



The Buzz



Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,

Another month has slipped into history and we seem to be just as busy as ever. I thought that maybe I would have a few days available to catch up on some computer work, but was I wrong. Let me explain. I scheduled my foot surgery for Friday, September 15th thinking that I would have the weekend to relax a little following the surgery. It was not to be. I had the surgery on Friday morning and was home by 11:30. I couldn't just sit around so I did some light housework in between having my foot up and icing it. Saturday rolled around early with a wake-up at 5 a.m. to get to the Ankeny market. Mike and I had a great day at the market and then we went to Marshalltown to the Central Iowa Beekeepers meeting so I could participate in the Marketing discussion. Sunday proved to be another good day for us. We went to Des Moines to speak to the Men's Garden Club for their Fall Garden Walk. We answered lots of "bee" questions and sold products. Monday rolled around just like usual with work and a market. At the market on Monday, I remembered that I needed to write an article for the BUZZ. So here I sit wondering why I didn't have time to get this article done on time. I guess it is called over scheduling!

Speaking of scheduling, please make reservations to attend the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers on November 17th and 18th. The meeting is to be held in Marshalltown at the Best Western Regency Inn. Pat has lined up a fantastic program. Mike and I were talking about the meeting to several people at the garden walk and one of the things that always comes up, is that no matter how many meetings or conventions we attend, we always have a great time speaking to other beekeepers. We learn just as much from those conversations and get a sense of comradeship with others doing the same "hobby" that we enjoy. Please give the meeting a try if you haven't attended. If you have attended before, please join us again. You never know, there might be some surprising things happen that aren't in the agenda. Beekeepers are a wonderful group of individuals with a great sense of adventure and are not afraid to try new things. We are always learning and willing to discuss great solutions to a problem with others. There is never only one way to do things, especially since the honey bees have never read the same books as we have.

Make sure you submit names to Ellie Johnson for the awards to be presented at the banquet. It is wonderful to have a full slate of awards to give out. Don't forget to bring your best "honey" foods to enter the contest. Bring those interesting beekeeping photos along with you for the photo contest. There will also be silent auctions both days to benefit our Iowa Honey Queen program and there will be a live auction during the banquet. Join in the fun by bidding on some unique honey and bee related items to help us keep a quality program going. If you have been successful making mead, feel free to bring some to sample during the Marshalltown welcoming reception before the banquet. Let's make this meeting one of our best attended.

I just got off the telephone with Teresa. She informed me that she has 15 applications for the youth scholarship program. What great news, we have some very interested youth and parents. I feel this is going to be an important way that we can get more people involved with beekeeping and get the word out about the importance of honey bees.

Don't forget to check out any and all information on candidates running for offices that will affect beekeeping, especially the Secretary of Agriculture position. Contact both Denise O'Brien and Bill Northey to find out their positions on the direction they will take the Agriculture Department and specifically the Apiary Department. After making an informed decision, please exercise your right to vote. It is vital to the survival of our industry. If you would like any information, please contact me, (712) 774-5878 or mbrahms@netins.net.

Birthdays, anniversaries and homecomings are on the calendar for our house in the coming weeks. Hope you enjoy the fall weather and take time to appreciate our changing seasons.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 15th 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. IHPA Membership is only \$10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer, 4012 54th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone : (515) 278-1762

Dates to BEE Remembered:

Board Meeting

October 21, 2006 at 1:00 in Des Moines

IHPA Annual Meeting

November 17th and 18th.

To add an important date to the list, contact the Buzz by email at thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

Or by mail at the address listed on the front cover.

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515/597-3060



STRAWBERRY BREAKFAST DRINK

- 1 1/2 c. sliced fresh strawberries
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- 1 (8 oz.) carton strawberry flavor yogurt
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 c. honey
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 sm. banana (opt.)

Place berries and 1/4 cup milk in blender, cover, puree until smooth. Add yogurt, eggs, honey, lemon juice, vanilla and remaining milk; blend until smooth. Serve immediately in chilled glasses. Makes 4 cups.

