



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



June 2009



Sign up to help at the IHPA sales booth during the Iowa State Fair. Pg.4

Beekeeper of the Month is Adam Ebert Pg.8



Dates To Bee Remembered

6/13/2009 Summer Field Day at Spring Valley Honey Farm in Perry, IA

8/13-23/2009 The Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, IA

10/30&31/2009 Annual Meeting in Marshalltown, IA



For Sale: We have a good stock of nice light colored honey for anyone who is running short prior to the new crop--buckets or barrels.

Contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

HONEY MUSTARD BBQ SAUCE

Printed from COOKS.COM

1 jumbo pkg. chicken parts, salted
6 tbsp. butter
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 (8 oz.) jar Dijon mustard or spicy brown mustard
1/2 c. apple cider vinegar
1/3 c. honey
1/2 tsp. Tabasco sauce

Sprinkle chicken generously with salt. Let stand about 30 minutes while coals heat up.

In saucepan cook butter and garlic for 5 minutes over low heat, stirring frequently. Stir in mustard, vinegar, honey and Tabasco sauce.

Cook over low heat. Baste on chicken last 10 to 15 minutes of cooking time.



Russell Swenson

Russell Swenson, 84, of 1300 13th St. NW, died Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at the Dennis and Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy in Hiawatha after a long illness.

Russell is survived by his wife, Beverly; four children, Steve of Palo, Pat (Alan) Coindreau of Georgetown, Texas, Carl (Cathy) of Cedar Rapids and Jim (Heather) of Marion; 10 grandchildren. Shawna, Jon, Christine, Julianne, Lisa, Chad, Corey, Nic, Matt and Miya; 11 great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Robert (Vi) of Denver and Norman "Pat" (Helen) of Louisiana, Mo.

Russell was born in Sandwich, Ill., on Oct. 4, 1924, son of Robert and Caroline Norman Swenson. He served in the Navy during World War II and gradu-

ated from Iowa State University and University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wis. Russell married Beverly Beach on Oct. 8, 1949, in Ames. He worked for ISU as an area extension director, retiring in 1985. Russell was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Russell volunteered his time for many community organizations, including his church, United Way, and the Nature Center. He traveled overseas for Volunteer Overseas Cooperating Agency. Russell was a beekeeper and taught beekeeping classes at Indian Creek Nature Center. He served as past president of the Iowa Honey Producers Association. He enjoyed working in his garden and was a Master Gardener. Russell loved fishing and making cookies and candy.

Russ was a wonderful husband, father, beekeeper, and friend.

He took the initiative in getting things done. He volunteered his time at so many things.

We personally learned from him, beekeeping skills.

Truly a loss.

Matt & Patty Stewart

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

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 Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,
I hope everyone has had a successful time installing packages, splitting colonies, re-queening hives or obtaining nucs for the busy summer season. Remember as you place colonies in their designated yards to register their location. If you need help, contact Andy Joseph, the Iowa State Apiarist at (515) 326-5765. The numbers of registered colonies, producers and bees are up this year. You may register locations at any time if you need to relocate hives. The locations being updated will be included in the registry site for chemical applicators. As they access the site, they will notice the additional listings and will have them for reference when applying insecticides. We can only accomplish great things for the beekeeping industry when we all work together to improve situations. This is a step forward for all beekeepers.

Consider talking to the local chemical applicators in your area to work with them this summer. The more communication between applicators and beekeepers, the better the situation is going to turn out. Just have a friendly conversation, answer any questions about bees or beekeeping and remember not all people know the issues facing beekeepers or even the facts about how honey bees collect nectar and pollen. Try some old fashioned conversation and go with an open mind. Express an interest in working together. Who knows, maybe something good will come out of the situation.

Don't forget to get honey supers on colonies to allow the honey bees more room to work. The orchard bloom in our area was beautiful and plentiful. There was concern with the huge crop last year that there might not be as many apples this year. We certainly hope that the crop continues to develop and we will be blessed with another great fruit crop in the state of Iowa. Honey bees are definitely bringing in nectar and pollen around here.

