



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



November 2009



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Dates To Bee Remembered

April 17, 2010 CIBA Annual Beekeeping Equipment auction at Spring Valley Honey Farm, Perry, IA.



FOR SALE: Honey--Light colored clover/alfalfa mix with good flavor. Extra nice. Buckets or barrels.

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

For Sale: Taking orders for 3 LB. packages of Italian bees and Queens from Olivarez Honey Bees Inc. to be picked up in the middle of April. Prices will be available late Jan.

Call Curt Bronnenberg (515)465-5939

For Sale: new crop honey \$1.75 lb. in five gal. bucket plus new bucket exchange. Don't let your customers run out of honey, or they will get it from someone else.

Curt Bronnenberg (515) 465-5939 or www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com

WANTED: good used bee equipment for the spring bee auction. If you no longer need it or have too much stuff this is a good time to make it go away and make some money. If you no longer keep bees and would like to see it get some good use, take it to the auction.. IF YOU GOT A LIST, SEND IT TO PAT ENNIS
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439 or
e-mail it to flat_lander@lycos.com
515-293-2601
THANK YOU AND BEE HAPPY
PAT

For Sale:

4 frame nuc boxes
Boxes of frame parts
Wired frames
4 deep supers with frames
(Have foundation for supers)
Heavy duty Barrel Cart
Floor scale
Other miscellaneous from 50 years of beekeeping.

Contact: Marvel (Albert) Andriano
5737 Cumming Ave.
Cumming, IA 50061
(515) 981-0360

HOLIDAY CRANBERRY SAUCE

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2 c. fresh cranberries

1/2 c. apple juice

2/3 c. honey

1 tsp. finely chopped orange rind

Combine cranberries, apple juice, and honey in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Reduce heat, simmer uncovered for 5 minutes or until berries pop. Remove from heat and stir in orange rind. Cool to room temperature, then chill thoroughly before serving. Yields: 1 1/2 cups. 35 calories.



Annual Meeting Mead Contest Results

1st Place

Dennis Nielson – Traditional Mead

2nd Place

Pat & Peggy Ennis – Spiced Mead

3rd Place

Gene & Jodee Ward – Traditional Mead

Runner ups

Ron Wehr – Cherry Mead
Deb Nielson – Raspberry Mead

Annual Meeting Photo Contest Results

Marketing & Promotion

1st Place Pat & Peggy Ennis

Extracting Honey or Honey Specific

1st Place Jackie Beard

2nd Place Dawn Beard

3rd Place Pat & Peggy Ennis

Bee on a Flower

1st Place Jackie Beard

2nd Place Pat & Peggy Ennis

General Beekeeping

1st Place Jackie Beard

2nd Place Donna Brahms

3rd Place Pat & Peggy Ennis

Swarms

1st Place Donna Brahms

2nd Place JoDee Ward

3rd Place Dawn Bernhard

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,

Another year is about complete. I sure hope we have better winter weather than we have had for autumn. I am not impressed with the snow that we had so early. We were certainly concerned about all of the apples that were still on the trees when we received 4 inches of snow on October 10th. Customers just don't care to shop for fall décor, pumpkins and apples when it is snowing. Nice weather has returned to Iowa, in our area anyway. I think that October and November have been turned around. With the warmer weather, honey bees may be flying and consuming more honey. Check your hives to make sure they are heavy enough and have enough food for the winter. Keep track of the hives that are going to need to be fed really early next spring.

I was anticipating not having the responsibility of doing this column following the annual meeting, but I do have one more year to submit articles. If there is anything that you would like to see in this column, please send me ideas. Mitchell, our youngest son, landed safely in Georgia following a long flight from Kuwait. He is stationed in Iraq and came home to spend time with his son, Zane and wife, Abbie in Wisconsin. Zane will be 3 on the 9th. Two weeks will quickly fly by. Oldest son, Shawn and his family are back from Germany and stationed at Fort Sill, OK again. Shawn has two and one half years left on his twenty year stint with the Army. Middle son, Steve has been very busy picking apples, squash and pumpkins, making cider and getting the gardens ready for winter. Pruning will start soon!

Those of you that were able to attend the Annual Meeting were able to receive lots of great information concerning the beekeeping world. The meeting was a great success due to Pat Ennis. Pat did a fantastic job with speakers and the meeting flowed perfectly. Thanks for the wonderful job, Pat. Pat

is going off the board as Vice President, but will not disappear from the IHPA. You are going to be a hard act to follow, Pat. Thanks for your hard work. Up for a challenge as Vice President is Pat Randol. Pat has been a board member for a few years. Congratulations, Pat.

