



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



June 2013

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Summer Field Day
Saturday, June 15 2013

www.ABuzzAboutBees.com



June 15th IHPA Field Day; Clemons, IA

June 15th IHPA Board Meeting following the Field Day events

August 8-18th Iowa State Fair

September 29th IHPA Board Meeting, 3pm at DMACC/Ankeny

October 31 IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm at Marshalltown prior to the Annual Meeting

November 1 & 2 IHPA Annual Meeting in Marshalltown, IA



Wanted: I'm looking for someone to teach me how to knit. I'm not into quilting, but I might be a knitter by the time the Annual Meeting comes around. I live in Marshall county, if interested I would be very glad to hear from you.

Contact Eli at 641-512-4728 or
fieldstonefarms@netins.net

For Sale: 150 1 gallon paint pails new (plastic) w/bails & lids. Used a few for feeding. 0.30ea

L Soder
St Charles, IA
515-462-4489

FOR SALE: Honey Styx

I sent 2 barrels of honey to Oregon to have put into styx, so these are Iowa honey. Good flavored light honey.

\$0.08 each in boxes of 2000 or \$160

\$0.10 each for 500-1999

\$0.12 each for less than 500

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

For Sale: S.E. Iowa 3 frame nucs.

Contact
Ron Wehr
319-698-7542

BASIC HIVE KIT - UNASSEMBLED

2 DEEP BROOD BOXES.....\$25.00
20 PLASTIC FRAMES.....\$38.00
1 INNER COVER.....\$ 6.00
1 COVER (W/METAL COVER)...\$22.50
1 SCREEN BOTTOM BOARD.....\$22.50
TOTAL \$114.00

**BASIC HONEY SUPER KIT
- UNASSEMBLED**

1 QUEEN EXCLUDER.....\$ 7.00
2 - 6 5/8 HONEY SUPERS BOX-
ES\$23.00
20 PLASTIC FRAMES (6 5/8).....\$35.00
TOTAL \$65.00

**TOTAL OF BOTH KITS
\$179.00**

(This price does not include shipping or postage) All equipment is new. Items can be picked-up, or shipped.

All items can be combined or ordered separately @ same price.

Please call for arrangements and for information.

Pat Ennis
515-293-2601 or
Flat_lander@lycos.com

FOR SALE: Pamphlet on Successful Management available: Ten Pages \$12 including postage.

Contact: Glen L. Stanley
908 N. Highway 69
Huxley, Iowa 50124
TELE: (515) 597-2555

MERCHANDISE, MERCHANDISE, MERCHANDISE

100th Anniversary merchandise is still available. Below is a price list of available merchandise. As you will notice we are out of T-Shirts, but don't worry, more will be available at Field Day on Saturday, June 15th. Remember – at Field Day you won't pay shipping.

Honey Pot	\$22.00
Utensil Crock	\$36.00
Coffee Cup w/spoon PRICE REDUCED	\$17.00 \$13.00
Magnet	\$ 2.00
Cookbook	\$ 6.50
Hat or visor:	\$15.00

Polo Shirt: \$35.00 Adult: small, medium, large and x-large
\$37.00 Adult: 2x-large and 3x-large

The above prices include shipping and handling fees. Please send your order with payment to: Rhonda Heston, Treasurer, Iowa Honey Producers, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 540049. Phone: 515-724-2124. E-Mail: R.Heston@yahoo.com

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

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

President's Message, June 2013

I think it's safe to say May this year was far from a normal month. On the 2nd and 3rd of May, the state of Iowa had anywhere from 8" to 16" of snow - setting many new records across the state. And on the 8th and 9th our state received ½ " to up to 5 ½" of rain, depending where you live. This coming week, the 13th thru the 17th, they are predicting temperatures to be anywhere in the 70's up to the 90's. I am not ready for the 90's yet. With this weather, I need to have the spring coat and the winter coat handy, and the rain coat, or do I need shorts?

Now this kind of weather is hard on the bees as well as the beekeeper. It's this time of year when many of you received your packages (if you ordered early). There is a great shortage of bees this year if you haven't heard yet. One load of bees coming from California got too hot - and this killed all the bees. I think there were somewhere between 1,200 to 1,500 packages on this load. Ouch!!! Bees that were already in short supply this year and hard to get, this loss made that worse. And not that this is not bad enough, when a lot of packages did come, the weather was cold, slowing colony growth.