The Iowa State Fair is quickly approaching. The premium books for apiary entries are available on-line at iowastatefair.org. If you are thinking about entering items at the state fair or are just curious about the prospects of doing so, please attend the IHPA field day being held on June 13th at Connie and Curt Bronnenberg's Spring Valley Honey Farms near Perry. For further information contact Pat Ennis or look at the article in the BUZZ. It is much more impressive to the public if our shelves and display areas are full for their viewing.

Don't forget to get bids turned in to supply honey and/or beeswax products for the sales booth. Please send your bids to John Johnson by June 30th. Locate the bid sheet included in this BUZZ issue.

We also need workers to continue our great success at the Iowa State Fair in the IHPA sales booth. Please consider working. We need approximately 20 people per day for the eleven days, August 13-23. Let me know if you could work. The IHPA makes most of the operating money for the many programs conducted throughout the year at the Iowa State Fair. I will send you tickets to get into the fair for working. Come join us for a honey of a time.

The IHPA is expanding the educational talks given in the Knapp Animal Learning Center during the state fair. There will be two talks given daily during the entire state fair. If you would like to help with these, let me know. They will be given at 2 p.m. and again at 6 p.m. Last year Andy Joseph, Phil Ebert and Pat Ennis prepared a power point presentation that was used by all members giving the talk. This will be done again this year to make sure that all of the presentations are alike. We will coordinate the volunteers and tickets will be provided to you.

Congratulations to all the graduates this spring. Our daughter-in-law, Abbie,

graduated from college on May 8th. One of our nieces, Janessa, graduated from CAM High School on May 17th. I know at least one of the past youth program participants served honey lemonade at his graduation party. Best wishes in your future endeavors.

Remember the June events of Flag Day, Father's Day, and summer officially begins. We have several June birthdays in the family. We will get to attend our annual event at the Lincoln horse races to celebrate my Father's birthday. Son, Mitch, will celebrate his birthday in Iraq again this year.

Bee cheerful! Bee happy! Enjoy the warm nectar producing weather to come.

Sincerely,
Donna Brahms, IHPA President



GRANDMA'S HONEY COOKIES

Printed from COOKS.COM

1 c. honey
1 c. sugar
1 c. shortening
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 c. hot water
2 scant tsp. soda
Enough flour to make stiff dough
Raisins or chocolate chips

Mix ingredients as listed. Put enough flour in to make stiff dough. This recipe can either be rolled or dropped. If you use it for drop cookie, use less flour. Bake at 375 degrees for 7-8 minutes. Put on ungreased pan.

Dear Honey Producers:

We hope you will be able to help the Iowa Honey Producers Association with honey and lemonade sales at the 2009 Iowa State Fair. Dates of this year's fair are August 13th through the 23rd. Please bring any other helpers with you who may be interested in working. Children who are ten years of age and older enjoy assisting and are welcome.

We will send passes which provide free entry to the State Fair to all who assist with honey and lemonade sales.

Days, dates and times for which help is needed are listed at the bottom of this letter. Please return the work schedule, call or e-mail, if you prefer, indicating the dates and times you will help. Also, if possible, please list a first or second choice of dates and times you can be available to help with sales. Please state the names of all those coming with you who will be helping with State Fair sales.

I already have dates filling up. Thanks to those who have asked for a specific date at this early time. Remember that we need approximately 21 people per day to fill the necessary shifts. The building is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for each of the 11 days that the Iowa State Fair runs. This is the main money making project of the Iowa Honey Producers Association. Please help us maintain adequate money to provide the necessary programs of the association.

We had a fantastic year last year and hope to continue the large amount of sales this year. Please consider helping your association.

Hope to see you at the Iowa State Fair!

Donna Brahms, IHPA Booth Manager
65071 720th Street
Cumberland, IA 50843-8125
(712) 774-5878-H or (402) 677-2460-C
E-mail: mbrahms@netins.net



Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Date(s): _____

9:00-1:30 _____

1:30-6:00 _____

6:00-9:00 _____

Date(s): _____

9:00-1:30 _____

1:30-6:00 _____

6:00-9:00 _____

We always have a "*Honey Of A Time*" working at the Iowa State Fair!