Phil Ebert has been on the board for quite a few years and has been the education chairman. Phil will continue on working for the IHPA as he and Tim Laughlin are heading up the Field Day for next summer. Thanks for all of your dedication and work for the IHPA, Phil.

New directors to replace Pat Randol and Phil Ebert are Jack Trowbridge and John Johnson. Welcome to the board gentlemen. We look forward to your insight and input in running the IHPA.

The rest of the officers and board directors remain the same. If you have suggestions or ideas that will better the work of the IHPA, please let your board members know. We are working for the entire organization.

Congratulations to the new youth scholarship winners. We have seven new beginning beekeepers for the state. There is an article elsewhere listing the program winners and their mentors. Each is excited to become part of this organization and to become a beekeeper. They were very well qualified and are a wonderful group.

Amber Connett, a student at Iowa State University, is our 2010 Iowa Honey Queen. If you have an event that you would like Amber to attend to promote the IHPA and honey, please contact her. If you have the dates early, you could avoid the disappointment of her being scheduled somewhere else. Congratulations, Amber.

2009 Iowa Honey Queen, Shiliah Spauling, will compete for the American Honey Queen in Orlando during

the American Beekeeping Federation meeting held January 12th through the 16th. Send your good luck wishes to Shiliah. She was very busy representing the IHPA the past year. Please send her your encouragement. Thanks Shiliah and good luck.

This is late getting to Alex so I better stop here. I was hoping that I wouldn't be the one doing the president's letter this month, but circumstances dictated otherwise.

Bee Thankful and Bee counting your blessings this Thanksgiving season as you celebrate with family and friends. Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

THANK YOU

As most of you have noticed that worked at the Iowa State Fair, you did not receive a personal Thank You from me this year. That doesn't mean that your help and work was not appreciated, it just means that I didn't find the time to send them. Please accept this heartfelt note of Thanks for your participation in the Iowa Honey Producers Association booth at the Iowa State Fair. I knew that purchasing a new business would keep me busy, but I did not anticipate that I would be this busy. Hopefully we will be slowing down after the first of the year. Please consider working again next year. Thank you so much for your giving to help the IHPA.

Donna Brahms, IHPA Sales Booth Manager for the Iowa State Fair

Donna Brahms





Youth Program Continues

Ten 2009 youth scholarship winners were given certificates of ownership of their hive and the equipment that the IHPA provided to them for their exciting and challenging year of beekeeping. Congratulations to Elsa Brown of Dow City, Garion Consier of Churdan, Zachariah Hicks of Algona, Josh Holtz of Lost Nation, Jonathan Judd of LaPorte City, Colton Smith of Murray, Andrew Schulz of Burlington, Trevor Turner of Winterset, Matthew Upah of Chelsea, and Quency Vos of Ellston. . Mentors for this group of young people were Ray and David Tull, Dan Dixon, Pat Randol, Kevin Gschwend, Dennis Nielson, Curt Bronnenberg, Pat Ennis, Glen Tank, David Hayes, and Craig Bradke. These people really are fantastic and gave of their time and talents to help these young people. The IHPA sincerely thanks them.

The 2010 youth scholarship winners chosen were Emma Allen of Woodbine, Cody Bednarz of Britt, Samuel Bowers of Alburnett, Elizabeth Junker of Van Meter, Jay McCoskey of Jewell, Mitchell Phillips of New Hampton, and Tom Nieland of Urbandale. The mentors for this group include Curt Bronnenberg, Pat Ennis, Dennis Nielson, Kevin Gschwend, Ron Underwood, David Mechaelsen, and Andy Joseph . Thank you for volunteering to guide these beginning beekeepers in their year of discovery into the world of beekeeping.

If anyone has any questions concerning the youth program, please feel free to contact Mike Brahms, Youth Coordinator at (712) 778-4255 or mbrahms@netins.net.

Support for the Youth Program

This past year the board of the IHPA received a request to help raise funds for the youth program. Maja Sunleaf, the State President of the Children of the American Revolution organization approached us with a plan to sell bee pins to raise money for the youth program. Many of you saw the pins and purchased them at our sales booth during the Iowa State Fair. Maja has promoted the IHPA youth program across the state to raise money and awareness of the necessity of honey bees in the state. Maja stated that she chose the honey bee as her state project because we need honey bees for pollination and with the CCD problem in the news decided that the youth program was a great way to support Iowa beekeeping. We certainly applaud Miss Sunleaf in her effort. If you haven't purchased your pin, please consider doing so.