A few people who put bees on new frames of foundation lost their bees to starvation. You need to have food right where the bees can get at it. They won't break cluster to go up into a top feeder or down to an outside Boardman feeder when it's cold. Hopefully you did not learn this lesson the hard way. These are both good feeding systems, but they don't work well in chilly or cold early spring weather in Iowa, and are better suited for warmer weather uses.

The Iowa Honey Producers Association had an emergency board meeting to discuss and decide on what to do about the Iowa State Fair - Iowa Honey Producers booth. Donna Brahms stated she has resigned as booth manager. During the meeting, with much discussion, the board voted to accept her resignation as

booth manager. Donna has ran the booth for 13 years, and I would like to say **"Thank You"** for her years of service to the IHPA, and all the work done to help increase sales at the booth. In light of this, a three person committee for accepting bids for the fair was set up. Melanie Bower stated she did not want to be on the bid committee. Bids for this year are now to be sent to Dale Fields. Look for his contact information in the June Buzz and [Media Page on the IHPA website] and scroll down to "IHPA State Fair Bid Sheet".

A four person committee was also put together to run the fair booth for this current year; I will be looking for a booth manager for 2014. If this is something you think you would like to do, please let me know. I would like to encourage all to sign up to work at the State Fair this year. [Sign up sheet is printed in this issue on page 7] To sign up to work a shift in the booth, please go to our web site:

www.abuzzaboutbees.com and go to the "Media Page" and scroll down to "2013 IHPA Booth Volunteer Sheet" or contact Eli Kalke @ 641-512-4728 or her e-mail @

fieldstonefarms@netins.net

**WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THE
IOWA STATE FAIR BOOTH.**

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER YOU'RE
HELP**

TO WORK A SHIFT OR TWO DURING THE FAIR. "THANK YOU" IN ADVANCE FOR BEING WILLING TO HELP THE IHPA.

Pat

June Trivia Question: When grafting larvae for queens, what is the best age to graft?

Answer on page 13.

BUZZ Quilt

All blocks have been received and they now make a quilt top. Thank you to all who made blocks. It was very interest-

ing to see the different patterns that you each used. A few of the blocks were the same pattern, but the way they were put together made them different.

The quilt is now in the capable hands of Jodi Kraft, who volunteered to quilt and bind the quilt. It turned out to be a rather large quilt, approximately 92" x 120".

Thank you to all who made blocks. They turned out GREAT!! I really appreciate the way you took to this project. With this kind of enthusiasm, look for more opportunities to come. The Queen Program will benefit greatly from this project.

Look for the BUZZ Quilt at Field Day, June 15th in Clemons, Iowa and bring your \$\$\$ to buy tickets for the opportunity to win the BUZZ Quilt. If you want to buy tickets, please contact Rhonda Heston, Treasurer, at 515-724-2124 or e-mail to R.Heston@yahoo.com



Thank You

Thanks to everyone that helped make the Iowa Honey Producers sales booth at the Iowa State Fair a success the last 13 years while I managed it. I really did enjoy each and every one of you as we worked together making lemonade, filling the ice chest, making change, helping customers, retrieving products from the storage area, answering questions, and opening and closing each day. We were able to share the happy and the sad times in each other's lives. It was always challenging to get everything done each day, but very rewarding because **you** volunteered to help. Change is always difficult, but the board has decided they want a new manager. Thanks again for the wonderful lasting memories.

Donna Brahms





Iowa Honey Producers Association Summer Field Day Saturday, June 15 2013

Clemons Lutheran School, 302 Bevins Street,
Clemons, Iowa 50051 (Hwy S52)

Registration at 8.30am. Activities begin 9.00am – 3.30pm.

Guest speakers will be Becky Tipton and Joli Winer from Kansas. They are active members of the NE Kansas Beekeepers Association and teachers at Master Beekeeping Workshop, University of Nebraska.

Field Day Topics:

Demonstrations, how-to's and tips on making lotions, soaps, lip balm, creamed honey, cut comb, photography. Queen rearing program with Bob Fassbinder (bring your bee suit). Latest apiary report from Andy Joseph (State Apiarist).

Please bring a potluck dish to share. IHPA will provide chicken, tableware, bottled water and coffee.

Pre-registration information:

Members fee: \$30. Non-members fee: \$40.

Send payment by May 31 to Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer
52735 187th Avenue, Chariton, IA 50049 Phone: 515-724-2124

Registration at the field day:

Members fee: \$35. Non-members fee: \$45.

If you have any questions, please contact Eli Kalke (IHPA VP).
Phone: 641-512-4728 Email: fieldstonefarms@netins.net.