**2009 BID SHEET FOR HONEY AND PRODUCTS
TO BE SOLD AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR SALES BOOTH**

Bid on any or all items (state quantity you **will** supply and bid price)

<u>1 lb. Jars--light honey.....</u>	<u>12 oz. Bears--light honey.....</u>
<u>2 lb. Jars--light honey.....</u>	<u>24 oz. Bears--light honey.....</u>
<u>5 lb. Jugs--light honey.....</u>	<u>1 lb. Skep--light honey.....</u>
<u>Gallons--light honey.....</u>	<u>50 or 60 lb. Pails (for lemonade).....</u>
<u>4 oz. Antique Jars.....</u>	<u>Comb Honey.....</u>
<u>8 oz. Antique Jars.....</u>	<u>Honey Stix.....</u>
<u>Hard Honey Candy(assorted).....</u>	<u>Creamed Honey-regular.....</u>
<u>Creamed Honey-flavors.....</u>	<u>Beeswax Candles.....</u>
<u>Other Beeswax Products.....</u>	<u>Beeswax Bars(1 oz., ½ lb., 1 lb.).....</u>

NOTE: We need a substantial supply of comb honey in plastic boxes and section comb honey. This item is usually in short supply and thus bidding doesn't make sense. We will accept cut comb in plastic boxes and wooden and round section comb containers. Quality standards for all comb honey are: clean cappings and all cells capped. Cut comb in plastic boxes must be well drained with little or no liquid honey. We will pay **\$4.00** per unit for cut comb in plastic boxes or section comb honey which weighs at least 14 ounces. We will pay **\$3.25** for comb honey in round containers that meet quality standards. Honey from all suppliers must be 2000 crop, Iowa honey with 18.5% of less moisture content and excellent overall quality. All of the containers need to be at a uniform fill line and free from foam. The IHPA booth manager has the right to refuse any containers not meeting this standard. Winning bids will be based on price, quality and ability to provide required quantity of product for the entire fair. All winning bids will remain in effect for the duration of the Iowa State Fair.

Bids must be received by June 30, 2009. Please sign the bid sheet and provide address and phone numbers. Suppliers of State Fair Honey will use their own business label on products supplied for State Fair Sales. Labels must be attractive with preprinted wording, which includes name and address of the supplier and net weight of item supplied. Include one sample of your label with the bid sheet. The IHPA booth manager may limit the number of flavored creamed honey for sale due to lack of adequate sales space.

NOTE: Arrangements need to be made to pick up any unused product between 9 p.m. & 10 p.m. Sunday, August 23 or 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday, August 24, 2009.

Your signature _____ Name(printed) _____

Address, City, Zip _____ Phone &/or Cell _____

Return to: W. John Johnson 3422 Clinton Court Ames, IA 50010 (515) 232-6094

Remember: This is the major money making event for the Iowa Honey Producers!!

THE BEEYARD REPORT

We have been to the brink and back again. I am always amazed at how fast things can change. I made the first two rounds though the yards in the spring. I was encouraged. I thought we could split out to 600 or 700 colonies. As Alex and Adam began to work through the yards, they found a lot of European Foulbrood. This attacks the larva in the coiled stage, causing it to turn yellow. The brood was really spotty. The colonies were going downhill. They yielded very few splits. It looked like it was going to be a struggle to get to 400 colonies. No drugs went out the window at this point. We had to treat. Chalkbrood is what we normally see in the spring. This year, we have hardly seen it at all.