Maja has expressed an interest in joining our organization. She also has had correspondence from several beekeeper members of her organization. Thank you, Maja, for your help in spreading the news about honey bees across Iowa and for donating the money earned from your project to the IHPA youth program. If anyone is interested in information on the C.A. R. organization, please check out their newsletter, The Hawkeye News.



Iowa Honey Queen

I hope you all have saved for a rainy day, because we sure have had plenty of time to spend it!! In the past two weeks, we have had four and half inches of rain, I can't believe how the pastures have greened up!!

September was a very busy month. Af-

ter we got back from the Iowa State Fair, Mom and I killed 300 broilers in six days. NO, I don't kill and eat broilers on the same day. Everyone says how good they are "Fresh," but I wait at least two weeks before I eat chicken after butchering for a week!

I had all my preliminary testing and I was ready for my surgery, on my right shoulder, on September 8th. This was my third surgery and no it does not get any easier. The good news was, that there was not as much damage as they thought so that was great. The Bad news was it does not get any easier the third time around for anesthesia. I had some problems and they put me back to sleep and I had to spend an extra night in the hospital. I was sure glad to come home!

I started Physical Therapy three times a week for six weeks. I could feel improvement right away. Mom and Dad put me in the house for "domestic chores" until my two weeks were up. I had three incisions and I had to be careful not to get them dirty. I really discovered something, I need to find a husband that likes house work! After two weeks of it full time, it's just not for me! The great part about having physical therapy three days a week was we always met my Dad and my brother, Whitt, at the park for a picnic lunch.

Mom and Cecelia harvested most of the honey this year. I was able to help later. I ran the spinner with my left arm. I carried lots of honey with my left arm to the wagon. It felt so good to be able to get out and smell that honey and steal a finger full of wax cappings when Cecelia wasn't looking!! Ha!! Our harvest was low, but the bees are doing well now, they quit making brood and kicked out the drowns earlier than usual. I have talked to several beekeepers and they are saying the same thing. I have sold over half of my honey, so by Christmas I should be finished!!

I worked on my 4-H Record Books

before my surgery. I should have finished it because using my left hand was difficult. my words just didn't come off right.

That is all behind me now and I am keeping busy with Business Math, English #4, Citizenship and Chemistry. I was also elected President for my 4-H club the Maple Huskies and I am also again the President of our County Youth Council. We made a lot of plans and activities for 4-H week. We have three new members for our club and so it will be another busy year of helping them with their projects.

I was able to spend three and a half days at the Clay County fair in Spencer. I stayed with the Larry and Marlene Borensen and Family thank you for your hospitality!!

On September 15, it was time to get the harnesses on the sheep and goat bucks. We had to get everyone separated and in with the right bucks. We also weaned calves. I have decided to keep three of my heifers back for replacements. They have really done well since we weaned them. I am so glad we weaned them before all this rain came. We had 75% heifers this year and the rest bull calves. My brother, who lives on the Wyoming ranch, said most all of them had about the same for calves out there too!!

Mom and I kept busy canning tomatoes, salsa and relishes. The apple crop is very good this year, so we will be making apple pie filling and running the Apple Press at least one day this year.

My dance teacher, Francie, received her new kidney in July and doing well. We started dance October 7th. I discovered I should have worn my arm sling, because I needed extra physical therapy that week! I will be dancing ballet, lyrical, tap, clogging and a family dance.

In between everything going on, my

#5 brother, Whitt, bought an place. So we have been cleaning and painting like crazy. It's been a big year for Whitt, graduating college, buying a farm and turning 21! he doesn't have a lady in his life so I wanted some bright colors for his rooms, but oh no! He painted EVERYTHING man white!

I was able to take a Hunter's safety class and now I am licensed to hunt. I have a had deer jerky and patties. Our first outing is going to be goose. they say it's really good on the grill or smoked, so we will have to see.

The first week-end in October, I traveled to Clear Lake for a Harvest Festi-

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val. It was a really cold day, but I was still able to talk to many people about bees. I want to thank Pat and Peggy Ennis for letting me use their observation hive.