Hope to see you there!



THE BEEYARD REPORT

I was dismayed when I learned Donna Brahms had been fired from her job as manager of the State Fair Booth. It has been over a week ago. I am still having a problem getting past it. I thought about letting it go but I feel obligated to say something. As with the rest of us, Donna has a few warts. She could be a little overbearing and has alienated some people over the years. She has gotten under my skin a few times but I always respected her. She was a multitasker who got it done. Leaders don't necessarily have to be popular but they do need to be effective. Donna was very effective. She put her heart and soul in to the organization. What thanks does she get? You're fired! Donald Trump might be proud of that but I find it disappointing.

From an ego standpoint it is nice to have something on the table at the Fair. Most years we have had two or three items on the table. It is not a money making deal. The bids are low. There is a lot of traveling back and forth. Most years, I made six trips to Fairgrounds to deliver product, work in the booth and then pick up left over product at the end of the Fair. It killed the better part of a week when I had a lot of other things I could be doing. I regarded it as my contribution and was glad to do it. Now that I see what has happened to people who have made major contributions to the organization, I need to rethink that.

You may have noticed the bid sheet for the fair appeared with Melanie Bower listed as the one to receive the bids. Donna is used to being in charge. I am pretty sure she asked Melanie to do this without consulting anyone. Whether she should have or not, I don't really know. At any rate, it doesn't seem like it should have been a hanging offence. Nevertheless, it prompted an "emergency" board meeting. The result of this meeting was that Donna and Melanie were out of the picture.

Let's talk about Melanie for a moment. When she took over as treasurer, our books were mess, accounting practices were horrible and no tax returns had been filed. We faced a huge potential

liability from the IRS. She got this straightened out and together with Donna was able to get the association a 501-C-3 nonprofit classification. They submitted huge volumes of material to the IRS, made trips to see the lawyer in Council Bluffs and, I am sure, a lot of other things I don't know about. It was a huge undertaking that I don't think they ever got much credit for.

The point I am trying to make here is that these are both credible people that have been pushed out of the picture. Melanie was insulted as I would have been. I think her crime was being Donna's friend. Donna managed the Fair booth for thirteen years. She turned it into a cash cow. Sales have grown every year. There were no financial improprieties.

It was not a case of mismanagement. It was a case of someone wanting to get rid of her. Facts are like statistics. If you play with them long enough, you can make them say what you want. I am very disappointed in the way this played out. The organization is going to be poorer for it.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Past Presidents Message

I am writing this in response to Phil Ebert's "Bee Yard Report" that is included in this issue of the Buzz. Although I feel the entire article should have been edited out because it simply is not based on fact.

I am not going to waste any more of your time with my opinions but will simply try to state the facts of the current situation involving the past state fair booth manager, Donna Brahms.

Before printing the last months Buzz newsletter, Alex Ebert received Donna's information on State Fair bids. He noticed bids should be sent to Melanie Bower instead of John Johnson, as it has been for the past dozen or so years. He called our current president Pat Ennis to see if that information was correct. Pat knew nothing of the change. He consulted with several board members, one of which was me, and I as well as a few

others felt a committee of three people would be a better way to handle the bid process. E-mails were exchanged with some suggesting who the committee of three should be and some saying that one person should be able to do it. In the E-mail exchange I mentioned that a group of three would help avoid an impression of Favoritism. The person I felt membership might think favoritism was shown to is myself, because I usually supply a majority of the liquid honey products at the Fair. Melanie took this particular E-mail and imagined I was making accusations towards Donna. Within an hour of sending my E-mail, Donna called Pat Ennis and resigned from her position as the State Fair manager. This is what prompted an emergency board meeting. Donna later requested that we have an emergency board meeting so she could respond to the accusations. We had the board meeting and Donna was given an opportunity to speak and we had an open discussion about the situation and Donna was asked if she was still willing to continue if the board did not accept her resignation. She agreed to continue if asked. The board then went into a closed session, meaning only board members with no spectators. The board members discussed the issue for nearly an hour and in the end voted by 8 – 3 margin to accept the resignation. The board also noted to pay a good portion of the wage for this year for work she has already done. This is to my knowledge, an honest but concise account.

There are many other factors affecting this issue, some dating back many years and some much more recently.

I would like to directly address a few points Phil tried to make and I will admit I have the advantage of being able to directly respond to Phil because I have his article right in front of me.

1. Donna resigned and after hours of discussion by the board as well as input from Donna they voted 8 – 3 margin to accept her resignation.

