



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



May 2008

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Cover Photographer: Alex Ebert



Dates To Bee Remembered



June 14th, 2008 **Field Day** Raising Queens in Iowa.
 Spring Valley Honey Farm 14405 Hull Avenue, Perry, Iowa 50220
June 14th, 2008 **IHPA Board Meeting** Following the Field Day
Aug. 7-17th, 2008 **Iowa State Fair IHPA Sales Booth/Fair Entries/Good Times**
Oct. 5th, 2008 **IHPA Board Meeting** Back Alley Deli/Des Moines/2:00 p.m.
Nov. 6th, 2008 **IHPA Board Meeting** Best Western Regency Inn/Marshalltown/7:00 p.m.
Nov. 7th-8th, 2008 **Annual Meeting** Best Western Regency Inn/ Marshalltown



Beginning Beekeeping Class Held in Southwest Iowa

management) and many other items of interest to the new beekeepers.

Found: Eyeglasses—I would describe them as small lenses in a black frame. They aren't very big. I would guess they belong to a woman or a child. They were in the grass near the driveway. I found them after package bees were distributed.

Contact Phil Ebert 641-527-2639

Eight adventurous people braved snow-covered roads to attend a beginning beekeeping class in Southwest Iowa. The class was held in Cumberland on Saturday, April 12th. The attendees learned the basics of keeping bees, honey production and honey extraction.

A couple of people were unable to attend because of the weather and a half dozen others are interested in having another class in the near future. The day was very informative and was enjoyed by all. Mike and Donna Brahms were the instructors.

They also learned about diseases, a month by month checklist of things to do during the beekeeping year, (colony

Submitted by
Donna Brahms

IHPA T-Shirts (*These are membership prices. Non-member prices are available on request.*)

The t-shirts are a bright yellow shirt with brown lettering.

Youth	size (S) (M) (L) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$ 8.50	\$ _____
Adult	size (S) (M) (L) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$ 9.00	\$ _____
Adult	size (XL) (XXL) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$10.00	\$ _____

Shipping is \$3.00 per shirt, or
\$5.00 for two shirts.

Shipping \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____



*An IHPA t-shirt makes
a great gift for bee
enthusiast of all ages!*

Make checks payable to:
IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Send form and check to:
Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer
207 S.E. Diehl
Des Moines, IA 50315

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:

As I write this article millions of things are racing around in my head. Mike and I are leaving for Germany in seven days and I have several things to get done before we leave. One of them is to get some seeds in the ground for our garden so that it can get growing before we get back and the farmers' markets start. Last year I had the early garden planted on April 4th. Boy, what a difference a year makes!

The packages that we started a couple weeks ago are looking really good, but they could use some warm weather, less wind, some more pollen and new flower buds to get them really going. I can't believe that we received measurable snow fall on April 11th and 12th! Make sure that you are checking your hives and keeping feed for them until this weather straightens out.

I checked the apiary registration site a few days ago and am really disappointed that more people haven't taken advantage of it. I guess I am not going to worry about the beehives in Iowa getting sprayed and I guess it will mean less work for me in the long run. I have attended meetings with the aerial sprayers and officials from IDALS to try to work on the pesticide spraying problem and we are seeking for some very workable solutions, but apparently according to the number of apiary registrations, the beekeepers of Iowa aren't interested in protecting themselves and their colonies. Contact Andy Joseph to get your hives registered!

At the last IHPA board meeting it was brought to our attention that not all beekeepers understand that when we invite them to have the Iowa Honey Queen help with promotions that it means any kind of promotion, large or small. Do, however, realize that 300 beekeepers can't ask Diane to come to a store promotion, farmers' market, town celebration, parade or event all on the same day. Contact her early if you would like her to help you with any kind of honey promotion. She is here to help the Iowa beekeepers promote honey. To contact Honey Queen

Diane Jurchen: (712) 779-0540 or
dianejurchen@hotmail.com

You will find in this issue the bid sheet for the IHPA Iowa State Fair sales products. Please send in your bids to John Johnson by June 30th for consideration. The IHPA will have a continuing beekeeping presentation every day during the fair at 2:00 p.m. in the new Animal Learning Center this year in addition to the stage presentations in the Ag building, the IHPA sales booth and Apiary exhibits. It is going to be another busy August from the 7th until the 17th in Des Moines at the Iowa State Fair, U Gotta Love It! Please consider helping in the sales booth. The sign-up sheet will be included in next month's issue. I already have some people signed up. If you do have a date that you wish to work, let me know and I can get it on the list.