Recipe from cooks.com

The Buzz Picture Contest October

This picture was sent to us by Dave & Mary Lou Cook of Cedar Rapids. The swarm picture is this month's winner of the Buzz Picture Contest. Congratulations Dave and Mary!



Remember that "The Buzz" is offering \$10 for one picture each month. I know some of you will have good photo opportunities during the summer months. Entertain your fellow beekeepers and make some money at the same time. This offer does not pertain to pictures printed with articles. Submit your photo via e-mail to the Buzz at thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

or by post to the address listed on the front cover. Postal submissions should include a self addressed stamped envelope if you want your picture returned.

The Buzz –October 2006



Summer is officially over, and autumn's crisp leaves will soon fall. Beekeepers

have been busy wrapping up all of summer's loose ends and are gathering the year's worth of honey. But not all great things are coming to an end; Iowa has officially kicked off the first county fair of the 2006 – 2007 year. The Clay County Fair, in Spencer, also known as "The World's Greatest Fair", was held September 9 – 17. This fair reminded me of a mini state fair; they had everything, a grandstand, industrial building, and a carnival even with a sky ride. They even brought in well known grandstand entertainment including Carrie Underwood, Trace Adkins, Sugarland, and Neal McCoy. Besides all that, they even had the crowds to match. This year, they had 306,446 people attend their fair and I had the privilege to join in on a day's worth of action. I attended the fair on opening day, and it was a cold, windy one but that didn't stop enthused fairgoers from visiting to see what the fair all had to offer. In one of the numerous buildings, the Northwest Beekeepers Association set up a booth consisting of various honey products and educational displays including two observational hives. Throughout the day, along with other volunteers, I helped answer questions, showed children what the queen bee looks like, and helped sell honey products. By late afternoon, my day successfully ended. I can now say that I have been a part of the world's largest county fair

thanks to the Northwest Beekeepers Association and I can wait to visit again!

I hope everyone had a considerably good year and best of luck getting ready for winter.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Macken
2006 Iowa Honey Queen

inspections. He demonstrated how to use the windshield washer fluid technique of determining the mite level in a hive. A good discussion followed about times to treat, treatment methods, products that can be used and how this can all be correlated with brood rearing to control the greatest number of mites.

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BACK TO BASICS BEEKEEPERS CONTINUE TO EXPAND

At our first Fall meeting held September 22, '06, in spite of many homecoming football games, 27 persons were present including first-time attenders, a father and teenage son. Special Guest was American Honey Princess Teresa Jurchen. Regina Jager, Iowa Honey Queen Committee Chair, was also present and played the role of a Queen Bee while Teresa gave the presentation she had given last winter at the Ladies Luncheon during the ABF convention. It was a clever educational presentation that helped win for her the title of American Honey Princess, and it was enjoyed greatly by the group.

Also on the program was our new area Bee Inspector, Delmar Nelson, who told about some of the problems he was finding on his first Fall

A program committee had met and presented the year agenda of meetings:

Oct. 20 with "Equipment Review" -Nov. 19 "Cooking With Honey"
Feb. 16 "Processing Beeswax"
Mar. 16 "Liability

Issues in Beekeeping, Bee Spills, Africanized Honey Bees"
Late April or early May, local Field Day on "Making Splits and Installing Queens & Nukes."

A financial report brought the group up-to-date on the summer Southern Iowa Fair Booth sales of honey lemonade and many honey products, and also Nelson Pioneer Farm Fall Festival sales. Appreciation was expressed to the many members who helped with the booth and display, and it was agreed these are good outlets for products of the beehive and also for educating people on the importance of beekeeping.

A bountiful table of goodies brought by families was enjoyed with fresh apple juice made by a member (from apples pollinated by his bees!) and coffee.