2. Melanie was asked to serve on the committee to accept bids but in her E-mail response she said "I would but I will not be on a committee for this pro-

cess. Curt, if you want Rhonda and Eli to accept bids and run the booth go right ahead they can have it."

I have still been trying to stick to the facts but would like to add a bit more that is my own personal opinion and feelings. I feel that in the past, Donna has gotten a great deal of appreciation for the exceptional work she has done. I'll admit probably not as much appreciation as she deserved but who does? With that said, I don't think hard work and accomplishment in the past means that you should have unlimited power and no longer have to answer to the board. The same statements apply to Melanie Bower. I feel she has done exceptional work in getting and keeping the IHPA on track. An efficient board of directors should probably have some friction and disagreement or somebody's not doing their job. My feeling about my observations is that sometimes in questioning of the state fair booth or treasurer's position was met with resistance and was viewed as an accusation of some sort of impropriety. In some instances it was met with a threat of resigning the position.

I hope Phil Ebert feels better after getting this off his chest but I can assure you that I get no satisfaction in trying to address this situation. The membership votes in a board of directors and officers each year at the annual meeting and the membership should question them but also trust their judgment. This issue doesn't need to be argued in the pages of the Buzz.

I think you have a very energetic, enthusiastic, and respectful slate of officers and board of directors they deserve some respect and appreciation also. Soon I'll rotate off the board as our vice president moves up and Pat becomes a past president. That's the way it works. We need you new comers to want to be involved in this process it really can be a lot of fun!

Thank You for considering my thoughts, Curt Bronnenberg



Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Our featured beekeeper of this month is another participant in the Iowa Honey Producers Association mentor program. His name is Jarret Horn. He lives with his

He has exhibited in these project areas: horse, horticulture, woodworking, sheep, goats, rabbits, cattle and communications. Currently, he is a second year member of the Newton FFA where he has competed in career development contests like prepared public speaking and horse judging. He says his plans for after graduation are not finalized, but he would love to farm.

Jarret says he has always been interested in bees and had a read a few books about them. Then he picked up the scholarship flier at the state fair and realized the opportunity. He attended classes at Iowa Valley Community College taught by Phil Ebert. Delmar Nelson is his mentor. Jarret is appreciative of their help. He says, "I learned that being a beekeeper is an unpredictable job." Many fellow beekeepers have that sentiment.

Jarret tells us this funny story. "Once I was mowing around my hive and accidentally hit it. The neighbors probably had a great view of me running across the hay field trying to escape the stings."

Jarret has helped at the state fair booth. His goals are to have 30 hives by 2015 and to use his communication skills to share more about bees and beekeeping with others.

Thanks for your story Jarret

Submitted by Ron Wehr

THE BEE KILLS WILL CONTINUE

Glen L. Stanley
State Apiarist (emeritus)

908 N. Highway 69
Huxley, Iowa 50124

The Honey Bees do not live to die a natural death, we are killing them. First they are not living on their natural diet of, honey and pollen. The bee has a brain which provides them with an excellent memory. Most are being fed High Fructose Corn Syrup which was found in a scientific test (in rats) to cause them to become disoriented. That is one factor in our bees not returning to the hive so they disappear. The feeding of sugar syrup, of any kind, shortens the life of the bee by 10 days. That is about 1/4th of their normal life span.

To add to that Farmers are using a class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids. These insecticides cause the seed to become sticky, so in order to get the seed to feed through the planter the seed is mixed with a powder. The powder is then contaminated and spreads to other plants and into the air. All living breathing creatures are constantly breathing contaminated air.

The insecticide, created and manufactured by the BAYER Co, was designed to cause ALL insects to become disoriented and that is exactly what is happening to the bees.

My latest correspondence from the Environmental Protection Agency is that, they will do nothing this year about putting a ban on chemicals that kill bees. So the killing goes on. All Europe has banned all such products just to protect the bees. Iowans water and air become more polluted day by day and our DNR is doing nothing to protect us. Our streams and lakes are becoming more polluted due to Farm Chemical run-off and the farmers do nothing to prevent it. Recently the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers have become so loaded with nitrogen that all the equipment used to eliminate it is getting to the point that it can't prevent nitrate poisoning. A while longer and there will be no more fishing. Our bees require water too and they will have trouble finding water that is free of pesticides.

So Beekeepers beware, your problem have not been eliminated and for help it will depend on the EPA. You will find that putting your colonies on honey as the only food will help immensely.