I am scheduled for some more school visits later this month. Our school kids will not be visiting the farm this year, because of the rain and the cold weather. I will probably go into the schools with the baby animals when it comes around to February.

I hope to see you all at our 97th annual IHPA meeting in Marshalltown Halloween weekend. It snowed last year, so hopefully we will have pleasant weather!!

Shiliah Spaulding
2009 Iowa Honey Queen

THE BEEYARD REPORT

We wound up with 65 barrels or about 60#/colony. That's a few pounds better than last year but not by much. Given the wet cool summer we had, I feel fortunate. It looked pretty grim for quite a while. There was a great variance between the yards. Some made in excess of 100#; others very little. Our yards south of Monroe were the worst.

We always bring a few bees home with the supers. They leave the supers and cluster above the door jam of the roll up door. I was surprised this year that they built some substantial combs up there. They were vertical and about 16"

long and 6" wide. My comment to Alex was, "I didn't think bees with no queen would do that." It never occurred to me that there was a queen up there. I discovered brood in the combs when I started to remove the bees.

I relax a little once extracting is finished. We are still a long way from the finish line but it feels better. October has been a cold month.

Brood rearing has been pretty much over since the end of September. We had planned a second mite treatment for most of the yards but it has been too cold for anything but oxalic. Oxalic is best when used at temps between 32 and 52 degrees. The bees are supposed to be lightly clustered but if they are on feed, they tend to be pretty active. I don't know if this hurts the oxalic treatment or not.

The bees still look good. We have picked up a few but should have around 600 for winter. There is still a little yellow and orange pollen coming in even though we have had hard freezes. I didn't think we were going to use much syrup but we went through 1200 gallons in a hurry. It will probably take 2 or 3 gallons/colony so we aren't done yet. After we wrap, we won't check the bees again until late February or early March.

It will depend on when the weather will allow us to get into the yards.

The annual meeting will be over by the time you read this. I hate it when the meeting is so early. We are still working on winter preparation. I hate to take time off before we are finished. I'm retiring from the board of directors after six years. I've enjoyed it for the most part but it's time to look at some new horizons.

Soon it will be time to start planning winter jobs and take a look at what we are going to plan for next year. We need to take a look at our operating costs.

Anthony, the youngest son, wound up teaching in Garden City, Ks. His job in Colorado Springs was eliminated through budget cuts. This job opened up after school started. I don't know what happened to his predecessor. Adam seems to be getting on well at Mt Mercy. Eric is in grad school in Iowa City. Alex and I are still tending bees.

Let's all kick back and enjoy winter.

Phil Ebert

HOLIDAY NOG

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6 eggs, separated
1/3 c. honey
5 c. milk
3/4 tsp. rum extract
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 c. whipping cream, whipped
Nutmeg

In a large bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Add yolks and honey, mix well.

Stir in milk, rum extract, vanilla and cinnamon. Chill.

Just before serving, fold in whipped cream. Pour into large punch bowl.

Sprinkle lightly with nutmeg.



Beekeeping Classes

Classes are 2 hrs/night except for Spencer, which is a weekend class. The overall length of other classes varies from 4 to 9 weeks depending on location. Fees vary from \$30 to \$60.

ANKENY begins Jan 28. Contact Lois Keister (515-964-6685) at DMACC to register or call Andy Joseph (515-725-1481) for information.

WINTERSET begins in January. The exact date is not set. Contact Pat Randol (515-210-7445) for information and registration.

INDIANOLA begins Jan 12. Class will be located at 202 W 2nd St. Contact Mike Wyatt (515-961-0357) for information and registration.

KNOXVILLE begins Jan 12. Class will be located at the Marion County Extension Office. Contact Craig Greene (641-842-2112) for information and registration.

OSKALOOSA will begin Jan 14. Class will be located at the Mahaska County Extension Office. Contact Craig Greene (641-842-2112) for information and registration.

The Indianola, Knoxville and Oskaloosa classes are supported by a grant from IDALS and USDA Specialty Crps Grant Funds. Scholarships will be offered to ten individuals for training, equipment and bees for one colony. Youth will be favored when awarding the scholarships. Contact Mike Wyatt or Craig Greene to apply for the scholarships.

MARSHALLTOWN begins Feb 3. Contact Jean Brownlie (800-284-4823 Ex-5607) at Iowa Valley to register. Call Phil Ebert (641-527-2639) or Margaret Hala (641-752-2981) for information.