Tylan treatments cleaned up our bees in a couple of weeks. They started working dandelions and wild mustard. Population literally exploded. We are going to wind up somewhere between 600 and 700 colonies--just not in the sequence I imagined. The previous fall we had discussed the possibility that we might need to treat in the spring. We were seeing too much American Foulbrood. As I made the early rounds, I thought the bees looked too good to have a problem and I didn't want to use Tylan. Lack of a treatment caused us to lose a couple of valuable weeks. The recovery by the bees has been miraculous. No drugs is still the goal. To this end, I have started a massive comb culling project. I have 35 boxes full of combs that I have rejected. Some of them still look good but I recognize some of the frames. I know they are 15 to 20 years old.

We have two yards of package bees. One is 2# the other 3#. I also had a dozen set out next to our steel building that were a mixture of 2# and 3#. Of the ones by the building, the 2# seemed to stand still while the 3# expanded quickly. There was a lot of drifting

to the colonies on the ends of the row for some reason. The drone congregation made this really obvious. There were lots of bees that drowned in the feeders, too. That's unusual for spring bees. I finally gave the laggards a frame of brood.

Then, they got well in a hurry. After that, I began to wonder what was happening with the packages in the two bee yards. Those proved to be in excellent shape.

Spring beekeeping involves a lot of long days--and nights. Adam and Alex left at 5:30 one morning to move bees out of the orchard in Montour.

Then they went on to do other things. They rolled into the home place at

ing to the next yard. It's probably a good thing. I can only stand so many donuts and pieces of pizza.

We have sold quite a few queens. My postmaster has appreciated the business. The Seed Company in Lynnville lost their grain dealers license. Several jobs were lost and it caused a big hit to the business at the Post Office. It was a big loss for a small town. There is lots of space available on Main Street. There is a new welding shop that opened up and they have been busy. I needed to get the Swinger in for modification. It took a long time to get in the door.

There is a big bull snake that lives under the concrete slab by the back door to my house. Lots of times I see his head sticking out of the crack in the concrete when I walk into the house. One night I walked into the kitchen and there it was in the middle of the floor. I know the snake is harmless but it scares me anyway. I don't like the way they feel either.

I use a rag when I pick them up.

Let's hope for a productive summer!!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Iowa Honey Queen

Hello Beekeepers!

I had my Junior Senior Prom on Friday, April 17. They had predicted rain all week, but it was a wonderful with a bright sunshine and the bluest sky ever!!

Chores were done early because the goats do not like my long fingernails at milking time! I finished my fingernails and toes in time for us to eat Chinese for lunch. Then it was off to the hair appointment. That was a task because my hair is super thick. It took a hour and three people to get it on my head.

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10:00 that evening. The next day they didn't go out until 1:00 PM but they still got 9 hours in. Supper is almost always after 9:00 PM.

We like to be done splitting by May 15. Sometimes we get a flow at the end of May. It's nice if we are ready to catch it. This year we won't be done until the end of the month. I hope we can get some of the parent colonies supered before then. One of our challenges as beekeepers is that we don't know when the flow is coming or if it is coming at all. A hive full of bees with nothing to do usually winds up hanging in a tree somewhere.

I have missed meals on wheels this year. For those of you that are not regular readers, that's the food you buy at the convenience store to eat while driv-

What a Party! Now, were on the down hill run of picking up the flowers and getting my make up done.

Austin came at 6pm and we were off to Grove Trucking for our ride. My chauffeurs were Justin Grove and his 4 year old Collin.

We went in his Black Peterbilt, I got to ride shot gun, while Austin sat in the sleeper. of course, we had to take it on the loop a few times to show it off!!

Our theme was "Bright Lights and City Nights," We had it at the Ida Grove Skate Palace. Our Junior Class did a great job decorating. After super we danced the Night away,

At midnight, we went to a friends house to change our clothes. Then, we had to be back at the high school by 12:30 for our after prom party. We had a hypnotist, games, lots of food and best of all lots of fun and memories!!

I was home by 6am and yes, I had to do chores before I could go to bed, It was a great party and I am ready to do it all over again!!

I bought a black bottle calf for my new 4-H project. I named her "Cookie" because she has a white "cookie" on her forehead. The same weekend our friend, Adam, called and he had a an-gus calf that was blind. So Mom named her "T-Bone."