Jarret Horn inspects a very nice frame of brood from one of his beehives.

parents, James and Neisha, two younger sisters and one younger brother at Newton, Iowa. He says the family is very "into" horses. Jarret's father is an Ag instructor and FFA advisor and his mother does his home-schooling where Jarret is in the 10th grade. He is dual enrolled at Newton High School for cross-country, Ag classes, and woods. Horseback riding, farming, hunting and fishing are some other hobbies.

Jarret has participated in 4-H since the 4th grade and served on multiple committees and offices.



We need your help at the Iowa State Fair booth!

Dear Beekeepers

I know it may be hard to start thinking about the State Fair, however Spring is here and the Iowa State Fair is fast approaching;
August 8-18.

For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building; selling honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise etc. This is our main fund raising event, which is needed to help support our various educational programs. We ask our members to help make this event a success, by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging product, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples etc. We will provide you with a free entry pass to get into the fair.

We had a successful 2012 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had some wonderful people volunteer their time and would love to see you again. We also encourage new members, bee clubs throughout the state to participate in this event too, because we need everyone's support to make this event a success.

We have three shifts daily, 9am-1.30pm, 1.30pm-6pm and 6pm-9pm (11-14 people needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 8-18 we would like to hear from you. All you need to do is mail the completed tear off slip below, or email the same details to fieldstonefarms@netins.net or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone no. _____ Email address: _____

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

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

We appreciate any help you can provide!



2013 IHPA State Fair Bid Sheet

1. Bids must be received by June 30, 2013.
2. All liquid honey must be from 2013 harvest.
3. Honey must be no more than 18.5% moisture.
4. All glass honey containers and creamed honey must have a protection seal and plastic must have a pressure seal, this includes all large containers also.
5. All beeswax products (candles, ornaments) need to be packaged to maintain cleanliness, presentation.
6. Cut comb must be in a sealed plastic box well drained with no liquid honey. The following quality standards will be used (clean capping with all cells capped). We will pay \$5.25 per unit of cut comb at least 14 oz and \$4.00 for Ross Rounds meeting quality standards. Booth manager has right to refuse any containers not meeting this standard.
7. All bottled liquid honey must be free of foreign material, with no foam, sticky jars, and even filling.
8. All products must show proper labeling i.e. name, address and net weight.
9. You must deliver products to the booth as scheduled.
10. Remember you are able to bid on any items, but you must show the quantity of each item you are able to supply and your bid price.
11. Include a sample label with your bid sheet.
12. We are paying a flat rate on 1lb glass jars, to encourage smaller bidders. It is offered at \$3.25. A minimum quantity to supply is 24 jars / case. You may bid to supply as many cases as you wish.
13. A new category this year will be lip balm, lotions, soaps etc. To offer these products you give us a bid price for each item and the quantity you can supply. Since you, as a bidder, may not have enough product to supply the entire fair, the booth may use several suppliers based on the number of items supplied.
14. Any items not listed below or specialty items you wish to bid on - is up to the discretion of the booth manager, based on counter space and ability to supply. (i.e. buckwheat honey, bee related items, etc.)

*** As the Iowa State Fair approaches, The IHPA bid sheet needs to be published. Myself and two other IHPA members, (non-bidding) are overseeing the bid process this year. With that there are some changes to make the bidding easier. We want to be able to make the process to work for the smaller producer to participate. As a trial we chose the 1 lb. classic glass jar. IHPA will purchase a number of these at \$3.25 in a minimum quantity of 24. Looking to get some producers state wide, so the customers could buy local honey from their area at the fair, seeing a familiar label. Last year IHPA sold 312 1 lb. glass at the fair. We will choose honey from all areas. Any Questions contact Dale at Fieldstonefarms@netins.net

Bid items are:



	<u>Quantity estimates from 2012</u>	Bid	Quantity
<u>State Fair</u>			
4oz antique jars	24		
8oz antique jars	24		
Hard candy (assorted)			
12oz bear (light honey)	521		
24 oz bear	322		
1lb glass (quantity only)	312		
1lb plastic	274		
1lb skep			
2lb glass	197		
5lb containers	59		
1lb gallon (12lbs)	68		
50 or 60lb pail for lemonade	1937 pounds		
Creamed honey plain	350		
Creamed honey flavor			
Beeswax candles			
Beeswax bars			
Honey Stix	29271		
Comb Honey	872		
Ross Rounds			
Lip Balm			
Lotion			
Lotion Bars			
Soap			
Other:			

Signature: _____

Business Name: _____ Phone/cell: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Return to: Dale Fields, 1445 165th Street, Clemons, IA 50051 (641) 477-8521

E-mail fieldstonefarms@netins.net

NOTE: Arrangements need to be made to pick up any un-sold product on Sunday August 18th between 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm OR Monday August 19th 8:00 am to 10:00 am.