Submitted by Eves Cadwallader

THE BEEYARD REPORT



My, how quickly the plan changes. I didn't think we were going to have nucs to winter. Now, it looks like we will have around 30. After we sold all the queens, Adam left 32 nucs to requeen themselves. 30 of them were successful. Our normal success rate with cells is only about 85%. New queens tend to lay longer into the fall than the older ones. We still have a chance to get enough young bees in the nucs to winter. We'll evaluate them at the beginning of October. Some years ago, I bought some overwintered nucs from Peter Coyle. He showed me all of his equipment and explained his system. At the time, I thought, "This is a really smart guy." I also thought, "I am never ever going to do this." Now that I am going to do it, I can't remember anything that he told me.

Our crop is going to be pretty good. It's going to be over 100 barrels but I don't know how far. We still have 12 yards to clean off. The mite load varies a lot. Some yards are in the single digits. Others are in the 20 to 30 range. There is still a lot of brood so those yards are going to require treatment. One of our good producing yards has a big load. I got 70 on one of the ether rolls. They were showing signs of PMS. Bees were pulling pupae with mites out of the cells and there was some crappy looking larve. It's going to be curtains for that colony.

I had panned to try the new Apiguard treatment to see how it wouldn't be back in that yard for a month. I had a box of Checkmite strips on the truck so I used those. I hope they still work.

Adam didn't wind up with a very good fall schedule at Iowa State. He has to be in Ames Tuesday through Friday. He also has considerable school work to do over the week-end. This has slowed things up. He is here on Saturday and usually shows up late Sunday to extract for a while. If I get lucky, I have him for a while on Monday.

Last month, I wrote about losing two yards. Now, I have a lady complaining about another one. I don't think she will be happy unless bees are totally gone from her yard. I usually try to work with people when they complain. In this case, I think I may take exception to that guideline. She really managed to irritate me.

We have been working with oxalic acid in some of our yards. It worked in the spring when mite loads were low. We have been using it this fall in yards that have loads in the fifteen to twenty range. Results are unknown at this point. I found out you don't want to spray oxalic acid when the temps are in the mid 80's. It runs the bees right out of the hive. It may not cause any lasting damage but I didn't like the look of it. I was 35 miles from

Submitted by Phil Ebert

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**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 17TH & 18TH 2006**



It's meeting time again! The annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers Association will be held Friday, November 17th and Saturday, November 18th, 2006 in Marshalltown, Iowa at the Best Western Regency Inn located at 3303 South Center Street.

Rooms for the event are available at the Best Western Regency Inn for the rate of 1 adult for \$64.80 or 2 adults for \$69.30. These rooms need to be reserved by October 26th to get the convention special rate and please mention the Iowa Honey Producers when reserving the rooms. The telephone number to call the Best Western is (641)752-6321.

The Econo Lodge is now a Super 8. The Super 8 had not returned a price at the time of this printing. You may contact the Super 8 at (641) 752-3137.

Mark your calanders for November 17th and 18th!! The Annual Iowa Honey Producers fall meeting is coming up and it will be held in Marshalltown at the Best Western Regency Inn. One of the speakers will be Zachary Huang of Michigan State University. Check out the cover photos on the American Bee Journal for July and August. Zachary took those! Check out more of his photos or him at www.beetography.com or www.cyberbee.net.

Jamie Ellis will also be there. He is the associate professor of entomology at the University of Florida. He is one of the leading experts on the small hive beetle, and the beetles are now in Wisconsin. Come and support the IHPA. We hope to see you in November!

To register, please fill out the pre-registration form on the following page and return it to Gordon Powell, the IHPA Treasurer.

**SEE YOU IN MARSHALLTOWN NOVEMBER 17TH AND 18TH FOR FUN,
FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING!!!**





**IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS 94th ANNUAL MEETING
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA NOVEMBER 17 & 18, 2006**

Name: _____

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No. of Colonies: _____ Years Beekeeping: _____ Company Name: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

NOTE: PREREGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING DEAD LINE NOV. 10th. NO EXCEPTIONS:

Individual:	Registration at meeting will be \$16.00	\$14.00	\$ _____
Family Rate:	Registration at meeting will be \$30.00	\$28.00	\$ _____
BANQUET - Friday night 7:00 P.M.(per person)	Number of tickets _____ X	\$22.50	\$ _____
Lunch on Saturday - (per person)	Number of tickets _____ X	\$13.25	\$ _____

