearranging the shelves. I repacked some of the magazines into better old boxes, and started looking at some of them.

I'm supposed to be retiring, but you know old beekeepers; we just keep doing what we love. Things continue to get a little easier with the bees, and more difficult as my body gets older. I am taking a little more time for myself, and pulled out a copy of Gleanings in Bee Culture from January, 1957 Volume 85, No. 1 (my birth year). Having been in beekeeping for around 27 years now, the advertising is always interesting. Old companies that are no longer around, and the prices and terminology are not what we are used to.

In the monthly honey report, wholesale prices are a little higher than in 1956, around 14½ cents per pound for white honey in 60 pound cans. The short crop from the previous year was having a bad effect in areas of the country where some poor honey was available. Bakery grade honey was selling for 14 cents a pound. All of this was ruining the honey market. Weather conditions were mostly dry and in drought across the country,

and the reporters were commenting on the effect this might have on the upcoming honey crop prospects. Everyone did agree that the honey market overall was strong.

An article by Tom Doonan from Des Moines, Iowa outlined how to select an apiary site on a farm. He outlined his experiences in setting up a new apiary. Considerations for bee pasture, available water, shade and sun, livestock interaction, windbreaks, and separation from roads. J. E. Eckert of UC Davis wrote on the production of Package bees, and credited A. I. Root some 77 year previous conceived the idea of shipping bees across the country in packages, offsetting the cost of shipping bees on combs. They originally shipped with candy as food, which shifted to syrup in cans. During WWI, this practice aided in the increase of colonies needed for the production of beeswax, honey and pollination. Killing colonies after the fall honey flow, and using packages to restock these colonies was found to be practical in portions of Canada and colder regions of the United States. Packages were preferable to shipping bees on combs to Canada, due to the potential for American Foulbrood. The article outlined the requirements and procedures for producing package bees, and how to install these packages.

To be continued NEXT Month. Read the next edition of The Buzz to hear more from Andy the Bee Guy!

andy@hemkenhoney.com

Last Call!

Central Iowa
Beekeepers Association
2023 Winter Seminar
Saturday, March 18, 2023
Iowa Arboretum & Gardens, Madrid, IA



Dr. Judy Wu-Smart
Andy Joseph
Pat & Peggy Ennis

Dr. Mike Simone-Finstrom (via Zoom)
Kurt Rueber
Shelby Kittle

\$30 registration fee for CIBA members, \$35 for non members
& \$20 students (college/K-12)

Registration includes luncheon and snacks at break
Luncheon catered by Smokin' Big Dawg BBQ (Ames, IA)

Visit the CIBA website (www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org) for
more info and registration options--deadline (receipt) by March 15
Preregistration required!

For more information contact Dr. Don Sievers:
(515) 460-6004 or dwsievers4@gmail.com



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 collection data for the USDA/NASS. A farm background is preferred. Qualifications - a good work ethic, a self-starter, and good communications skills. Starting wage is \$16.31/hr. Mileage allowance is 65.5 cents. Find more info at NASDA.org. For more information call Tony at 515-802-8367

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

Retiring from beekeeping. Selling all equipment and hives.
Contact: Dennis Potsander
508 33rd St. Fort Madison, IA 52627
dpotsander@outlook.com
lpotsander@yahoo.com
319-470-1509

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



Spring Valley Honey Farms

14405 Hull Ave.
Perry, Iowa 50220
Curt and Connie Bronnenberg
515-480-6076

www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com

This year was a good year here at Spring Valley Honey Farms, the bees came out of the almond orchards in great shape, built up well and produced an excellent crop of low moisture honey. Mite counts were generally low, treatments were still applied, ample protein and syrup was fed. We have a good supply of bees coming out of the almond orchards in California, so we will be shaking all of our packages out of our own bees.

2-pound package bees \$109.00 + tax + \$7.00 cage deposit

3-pound package bee \$132.00 + tax + \$7.00 cage deposit

5 Frame Nucs with Carniolan, Italian or Saskatraz Queens \$180.00 + tax

(Saskatraz package bees and Nucs are \$5.00 extra)

Because we feel supplementing carbohydrates and protein is important, we offer a gallon of syrup and protein patty for \$7.00 with the purchase of package bees or nucs.

During package season we are very flexible and usually available but always best to call or text Connie at 515-480-6076 as we do not keep regular store hours. If you call or text me an order, we can get order ready and you can pick up at your convenience.

We offer a full line of beekeeping equipment which you can find list and prices of our equipment on our website.

Queens (Carniolan or Italian) \$37.00 Saskatraz \$42.00

Corn Syrup .40 a pound (your container)

Gallon syrup - \$8.00

500#s or more .35 a pound

Protein Patties \$2.50 each Case of 40 Protein Patties \$100.00

We also sell bulk honey in 5 gallon buckets to 55 gallon drums.

Complete Hive Kit – (no honey supers) \$210.00 (Wood Frames)

\$197.00(Plastic Frames) (Includes: 2 Deep Hive Bodies, 18 - frames, 2gallon feeder, standard bottom board, telescoping cover & inner cover) **Fully assembled and painted.**

Complete Hive Kit + Honey Supers - \$330.00 (Wood Frames) \$305.00 (Plastic Frames) (Includes 2 Deep Hive Bodies, 18 frames, 2 gallon feeder, standard bottom board, telescoping cover & inner cover, 2 - 6 5/8 boxes + 20 - 6 5/8 frames) **Fully assembled and painted.**



got bees?

USE THIS QUICK ORDER FORM OR ORDER ONLINE AT

WWW.EBERTHONEY.COM

LINE ITEM	1-24	25+	QUANTITY	SUBTOTAL
	Nucleus Hive	\$190		
	1-49	50+		
Package Bees (2 lb)	\$130	\$128		
Package Bees (3 lb)	\$150	\$148		

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

Subtotal ► _____

Live in Iowa?
Add 7% sales tax _____

Total ► _____

Select a pick up site:

- Mount Vernon • IA
- Lynnville • IA



OUR 2023 HONEYBEE INVENTORY

» Nucleus Hives (Nucs)

» Package Bees

Our package bees include an Italian queen.



INVENTORY AVAILABILITY

April 2023

Package bees available for customer pick up.

May 2023

Nucs available for customer pick up.



FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Pick Up Locations

We offer two bee pick up locations in Iowa:

1090 Highway 1 North
Mount Vernon • Iowa 52314

14808 South 102nd Ave East
Lynnville • Iowa 50153

Honey Containers

Pick up your bees & honey containers in one convenient stop. Order both online & we will have them ready to pick up at the same time!



CONTACT OUR TEAM TODAY

319.259.9377

info@eberthoney.com

www.eberthoney.com

@eberthoney

Please make checks payable to Ebert Honey, LLC and mail to either address listed on the right of this page. Ensure your name, mailing address, phone & email are written on your check or this form so we can contact you when your bees are ready. For orders of 25+ units, we will accept a 50% deposit at this time. Please note that our online prices are 3% higher to account for credit card transaction fees.

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



Make sure to register your apiary on Bee Check, an apiary registry on Field Watch

<https://beecheck.org/>

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 March Edition of The Buzz

Friday, March 10th at 11:59 p.m.

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