Thank you for providing product for the IHPA State Fair Booth!!

Iowa Honey Queen

Hello Iowa Beekeepers:

I do not want all my letters to become the stereo typical talk about weather first, but golly gees this weather has just been crazy.

Since we last talked I have been busy, I have traveled our great land of Iowa. On April 18 I had the great opportunity to go back home to Oskaloosa, even though it was a rainy Ag Day I enjoyed telling kiddies about honey bee helpers, and what would happen if we lost our honey bees. Every third grader that day hated the idea of eating oatmeal for every meal but during lunch every kid wanted to sit by me and ask how I got all the bees into the observation hive, and if they could try on my tiara. At the end of the day I think we got some future beekeepers in the making.



Mahaska County Ag Day in Oskaloosa

Just a week after Ag Day I traveled to the great city of Mason City to take part in Earth Day rally. After visiting the IHPA booth kids loved showing their new “ink” of the IHPA honey bee tattoos to their friends. The local radio station also asked me a few questions on how listeners can help the honey bees and what would happen if the bees were

lost. Right after the rally “my chauffeur” drove me down to Ames to meet my mother who brought my new package of



Mason City Earth Day Rally

bees from Des Moines. We really lucked out that it was close to eighty degrees that day.

After traveling back to Cedar Rapids to change out of royalty clothes, and in to my farm clothes we were off to Shellsburg to install the bees. If you have been reading my letters I recently told you about a family friend that has an acreage that would be happy to be the new home to my new hive. When we arrived we had some troubles getting the squirt bottle to work but after five minutes of trying we were able spray sugar water, the pressure inside the bottle equalized and mists of sugar coated the bees. This was my first time installing bees where I was the most knowledgeable one around. Neill, my boyfriend, has been really supportive with the bees and I think we have a new beekeeper to add to the list. We both got on our bee suits, our supplies and began the work to set up the boxes. Neill went and grabbed the package from the truck, and we got right to work. While I was prying the sugar can out of the package, Neill was coating the bees with sugar water. After getting the queen cage out I gave a quick lesson to Neill about checking if she was all safe and sound then Neill started to shake the bees into the boxes while I replaced the cork with a marshmallow on the queen cage. Finally we got everyone settled without any stings or catastrophic disasters and I’m happy to report the bees are doing great even with the cold weather.

Staying with the busy theme, the first weekend in May I traveled to the great German land of Amana for Mayfest, it

was such a sweet parade and festival. I was accompanied by the best two girls a queen could have; Rachel our 2013 Iowa Honey Princess, and Joy our 2013 Southeast Iowa Honey Queen. We had some laughs while walked in the parade, passing out candy to all we saw, and practicing our royal waves.

As spring is turning into Summer the life of this queen is only beginning to ramp up in what I hope is going to be a fun filled summer of bee events. If you have any event that I, Rachel, or even Joy could attend contact the Queen Chair, Connie Bronnenberg at 515.480.6076 or cbronny823@aol.com. You can also reach me at hannah.vanwyk93@yahoo.com.



Setting up Neill’s and my new hive in Shellsburg

Since it is almost summer a great relaxing evening is one on the porch watching the sunset while kids are chasing fire flies. This recipe is great to unwind from a busy summer day. Even though as Iowa Beekeepers we have our state fair lemonade, this is another one of my favorites.

Bee Sweet Lemonade

Yield: 24 servings
Ingredients



Rachel, Joy, and Me at the Mayfest parade in Amana.

- 1-1/2 quarts (4 lbs. 8 oz.) - honey
- 3 cups - lemon juice, strained
- 24 - lemon slices, optional
- Water, still or sparkling, as needed

Directions

Whisk together honey and lemon juice, chill

Serving Suggestion

Per Order: Stir 6 Tablespoons honey syrup into 1 cup still or sparkling water; add ice. Garnish with lemon slice.

*May the bees keep buzzing
in your favor.*

Safe travels, and happy buzzing,

Hannah L. VanWyk

2013 Iowa Honey Queen

Iowa Honey Princess

Hello everyone! I hope everyone's bees are off to a great start! I have been very busy doing many fun bee projects! I had great time visiting my local elementary school where I was able to teach 2nd graders about bees and honey! This was a ton of fun and they had excellent questions! I have also given a honey bee presentation to my local Girl Scout Troop. They enjoyed my speech very much.