Don't forget about the exciting queen rearing field day planned for June 14th in Perry at Curt and Connie Bronnenberg's Spring Valley Honey Farms. You will find the information and registration form in this issue. Plan to attend for fellowship, expert tips on rearing queens, and great food!

The Iowa Honey Producers Association has t-shirts available for sale. They make great sales tools at farmers' markets, craft shows, town celebrations or just to wear. We will have them available at the field day.

Mike and Andy were on the radio Sunday morning April 13th talking about Iowa Beekeeping. I had to miss most of the interview because I was driving to church at the time. You can check out the talk radio station from your computer. The contact information is: <http://highway6insightcubed.com> for the radio blog. They have some very informative interviews of special interest to people living on acreages and small farms. The show is called Highway 6, Your Road to the Country.

May is a critical time for watching colonies so that they don't swarm. Let's hope that when you read this, the weather has become more typical and a nectar flow

should be taking place. Make sure that enough honey supers are on the hives so that the colony of honey bees won't swarm. Some swarming is naturally going to happen, but if we act positively and quickly to the situations at hand, maybe we can avert a lot of swarming and the bees will be carrying in lots of sweet nectar to become a bumper crop of honey!

By the time you get this issue of *THE BUZZ*, Mike and I will have journeyed back home. I am sure that we will have lots of pictures and if you are interested, let us know, I am sure we can share them with you! It will be great to see oldest son, Shawn, Meladee and grandsons, Vincent and Michael. They went to Germany a year ago. Emails and phone calls just aren't quite the same as visiting face to face. I just hope the weeds won't have taken over our garden. Maybe son, Steve, will keep an eye on things and even use the tiller or a hoe to combat the weeds. (He helped prepare the soil and plant the early part of the garden on April 16th.) That is another story, small grandkids aren't a lot of help in the garden. They happen to walk and dig in the wrong parts of the planted garden. We always leave some room for them, but it is never where they want to be. Oh well, we had fun "working" together. Our helpers were Zane who is 18 months (he likes to taste the dirt), Jack is 2 and JoAnn is 4. We did get it done!

Think Spring! Let's hope we soon have the sweet smell of fruit trees blooming and the buzzing of honey bees as they go about their daily collections of pollen and nectar.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President



CONGRATULATIONS, AMBER CONNETT!

Amber Connett is the winning designer of the new banner to be used on the canvas area above the sales booth at the Iowa State Fair. Amber will receive a \$75.00 check for her winning design. She lives in Reasnor with her parents, Donald and Jennie Connett and sister, Jessica. Amber was featured as the IHPA featured beekeeper of the month in the February issue of the BUZZ. She was in the first scholarship class of youth beekeepers and has expanded her beekeeping operation. Maybe some of you noticed Amber's artistic talent when you looked through her scrapbook detailing her year as a youth scholarship beekeeper. Congratulations again Amber and we look forward to viewing your design in the Ag. Building at the Iowa State Fair.

IOWA STATE FAIR

The theme for the Agriculture Building at the Iowa State Fair this year is "A Gift of Agriculture". The Christmas Tree Grower's Association is having their National Convention in Des Moines at Fair time so the theme is based on the Christmas season. The colors that will be used in decorating the building will be red, green, and white. The Apiary Division will have some decorations to go along with the theme.

A suggestion was made at the Fair last year about Class 17, Photograph, Specific Subject, to change it to honeybees only. That change has been made. The photograph must not have any people in it, just bees. The bees do not have to be on a flower. Swarms would be included in this class. Class 16, General Beekeeping, can include people in the photograph.

Class 22, Youth Class, three 1 lb jars extracted honey, is being sponsored by B & B Honey Farm this year. The first place winner will receive a gift from them in addition to the prize money

awarded by the Iowa State Fair.

Melanie Bower
Apiary Superintendent

Southwest Iowa Beekeepers Meeting

Saturday evening, March 29th, 22 beekeepers of Southwest Iowa gathered in Atlantic at the Feedlot Steakhouse for their annual meeting. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and gave some background information about their involvement in beekeeping. A couple of the special guests at the