They are both doing well on their goat milk and love to get out of there pins and play. We have to be careful with T-Bone so she don't run into anything and get hurt.

On Friday, April 24, We had a 4-H lock-inn at the BC-IG Middle School. I gave a Bee workshop to 30 4-Hers and volunteers. They each go a twelve page booklet on information about bees and

their activities. I had a few volunteers to help us harvest the honey this summer. I was done at 7am, so I had to change clothes and help at the 4-H sheep and goat weigh-in from 8am until noon it was a long night and even a longer morning!!!

I was also asked to be one of the judges for the 4-H state project awards. My Group reviewed and interviewed 18 possible candidates. It was a very interesting process and I learned a lot. And I hope to do it again next year, Congratulation to them all because they did an excellent job representing their clubs and counties.

I spent the weekend in Omaha with friends and we went to the aksarben rodeo, I even got Guilherme Marchi to sign Collin Groves hat Guilerme is going for his third straight world bull riding title!!

On Monday, May 11, it was time to move the bull to the pasture with the cows and heifers. Everything was going well until the bull kicked at the middle gate and my pinky finger got in the way, and in a flash, I had no finger nail. It really hurt and mom said, "Good thing it didnt break it." Well guess what, I was still in pain the next day at Swan Lake. Mom had me stop at the doctors and after exrays we found it was broke. So, I'm still wearing my new "finger ring." It's better, but I will be glad when the six weeks are up, and I can take it off.

On Tuesday, May 12, my mentor, Ceceila and I went to Carroll to Swan Lake. I gave a Bee workshop to the Carroll County school district children. I talked to 120 Kids and volunteers. Not only did they learn about bees, but they also learned about Green Earth Games, Soils, Dragonflies, Campfire

Safety, Outdoor Recreation, Nature Walks and Wind energy.

The first week in May, Cecelia and I were able to split 12 hives, We nuc boxes, We were concerned if they would rear the queens, Cecelia called Mom when I was in Wyoming and we had 100% success! Cecelia continued to monitor their progress while I was gone!

On Wednesday, May 13, my family traveled to Decorah, Iowa for my brother Whitt's, graduation from John Deere Tech School in Calmar. My brothers came from Wyoming for the event. We stayed at a motel suite. Trust me, there was a whole lot of snoring going on! Ha!

The fun didn't stop there. Whitt and I went back to Wyoming with them and won't be returning until June 1st!

Next month I will be presenting a Bee workshop at the Galva-Holstein Grade School for there summer program. I plan to attend the Summer Field Day on Saturday, June 13. I also will be going to my church Camp Cayoca, for a week at Manson. Lastly I will be attending 4-H Conference in Ames, Iowa for 3 days the end of June!!

I hope all Mother's out there had a wonderful day and made many memories!!

2009 Iowa Honey Queen
Shiliah Spaulding



Beekeeper of the Month

We had bees in the backyard from the time I was born in 1980, so beekeeping has been a lifelong association. During our time in Fairfield, we only had a couple of bee yards, and we sold all of the honey out of the house. I took the bees for granted at that age—I think that using the smoker and cranking the four-frame extractor were the main highlights for me. I never would have guessed that I would one day defend a Ph.D. on the history of beekeeping.

I got more serious about the bees in 1994. We had moved to Lynnville several years earlier, and we kept bees in a few more locations than we had in the past. My dad asked if I wanted to take responsibility for one yard that year. I think there were about twenty hives back in that pasture. It didn't matter that I was not old enough to drive since it was just a quarter mile behind the house. I decided it sounded like an interesting experience and agreed to do it for a fifty percent share on the honey. The honey was a little slow filling the boxes that year, but I eventually had a crop and looked forward to the next honey season. Next year I was driving around to all the bees—still a year short of my license but too interested in the bees to worry about getting pulled over.

Everything exploded after that. We soon had hundreds of colonies and Dad started delivering honey to more stores.



Adam carefully grafts the larva into the queen cups. They are quite small being less than 24 hrs. old in the larva stage.