YEAR 2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Iowa Honey Producers Association includes subscription to "The Buzz"	\$10.00	\$ _____
2nd Family Membership same address Name: _____	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
3rd Family Membership same address Name: _____	\$ 5.00	\$ _____

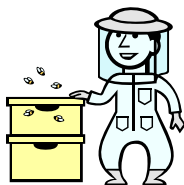
(Year 2007 membership required to vote at Business Meeting)

COOKBOOKS:	<u>QTY</u>	<u>1-9</u>	<u>10 or more</u>	
New Iowa Honey Producers Large Cook Book	_____	\$4.50	\$3.50	\$ _____
TOTAL				\$ _____

Make Check payable to: Iowa Honey Producers Association
Send Form and Check to: J. Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer
Please fill out form completely: 4012 54th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310-1815

THE ANNUAL MEETING PREREGISTRATION IS THE SAME PRICES AS LAST YEAR.

THE BANQUET AND LUNCHEON PRICES HAVE INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER LAST YEAR.



**94th ANNUAL MEETING
IOWA HONEY PRODUCER'S ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 17 & 18, 2006
BEST WESTERN REGENCY INN
MARSHALLTOWN, IA 50158
641-752-6321**

Tentative schedule (speakers and topics subject to change)

Friday, November 17th

Morning schedule:

8:00- Registration & silent auction items are due.

(Visit vendors in room E)

Meeting will take place in rooms A & B

8:30- Call to Order and Welcome.....Donna Brahms, President of the IHPA
Introduction of IHPA Board Members

8:50- Announcements.....Pat Ennis, Vice-President IHPA

9:00- Inspector's report/IDALS.....William Eickholt, Inspector and Maury Wills, IDALS

-Cooking with Honey & Photo Contest entries due in room F at 10:00

-Silent Auction

9:15- Honey bee pheromones and their relevance to beekeeping.....Zachary Huang

10:30- **BREAK** (visit vendors in Rm. E)

10:45- **Door Prize**

10:50- NHB UPDATE.....Lee Heine, Dadant WI

12:00- LUNCH (on your own). You can eat at Mr. G restaurant here in the motel.

Queen Luncheon in Mr. G's. GET TO KNOW THE QUEEN

Afternoon Schedule:

1:00- **Door Prize**

1:05- Closing in on an international most wanted: Incarceration (and other short stories) of the world's most notorious melittophile (this is my SHB talk).....Jamie Ellis UNG

2:30- Cooking Contest Results.....Donna Young, Doris Ramsey Carol Wehr
Photo Contest Results.....Ed Siems

2:45- **BREAK** (visit vendors in Rm. E)

3:00- Thanks from the Iowa Honey Queen.....Elizabeth Macken 2006 Iowa Honey Queen

3:20- Meet the Honey queen Candidates.....Regina Jager, Honey Queen Chairman

3:45- Nosema disease, Should you worry about it? Zachary Huang

4:30- State Fair Exhibitor's (meet in Rm. A)

Silent Auction ends for today – pick up your merchandise.

5:00- Wine & Cheese welcome (by the pool)—Time to visit – Compliments of the Marshalltown Convention & Visitors Bureau (If you made Mead bring samples)

6:30- **Banquet** (located in rooms C & D) – The banquet will feature two entrees- Carved Ham, Baron of Beef, Tossed Salad, Pea Salad, Chop Chop, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, freshly baked rolls with butter and coffee/tea. The cost will be \$22.50 per person with the tax and gratuity included.

Banquet Program:

Introduction of Queen Candidates, Parents and Sponsors.....Regina Jager, Honey Queen Chair
Awards Presentation.....Ellie Johnson, Chairman of the Awards Committee
Youth Beekeeping Partnership Program.....Teresa Jurchen
Auction.....Bill Van Rockel
My life as a bee aficionado (or ramblings from someone who has been stung too much).....
.....Jamie Ellis UNG
Queen Coronation.....Regina Jager



Good Night!!!!!!