WEAVER'S *famous* QUEENS and Package Bees

★ Buckfast

★ All-American

The R Weaver Apiaries, Inc.
16495 CR 319, Navasota, TX 77868

Phone: 936-825-2333

Fax: 936-825-3642

Email: rweaver@tca.net www.rweaver.com

meeting were new Iowa State Apiarist, Andy Joseph and his wife Catherine. All in attendance were pleased to meet Andy and he gave us an update of proposed programs and talks available from the Apiary Department. Andy told us of plans to have about 10 hives at the Ankeny lab facility so that beekeeping classes can be held there. We also had royalty attending our gathering. Diane Jurchen, Iowa Honey Queen, joined our group for the evening. Diane is waiting for phone calls from beekeepers around the state with invitations to attend local events and to promote the beekeeping industry. To reach Diane you can phone her at (712) 779-0540 or email: dianejurchen@hotmail.com

Following a delicious meal, a new SW Iowa Honey Queen was named. Laura Jurchen of Cumberland is the new Southwest Iowa Honey Queen for 2008. Laura was crowned and presented flowers by her sister Diane.

Diane and Laura are the daughters of Linda and Jeff Jurchen of Cumberland. Laura is anxiously awaiting the opportunity to help promote honey and the beekeeping industry. She will be a spring graduate of CAM high school in Anita. To contact Laura, you may phone her at (712) 779-0153.

During the meeting several new members to the Iowa Honey Producers paid dues and purchased IHPA t-shirts. We also gained new members to the SW Iowa group. Information was passed along concerning apiary registration and a discussion was held about an upcoming beginning beekeeping class to be held in Cumberland. A request to have another meeting in September at the same location was delivered. A great evening was enjoyed by all.

Submitted by Donna Brahms

The Beeyard Report

It's April 22. I'm well past deadline. I have been waiting for something to report about the bees. The winter with unending snow has turned into a spring with unending rain. There are a few hyacinths poking through the ground but other than that there are very few signs of spring. There were only a few soft maples in bloom on April 10. The bees have had almost no flying time. Adam saw them bringing in some light yellow pollen on the 5th. Things started to improve during the last ten days. He finally started splitting on the 20th. I can't remember ever having such a late start. I delayed the first queen shipment but we still have about 150 banked as of this writing.

There was capped brood immediately under the top bars on the frames in the top box. Within the last week, the queens have started to lay on the lower part of the frames. I have some nucs booked. I have been hard pressed to find good frames of brood to start them with. There are a few good colonies in most of the yards but it's hard to accumulate any quantity of brood without a

Greetings from the Queen

Hello everyone! Happy Spring finally! This past month I attended the SW Iowa Honey Producers meeting. I got the privilege of meeting the new state apiarist, Andy. I also crowned the new SW Iowa Honey Queen, Laura Jurchen, my little sister. I am really looking forward to the field day this summer. My summer begins at the beginning of May, so remember to contact me for any promotions, presentations, or farmer's markets you would like me to attend! My number is (712)-779-0540.

Diane Jurchen
2008 Iowa Honey Queen



Laura Jurchen, Southwest Iowa Honey Queen for 2008 and Diane Jurchen, 2008 Iowa Honey Queen. This photo was taken at the Southwest Iowa Beekeepers Meeting, March 29th, 2008.

lot of driving. It would have been a good spring to use pollen supplement but it was hard enough just getting to the yards with feed. The lane that goes into one of the yards is washed out.

Adam got the flatbed stuck. He drove through a ditch and got to the top of the hill where one would have expected it to be dry. Much to his disappointment, the truck proceeded to sink. It rained every day for a week after that. Finally, we got a sunny day with a lot of wind. I borrowed a truck from the neighbors and took the loader to pull the truck out. As we were unloading the loader, I noticed a tire on the trailer was going flat. A rock had drilled through the center of the tread. Of course, there was no spare. I had to take the tire to New Sharon to get it fixed. I think I may have to invest in some spare tires. You may recall, we had a similar problem

with the truck last summer.

I reflect more on the past than I used to. This is probably a function of age. In high school, my main concern in the spring was how soon the ball diamond was going to dry out. Better weather had to be coming when Harry Caray returned to the air with the Cardinal games. The games always seemed better when I could pick up the scratchy broadcast of the originating station KMOX--billed as The Voice of St Louis. It made the games seem closer at hand. Baseball seemed important in those days. That was before the players became crybaby millionaires.

Package bees are beginning to be quite time consuming. I was glad when it was over. My phone didn't ring for two days. That was nice. We kept a few packages just to test the product. We

like to block them in initially to hold down the drifting. We forgot about the drain holes on the pallets. The bees were running back and forth between the holes trying to figure out which box they belonged in. In the end, we only had one drift away completely. Some of them are uneven but we can fix that later. Once they are established, we can move some brood around.