I have also had the honor of going to the

Amana Colonies and being in the 'Bugs, Blooms and Babes' parade! There, I had the great opportunity to hand out honey candy to kids and adults! Hannah VanWyk, the 2013 Iowa Honey Queen, along with Joy Westercamp, the Southeast Iowa Honey Queen, joined me in the fun! After the parade I got to talk to kids about bees, while they looked at a observation hive! It was a very fun day!

If you would like to keep up to date with what I am up to, I have a blog! I blog about what I have been doing as Princess and I also have some delicious recipes on my blog! My blog address is:

<http://rachelbeeblog.blogspot.com/>

Enjoy the summer!

2013 Iowa Honey Princess,

Rachel Stika

Grout Museum District Opens New Exhibit

Waterloo, IA – The Grout Museum District, 503 South St., Waterloo, will open the new exhibit, "It's Not Your Grandparent's Farm, Or is It?" on May 3, 2013. The exhibit will be on display through April 26, 2014.

When most people think of the Iowa

farm, they immediately picture corn, beans, hogs and beef. However, in today's changing economic landscape, small farming operations that once grew these four cash crops and livestock cannot compete with the larger, often corporate production units. Many family farms look for ways to continue their way of life and earn a living raising a variety of crops and farm animals and selling their products locally.

"It's Not Your Grandparent's Farm, Or is It?" look at Iowa's rich farming past as well as present methods. A life-size diorama of a "Farmer's Market," will immerse visitors in the importance of supporting these local Iowa businesses and the families who raise everything from fruits, vegetables, ethnic foods for Iowa's changing population, vineyards, dairy products, vintage seeds, trees, buffalo, goats, llamas, ostrich and bees. Guests will "shop" the displays to learn how these small enterprises produce and distribute their goods, whether at a Farmer's Market or in small locally owned stores such as Hansen's Dairy, which does it all from production to distribution, including operating their own stores that sell their products plus other goods produced by small family farms. Videos, photographs, artifacts, and ephemera will enhance the story-line, while a hands-on "Little Farmer" area will give the small visitor a chance to experience the exhibit while learning what farming in Iowa, past and present, is like.

This exhibit is sponsored, in part, by Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Pauline Barrett, The Fred Maytag Family Foundation, Dick & Mary K. Klingaman, and Black Hawk County Gaming Association.

The exhibit is included with regular admission: Adults \$10, Veterans, Active Duty & Children 4-13 \$5, Members and children 3 & under are free. For more information call 319-234-6357 or visit www.GroutMuseumDistrict.org.





Winter Loss Survey 2012 – 2013: Preliminary Results

Preliminary Results: Honey Bee Colony Losses in the United States, Winter 2012-2013

May 1, 2013

Dennis vanEngelsdorp^{1*}, Nathalie Steinhauer¹, Karen Rennich¹, Jeffery Pettis², Eugene J. Lengerich³, David Tarpy⁴, Keith S. Delaplane⁵, Angela M. Spleen³, James T. Wilkes⁶, Robyn Rose⁷, Kathleen Lee⁸, Michael Wilson⁹, John Skinner⁹, and Dewey M. Caron¹⁰ for the Bee Informed Partnership.

about 22.9%¹ of the country's estimated 2.62 million colonies.

Preliminary survey results indicate that 31.1% of managed honey bee colonies in the United States were lost during the 2012/2013 winter. This represents an increase in loss of 9.2 points or 42% over the previous 2011/2012 winter's total losses that were estimated at 21.9%. This level of loss is on par with the 6 year average total loss of 30.5%².

On average, U.S. beekeepers lost 45.1% of the colonies in their operation during the winter of 2012/2013. This is a 19.8 point or 78.2% increase in the average operational

¹ Based on NASS 2012 figures
² Previous survey results found a total colony loss in the winters of 21.9% in the winter of 2011/2012, 30% in 2010/2011, 34% in 2009/2010, 29% in 2008/2009, 36% in 2007/2008, and 32% in 2006/2007 (see figure attached)

The Bee Informed Partnership is funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

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2. USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory

3. The Pennsylvania State University,
4. North Carolina State University
5. University of Georgia
6. Appalachian State University
7. Robyn Rose, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,
8. University of Minnesota
9. University of Tennessee
10. Oregon state University
*Corresponding author

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Note: This is a preliminary analysis. A more detailed final report is being prepared for publication at a later date.