Adam Ebert holds a frame of queen cells that have just been started. His queen bee project has added another aspect to the honey business and provides stock for requeening the occasional hive in the fall. At times he has about 100 nucs setup as temporary housing for his queens.

When the honey house went up in 1996, bottling moved out of the basement and extracting moved out of the garage. My younger brother Anthony became bottler and extractor extraordinaire in short order.

The most memorable challenge popped up in 1999. I came home from my first year at Iowa State and discovered a widespread outbreak of American foulbrood. I had read enough on bee diseases to suspect the symptoms of gooey larvae and hard scales. One of the inspectors confirmed our situation. We had to melt a lot of combs and use a regular regimen of terramycin, but I got it cleaned up just in time for the honey flow. That episode still haunts me. A frame-by-frame investigation of every cell in each hive is pretty daunting. Problems with European foulbrood earlier this year (2009) brought back some unpleasant memories.

Still, it has been a lot of fun for the most part. I long ago started to appreciate the

extremes of summer heat and humidity in Iowa. Anything that helps the bees puts me in a better mood. Keeping a larger number of hives means a lot of work. We have over six hundred colonies this year, but it's very satisfying to reflect on how we've transformed a longtime hobby into a more substantial family business. My brothers Anthony and Eric have gone on to other pursuits in recent years, but three of us are still here trying to keep the bees alive and make some honey. Between Phil, Alex, and myself, hopefully we can keep things rolling as more honey seasons approach. If you want to keep track of our adventures, I periodically share our excitement at <http://eberthoney.com/honeybeeblog>.

Adam Ebert



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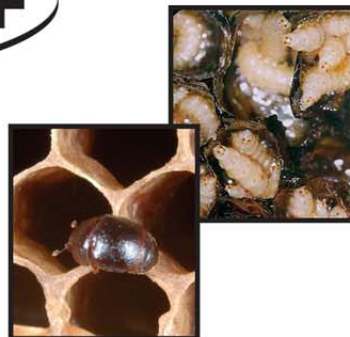


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Small Hive Beetle Treatment

- Use a ground drench in addition to CheckMite+™
- Use 1 strip cut in 1/2 then attached to a 5" x 5" corrugated square. Place square strip side down on bottom board.
- Remove strips after 42-45 days

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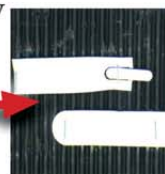
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TIP: To attract the beetles, spread a small amount of Bee-Pro® patty down the center of the square then attach the strip on either side of the patty



Varroa Treatment

- Treatment is most effective when brood rearing is lowest
- Treat all infested colonies within the yard
- Use 1 strip for every 5 frames of bees
- Remove strips after 42-45 days

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- On/off switch on speed control

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EXTRACTOR MOTORS**



- Quieter Running Motor
- More torque

**NEW AND IMPROVED
EXTRACTOR MOTORS**

Dadant Extractors...

Why are they the best in the business?

TWICE as THICK
as our competitors

⇒ We use Type 304 stainless steel. This may not mean anything to you, but it is the most widely used and accepted stainless steel in the food-processing industry, because of its resistance to rust and corrosion to protect your honey.

⇒ We use stainless that in some cases is almost TWICE as THICK as our competitors' stainless steel. You want durability? Here it is.

⇒ Sheets of stainless steel are difficult to permanently join together. Instead of using the old technology of soldering, caulking or crimping stainless steel together, we use state-of-the-art, Automatic MIG welders to actually melt and weld our stainless steel together. Smooth welds inside and out that won't ever leak. No sealants are used to hide poor quality welds and prevent leaks. Dadant manufacturing standards are rigid. We meet them on each and every all-welded stainless steel tank sold. Each tank is tested before it leaves the factory.

⇒ A team of 15 is involved in the over 25 steps it takes to make the durable, efficient and sanitary stainless steel extractors from Dadant.

The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association
207 S.E. Diehl
Des Moines, IA 50315

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Additional Links and Emails

IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

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