We aren't going to see any apple bloom until May. It's obvious that splitting is going to last past the middle of May. We split into the third week of May last year but our numbers were down. The numbers are better this year but it's still going to run late. I like to super early. Sometimes we can catch a box full of honey in May. The sequence is going to be different this year.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS SUMMER 2008 FIELD DAY

JUNE 14

Spring Valley Honey Farm

14405 Hull Avenue

Perry, Iowa 50220

(515)-465 5939

www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com



Morning Schedule:

- 8:30- Registration**
9:00- Welcome, Announcements, Introduction
9:15- Meet the new state apiaristAndy Joseph
9:30- IOWA BEE INSPECTIONS..... Delmar Nelson
9:45- Small Scale Queen rearing.....Arvin Foell & Pat Ennis
10:15- Break
10:30- Discussion of the following equipment:
Nuc box, Cell cups, Grafting tool, Cell bar and frame, and optic glasses.

LUNCH:

- 12:00- BBQ CHICKEN, HOMEMADE ICE CREAM with POT LUCK**
1:15- BREAK OUT INTO FOUR GROUPS:
ONE.....Arvin Foell
TWO.....
THREE..... Pat Ennis
FOUR.....

Each group will build a cell builder hive and do some grafting

- 3:15- QUESTIONS:**

Registration information:

Registration cost for the field day will be \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.
Pre-registration to: Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasure, 207 S. E. Diehl, Des Moines, Ia 50315. Phone (515) 287-6542. You can also register at the field day. (The book "Successful Queen Rearing" by Marla Spivak is included in the registration cost.)

**HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME, AND HOPE
TO SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!**

Please bring a dish to pass for the pot luck. Tableware will be provided.

2008 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)

1 lb. Jars--light honey.....

12 oz. Bears--light honey.....

2 lb. Jars--light honey.....

24 oz. Bears--light honey.....

5 lb. Jugs--light honey.....

1 lb. Skep--light honey.....

Gallons--light honey.....

50 or 60 lb. Pails (for lemonade).....

4 oz. Antique Jars.....

Comb Honey.....

8 oz. Antique Jars.....

Honey Stix.....

Hard Honey Candy (assorted).....

Creamed Honey-regular.....

Creamed Honey-flavors.....

Beeswax Candles.....

Other Beeswax Products.....

Beeswax Bars(1 oz., ½ lb., 1 lb.).....

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 2008 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, 2008. 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 17 or 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday, August 18, 2008.

Your signature _____ Name (printed) _____

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



Return to: W. John Johnson
2426 Hamilton Dr.
Ames, IA 50014-8202
(515) 232-6094

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

Hello From Your Apiarist

The sun is shining through my small window on what is proving to be a really nice day. We're having more and more of these as spring is finally beginning to show itself. I hope that your surviving bees are coming into spring with strength. I hope that your new colonies are accepting their new queens and getting off to a good start.

It has been a really good, really busy month around here. The inspectors and I have been getting a start on the season's work. I've had the opportunity to get around and meet a lot of you at a number of local meetings. The apiary registrations continue to flow in. I'm excited to get the numbers and stats for this year. The Central Iowa Honey Producers held their beekeeping auction and brought a good crowd on a chilly morning. Here at the lab, we are starting up a number of hives for use in hands-on beekeeping schools.

And recently, Dr. Diana Cox-Foster came to ISU to present current work and progress being accomplished on Colony Collapse Disorder. Dr. Cox-Foster came to us from Penn State University. She has been a central figure since the very beginning in the network of effort towards finding answers related to CCD. Dr. Cox-Foster gave two talks in which she outlined what CCD is, what has been done, and what still is to be resolved. Without going into much detail here, she reported that CCD is the bees' response to what most-likely is a combination of triggers. What causes CCD is still to be determined. Researchers have pinned down a combination of four bee viruses that together can be considered a "marker" of CCD. Interestingly, a colony can withstand the presence of any of the individual viruses without collapsing, but if the combination of these viruses exists the colony will certainly collapse. Researchers believe that CCD is related to this viral presence along with the addition of some undetermined "something". This "something" seems to stress the colony in such a way that it becomes susceptible to the viruses and ultimately collapses.

See www.ento.psu.edu/MAAREC/ColonyCollapseDisorder.html for more detailed information from the CCD working group.