Saturday, November 19th

Morning Schedule

8:00 Registration

Note: Vendors will be packing up around noon today.

8:30- Announcements and Door Prizes.....Pat Ennis
Introduction of IHPA Board Members
8:45- Local Association Reports..... Donna Brahms
9:00- Is varroa IMP economical?.....Jamie Ellis UNG
9:45- **Break** - Make a bid on the silent auction items & visit vendors in Rm. E
10:00- Annual Business Meeting – (Will have agenda for members)

12:00 –**Lunch (\$13.25 tax and gratuity included)** – Swiss steak, served with tossed salad, mashed potatoes
an gravy, vegetable and roll

1:00 – Silent Auction Ends – collect your treasures

2006 Beekeeping Workshops (Rm. A & B)

1:00 – (A) – Fall Queen Replacement Pat Ennis
(B)- Disease Control and Detection..... Phil Ebert
1:45 – (A) - Photography of Honey Bees.....Zachary Huang
(B)- Where to find new Honey Queens.....Regina Jager
2:30- (B) – Question/Answer about diseases and disease recognition, honey bees, ECT.
with the guest speakers, Zachary Huang, Jamie Ellis and Lee Heine.
3:15- Adjournment

Note: There will be a short meeting of 2007 board members and officers in Rm. B

Drive Safely!!!!

Burns Wants Funds For Battlefield Bees

By Peter Cohn

In an FY07 Defense appropriations bill of roughly \$468 billion, it is easy to overlook a mere \$5 million for a new defensive weapons system -- using honey bees to find landmines and other buried explosives. But if Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., and University of Montana researcher Jerry Bromenshenk have their way, a homegrown Montana business consortium could soon be developing and marketing a new tracking system for a variety of military and commercial uses -- all using specially trained bees. "There's some fascinating research going on out there at Missoula," said Burns, whose push for federal funds might just help him win a tough race for re-election this fall. Supporters say the relatively small amounts Burns included in the Defense bill pending on the Senate floor could be the sweetener to eventually leverage billions of dollars worth of economic development in his state. Working with researchers at Montana State University who have been developing a laser tracking system to map where the bees go, as well as native American-owned S&K Electronics, Bromenshenk has been seeking federal funds to put together a prototype to lure private sector investment. "What the senator is trying to do is help us bridge that 'valley of death' between it being just university research to the point where it's something a little more mature," said Bromenshenk, who has formed a company called Bee Alert Technology Inc. "The commercial applications are incredible -- it's not just explosives, we can use the bees to find meth[amphetamine] labs,

dead bodies and any number of other uses that I can't get into," he said. The immediate focus is on marketing the idea of using bees to track landmines and help locate improvised explosive devices. "At first I thought, this has got to be a joke," a Burns aide said. But that skepticism quickly turned into something else several years ago, after seeing the results of tests using honey bees trained by attuning them to the scent of TNT or other explosives -- just as they are attracted to flowers. "They mostly use dogs to find landmines and unexploded ordnance, but that will endanger both the dog and the dog-handler," the aide noted. "We saw tests where the bees would not only be attracted to the target point, but would be buzzing around the guys who conducted the tests, going after the hands that handled the explosives ... the psychological influence of that could be enormous." Bromenshenk said he has had discussions with military contractors, although until he can put together a prototype major deals are on hold. One potential investor, he said, is Washington, D.C.-based RONCO Consulting Corp., which specializes in worldwide de-mining activities. "They have 4,000 dog teams working in 30-something countries, but it could take 400 to 500 years to clean known, existing minefields, to say nothing of the mines we don't know are out there" according to a RAND Corp. study, Bromenshenk said. He said bees could be more effective than dogs, reducing the amount of time needed to sweep for mines "10 to 15-fold."