The Bee Informed Partnership (<http://beeinformed.org>), in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is releasing preliminary results for the seventh annual national survey of honey bee colony losses. For the 2012/2013 winter season, a total of 6,287 U.S. beekeepers provided validated responses. Collectively, responding beekeepers managed 599,610 colonies in October 2012, representing

loss compared to the previous winter (2011/2012), which was estimated at 25.3%. The difference between average loss and total loss is explained by the respondent pool: while a majority of the respondents (95%) were backyard beekeepers, they managed a small fraction of the colonies represented in the survey (6%). For this reason total loss (which is more heavily influenced by commercial beekeeper losses) is more representative of national losses.

Survey participants indicated that they considered a loss rate of 15% as "acceptable," but 70% of them suffered losses greater than this.

Results posted online here

<http://beeinformed.org/2013/05/winter-loss-survey-2012-2013/>

Bee Informed Partnership website
<http://beeinformed.org/>



Sales at the Iowa State Fair

Have you ever wondered how much product is sold during the fair? As it is time to bid for the 2013 Iowa State Fair this is information that might be useful. All products are the number of individual units sold, with the exception of Pail Honey. Pail Honey is used for the Honey Lemonade and is measured by the number of pounds used during the fair.

Creamed Honey Flavors

Regular	350	Lamb	5
Cinnamon	224	Lighthouse—Large	5
Blackberry	96	Lighthouse—Small	10
Apple Cinnamon	0	Magnet—Bee—Small	6
Strawberry	0	Magnet—Bee—Large	6
Jalapeno	90	Magnet—Dog	1
Raspberry	90	Magnet—Praying Hands	1
Blueberry	90	Magnet—Skep	2
Peach	60	Nativity-11 piece	1
Apple	85	Nativity-3 piece	3
Cranberry	84	Owl	20
Garlic & Herb	0	Pig	14
Lemon	72	Pillar Candles	11
Pecan	84	Rabbit	11
Butter Rum	96	Santa	2
Vanilla Butter Nut	0	Skep-Baby Candle	3
Honey Jelly	0	Skep-Large Candle	12
Honey Wine Jelly	0	Skep-Medium Candle	9

Honey Products & Sizes

Comb Honey	872	Skep-Small Candle	15
Pail Honey (50#)	1,937	Snowman	1
Honey Stix	29,271	Tapers-10"	18
12oz Bear	521	Tapers-8"	12
12oz Buckwheat Bear	115	Tree-Decorated	3
24oz Bear	322	Tree-Large	3
1# Glass	312	Tree-Small	5
1# Plastic	274	Turkeys	10

Lotions / Soaps / Insect Repellant

Lotions	39
Lotion-4oz	99
Lotion-8oz	135
Lotion Bar-1.2oz	29
Lotion Bar-2.4oz	43
Lotion Bar	132
Lotion-Foot	40
Soap-Variou	155
Buzz Off Insect Repellant	51
Lip Balm (Various Flavors)	507

Misc

Bagged Candy-4oz	162
Bagged Candy-8oz	107
Bee Bag / Tote-Large	1
Bee Bag / Tote-Medium	2

Wax / Candles

Firestarters	3
1oz Wax Bar	61
8oz Wax Bar	30
1# Wax Block	15
Angels	6
Apple	1
Baby Jesus	4
Bear & Cub	4
Bee Candle	9
Bride & Groom	6
Candle Pair 6"	22
Cherub	11
Corn Candles	22
Cow	9
Hand Dipped Pair	10



Spring Field Day

We held a Spring Field Day at our home place in Clemons May 11th in the afternoon, for attendees of the Marshalltown and Ankeny Beekeeping Class held earlier this year. It was originally planned for May 4th, but due to some unseasonal weather was postponed a week.

Everyone had an opportunity to practice lighting smokers, identify workers bees, drones and queen on a frame, identify different stages of brood and general health of hive, go through a hive, how to make splits, explain and demonstrate different IPM and methods of feeding bees in the hive. Even though it was a bit windy, we had good turn out and were asked some very good questions.

Eli Kalke

IHPA at the Iowa State Fair

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

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

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

Submitted by Dale Fields

President's Message Trivia Answer: : Larvae 12 – 24 hours after hatching are ideal, and should be floating on a bed of royal jelly in a well feed colony and have not had their first molt (at about 24 hours).

(Source: page 36 "Queen Rearing Essentials" by Lawrence John Connor)

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The Buzz Newsletter

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