Her "practical" recommendations to beekeepers were somewhat vague – which, of course, is understandable because we still

don't know exactly what is the cause of CCD. For now, she is encouraging beekeepers to avoid making splits into "dead-out" equipment. She discourages the re-use of equipment which previously contained a suspected CCD event – she encourages the storage of post-CCD equipment until more is understood. She discouraged beekeepers from moving frames of bees from one hive to another to supplement weak colonies. She recommends use of Fumagillin and Terramycin to keep colonies stronger and healthier (even though Nosema and Foul Brood aren't thought to be causes of CCD). She also recommends the use of "softer" chemical treatments for Varroa and the avoidance of Oxalic Acid.

Currently, I'm in the process of "closing" the Apiary Registry for this season. Each year, there must be a date set as a cut-off for registration. This is done in order to provide a concrete list of apiary locations across the state to pesticide applicators in order to minimize bee losses due to the chemicals. Typically, the registry deadline is April 1st. This year I extended the deadline to April 30th in order to include as many beekeepers' entries as possible. Now it's time for me to provide the registry list to the applicators. In addition to this "hard copy", applicators have access to the online registry. I'd like to continue to encourage Apiary Registration even now, post-deadline. Your beeyard locations will continue to be added to the online registry and may still be protected.

Finally, enjoy your bees as you perform your spring maintenance and feeding.

Andy

Office of the State Apiarist
Iowa Laboratory Facility
2230 South Ankeny Blvd.
Ankeny, IA 50023
(515) 725-1481
andrew.joseph@IowaAgriculture.gov

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Our featured beekeeper this month is Noah Taylor. He and his parents, Dan and Ila Jean Taylor, as well as his sister live on a farm north of Minburn. Their address is 17024 N Ave., Bouton, Iowa. The Taylor family raises livestock and grain and use many conservation practices on their farm. Noah says they work and play hard together. Noah attends Adel-DeSotto-



Minburn Community School and is in the 7th grade in Adel. His activities include band, jazz band, baseball, football, G.A.T.E., Knowledge Bowl, and Tech Fair. His hobbies include baseball and beekeeping. Noah is a member of the Beaver Jr. Farmers 4-H Club in Dallas County. His projects include beef, swine, conservation, woodworking, welding, home improvement, home grounds and beekeeping. He says, "I have my sights on attending Iowa State University majoring in agriculture!"

His answer to the question about any interesting beekeeping experiences is, "It is hard to show cattle at the fair when you get stung on your hand and it swells up!"

Curt Bronnenberg is Noah's mentor. This is what Noah says about his experience with this project. "I've learned so much I don't know where to begin. Before I received my training and hive I knew very little about bees. I did know that farmers needed bees. Seeing the exhibits at the State Fair and Clay County Fair inspired me to learn and have a hive to care for. I took my training at Winterset with Pat Randol. I have found beekeeping fun and interesting." Noah was also able to help the Iowa Honey Producers at the State Fair. He plans to manage his hive and increase his numbers slowly. He would also like to bring an exhibit to the Iowa State Fair. That sounds like an excellent idea.

In closing Noah writes, "I would like to thank the Iowa Honey Producers Association, Curt Bronnenberg, Pat Randol, and

Lee Heine for offering this scholarship, education, mentoring and the bees. Myself, family and many friends have enjoyed the bees and all we have learned!"

Thank you for your story Noah.
Submitted by Ron Wehr

Spring Manipulation of Colonies Tried & Tested

LOCATION, is important. A terrain where there is a slight slope to the South with some wind break on the North and West is ideal. Open to the South as the bees need some breeze for venting the hive. You only hope that there will be plenty of blossom in the area for the production of pollen and honey.

Place the hive, or hives on hive stands or H frames to allow air to circulate underneath and remain dry. ALWAYS place the front to the South. WHY, because in nature bees always build their combs parallel north and south. They are zeroed in on magnetic North as are our birds. Dr. Lindauer of Germany discovered that if bees are placed in a perfect round object they will build their combs North & South.

If starting with packaged bees and new hives with foundation, the frames should have been prepared well before the arrival of the bees. The ten frame hive is the most commonly used hive. An inner cover is a necessity. The inner cover should be one that is flat on one side with a rim on the other. Walter T. Kelly Co. makes such a cover. You may choose to make your own with 1/4" plywood cut 16 1/4" X 20". Nail a rim 5/8ths inches thick on one side. By drilling two holes near the center and with the space between sawed out you have created a hole for the bee escape should you prefer to use one. This also provides a hole for the most used bee feeder.