"If we could get even a piece of those 4,000 teams" to contract with his Montana-based group, "that would be a great scenario for Montana's economy." A RONCO official could not be reached for

comment. The problem remains getting money to get the project off the ground and into marketable shape. After an initial period of interest by the Pentagon's Defense Advance Research Projects Agency, backers have found it difficult to drum up much support. Research into using honey bees to find unexploded ordnance has fallen out of favor at DARPA, which has funded all manner of research ranging from mechanical elephants to a machine that can read human thoughts. DARPA spokeswoman Jan Walker said the agency has found that honey bees "have not proved useful" in detecting landmines and other explosives. Despite the lack of enthusiasm, with a nod from Burns, recent DARPA budgets contained honey bee research funds. As late as the FY05 Defense spending bill, \$1.9 million was included. Burns for the last two years has sought to insert the money directly into the Army's research and development budget, bypassing DARPA. Conferees agreed to include \$2.8 million in the FY06 Defense bill and the Senate has proposed to add another \$5 million in the FY07 version. Bromenshenk and Burns' aide said Army officials have expressed interest; an Army spokeswoman said the Defense Department had no comment. But judging from past Pentagon budgets -- and the fact that Burns is up for re-election -- it stands to reason honey bees will have another shot to try to oust their canine rivals as chief landmine-sniffers.

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This article was reprinted from the Fall 2006 issue of the Honey Producer published by the American Honey Producers Association.

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Officers

President: Donna Brahms
65071 720th St.
Cumberland, IA 50843-8125
(712) 774-5878
Mbrahms@netins.net

Vice President: Pat Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767
Flat_Lander@mailcity.com

Secretary: Mary Ebert
705 Hwy. #1 West
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 354-6696
Mebert@netins.net

Treasurer: Gordon Powell
4012 54th St.
Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 278-1762
labekepr@earthlink.net

Historian: Doris Ramsey
22781 Route J16
Birmingham, IA 52535
(319) 498-4355
Vdramsey@netins.net

Past President: Curt Bronnenberg
1433 Hull Ave.
Perry, IA 50220
(515) 465-5939
CBronny823@aol.com

District Directors

District #1 Vernie Ramsey
22781 Route J16
Birmingham, IA 52535
(319) 498-4355
Vdramsey@netins.net

District #2 Louise Johnson
34147 310th St.
Guttenberg, IA 52052
(563) 252-2340
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

District #3 Margaret Hala
1988 Vine Ave.
Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641) 752-2981
Mhala@marshallnet.com

District #4 Phil Ebert
14808 S. 102nd Ave. E.
Lynnvile, IA 50153
(641) 527-2639
Ehoney37@netins.net

District #5 Mike Brahms
65071 720th St.
Cumberland, IA 50843-8125
(712) 774-5878
mbrahms@netins.net

District #6 John Humke
2454 30th St.
Ackley, IA 50601
(641) 847-2020
Jane_humke@yahoo.com

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club

Contact: Eves Cadwallader
2420 285th St.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 673-3993
weic@kdsi.net

Central Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Arvin Foell
30390 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA; 50134
(515) 228-3060

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

Contact: Frank Pering
210 E. Kirkwood Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50315

East Central Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Terry Dahms
3086 Sycamore Trail NE
Iowa City, IA 52240
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Terry.dahms@gmail.com

North Iowa Bee Club

Contact: Pat Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767
Flat_Lander@lycos.com

Additional Links and Emails

IDALS Contact

Maury Wills
(515) 281-5783
maury.wills@idals.state.ia.us

IDALS website

www.agriculture.state.ia.us

Iowa Beekeeper Clubs

Northeast Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Louise Johnson
34147 310th St.
Guttenberg, IA 52052
(563) 252-2340
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

Northwest Beekeepers Association

Contact: Jeanne Rust
3155 480th St.
Webb, IA 51366
(712) 838-4458

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Dave Oliver
1603 200th St.
Fairfield, IA 52556
(641) 472-3916

Southwest Iowa Honey Producers

Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
65071 720th St.
Cumberland, IA 50843
(712) 774-5878

National Honey Board

www.NHB.org

**Robert Haxton, Food Processing Plants,
Iowa Dept. of Inspections and Appeals**
rhaxton@dia.state.ia.us

American Beekeeping Federation website

www.ABFnet.org