Now with hive in place you are ready to install the bees. Place the entrance reducer in the opening with the smallest opening. Prepare some sugar syrup and have it at hand in a clean garden sprinkler can. With the inner and outer covers on hand the installation can begin. Remove the cover from over the feeder can of the cage. NOW IS A TIME WHEN A BIT OF GETTING ROUGH APPLIES! If you have taken out the frames from the center of the hive, 4 or 5, bounce the package down on the hive shaking the bees from the cluster around the feeder can. Quickly flip it on one side

and sprinkle good with syrup. Flip it over and do the other side to the extent that you think the bees may drown. Then remove the syrup can and the queen cage. Put the queen aside and proceed by placing your knee on the side of the hive to prevent it from slipping on the bottom and bang the cage on the front and back of the hive and the bees will all fall to the bottom of the hive. Replace the frames and then place the queen cage, screen side down in between the top bars of frames near the center of the hive. Then with rim side down cover the hive. If the queen cage has candy in one end then you could have poked a nail through the candy and the bees could release the queen in a couple of days.

Feeding the bees will be necessary. Place an empty hive body on top of the inner cover with a feeder over the hole in the inner cover. QUESTION: How long do you keep feeding? ANSWER: keep feeding as long as the bees keep taking the syrup. If there is no candy release then return in a couple of days and release the queen. The queen has been well fed by then and she will go right down between the top bars. It will take some time for the bees to draw cells on the foundation so the queen can begin laying eggs. It requires a lot of sugar syrup and attention that they never run out of food.

The process of actually putting the packaged bees into the hive will require about a minute. No bees will be in the air and all will be quiet in seconds. Some beekeepers who have established colonies may choose to make up the colonies that they dismantled last Fall because of lack of stores or became queenless or had too few bees to Winter. If colonies have wintered well by April 10th they should have as many as five or six combs of brood, some may have even more. Do this about six weeks to when you expect the major honey flow to begin. There is an easy method for doing this maneuver. Just take bottom boards, entrance reducers, inner covers and lids plus a few empty hive bodies and you are ready for business.

Examine a colony: If it has for example six combs of brood they can well give up a couple at this time. Find the queen, take two combs of the brood and adhering bees and place them in the empty hive. Shake another comb with bees into the new hive then cover. Return the comb containing the queen and fill in the combs from that which was originally the lower brood chamber.

On to the next colony and take the same amount away from it IF it had six or seven combs of brood. Place those in the new colony along with those you collected before shaking in more bees. Then close the newly made up colony and move any others you may have made up to a location at least two miles away. By doing so you get no drifting back to the parent hives. Oh by the way it is possible that the parent colonies can also spare a frame of honey so the new colony should be given a couple of combs of honey. There will also be some honey around the outer perimeters of brood.

Place the colonies facing the South and if the ground does not slope that way simply put something under the backs of the hive to give a slight slope to the front. On arrival at the new location open the entrance to the small opening and introduce the queen. Again if there is queen cage candy adapted for the release of the queen then punch a small hole in the candy and the bees will do the rest. Lay the queen cage, screen side down in between the top bars and in the confusion of the mixing of the bees they will accept the queen about 99% of the time. Inner cover rim side down. If some honey has been supplied no further feeding is necessary. If hive bodies have been constructed properly the top bars of frames will hang approximately 1/4" below the top rim of the hive body. SO, all other times the inner cover should be flat side down. Any additional space under the cover only allows the bees to place comb in the space and fill it with just enough honey to be a mess for the beekeeper.

By doing this you are actually equalizing the brood. So all colonies will produce with NO DUDS in the apiary the whole summer. You have also controlled swarming to some extent. There may still be some swarm cells through May and June. Now having completed your part properly the bees must and will do the rest. We always hope for a great honey production season.

If doing this at a later date simply increase the number of combs given to the new colony and leave more in the parent colony. During this procedure reduce all colonies to a single brood chamber. Three weeks later a second brood chamber will be needed.

Glen L. Stanley
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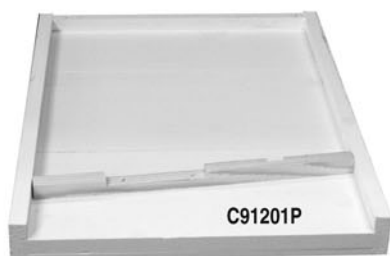
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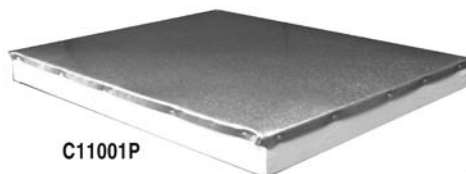
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Contact: Frank Pering
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Additional Links and Emails

IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

American Beekeeping Federation website
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