WASHINGTON begins in February. Contact Ron Wehr (319-698-7542) for information and the Kirkwood Washington Campus (800-332-8833) to register.

SPENCER will be sometime in March. Contact Larry or Marlene Boernsen (712-735-4205) for information and registration.



The Revolution of Beekeeping

Glen L. Stanley

Honeybees were brought to the Western hemisphere from Germany and Italy on or about the year 1620. They were kept in all sorts of containers that would protect them from the elements and provide space for the production of honey.

As the pioneers migrated toward the west they moved the bees along since that was the only source of sweetener that was available to them. At the time little thought was given to the advantages of having the bees for pollination. The honey was of prime importance.

Beekeeping remained much the same for approximately 235 years. It was in 1853 that Dr. Langstroth developed the removable frame hive. He had studied colonies of bees in the wild where they constructed their combs SO he had a good idea about the space that was required between the combs within the hive. Hives of different dimension were made and marketed and tried to determine which were suitable for colonies to produce honey for themselves and in hopes they would produce extra honey for the keeper.

As beekeeping progressed a majority of beekeepers settled on the ten frame hive with dimensions 16 1/4" wide, 20" long and 9 9/16" deep. The width provided space between the combs of 1 3/8" which Langstroth found was the choice of the bees. Frame end bars should be made the width to retain that bee space. If narrow frames are used then ten frame spacers should be inserted into the hive.

For decades beekeepers have wrestled with various ideas about keeping their bees in a single brood chamber or two. In some cases they would use three chambers for brood.

From a family tradition and as a fourth generation beekeeper in 1972 at the age of ten years I began working with bees aiding my Father in his production of queen bees. That continued until in 1936 we moved the bees to Story County in Central Iowa and we converted it all to the production of honey. In 1938 my



brother Lloyd joined us in the business.

In the late 1930s and early 40s we managed 1300 colonies. It just happened to be the golden years of beekeeping in Iowa and our colonies produced well over 300 pounds regularly. It wasn't because we were extremely good beekeepers because we were losing to many colonies during the Winter. In fact we were lousy beekeepers but the bees produced well in spite of us. That forced us to buy packaged bees by the hundreds every Spring. Packaged bees at that time were selling at \$3.00 per package. We sold tons of honey for 4 1/2 & 5 cents during those years.

In January of 1942 I joined the military so that ended my beekeeping for four years. Upon my return we, and as I refer to we, meaning my brother and I rebuilt the business from the colonies he had kept during the war and it was beekeeping anew for us.

For a couple of years as we continued to build the business we kept losing to many colonies during the Winter. SO, we decided there must be a better way and we began applying tips we had gotten from other beekeepers, tips that we thought reasonable and just might help.

One thing we knew for sure was that we were going to need to find a way to determine how much honey stores we were leaving the bees for the months of dormancy. Then and now a majority of colo-

nies lost during the Winter is because of starvation.

Naturally our first thought was to weigh every hive just prior to Winter. To place every hive on a platform scale to obtain the weight was out of the question and required heavy lifting. I just knew there had to be a better way. SO, I devised a spring scale (AS SHOWN) with a lever to take all the work out of obtaining the weight. We weren't sure just what weight would be necessary but after a year or two of weighing we were certain. Both sides of each hive is weighed and the total is the actual weight used to determine what is needed.

Here in central Iowa we are located at the 42 degree latitude. We concluded that a double, ten frame brood chamber with the bottom board and inner cover needed to weigh 115 to 120 pounds.

Colonies located further North would need additional weight and those South likely less. Is it possible to have a colony with too much honey in October and November? The answer is YES. A colony weighing 160 pounds is what we termed as "honey logged" and is likely short of brood at the time and would remain that way into Spring leaving no space for brood.

There were other plans of management that were necessary to complete the wintering process and do it successfully. In the late 1940s, while Prof. Floyd

Paddock was State Apiarist he invited a prominent beekeeper named Henry Schafer of Wisconsin to speak at our annual meeting. Mr. Schafer had been successful at wintering colonies in Wisconsin and he told us one of his maneuvers with the hive itself. After honey was provided to make sure the bees had stores aplenty he would move three combs of open cells from the lower chamber and place them in the center of the upper chamber. The combs of honey were placed in the bottom chamber. The bees would cluster in the upper chamber and use the honey from those combs first then that would provide space in the upper combs for the queen to begin laying in the early spring and doing a bit of research on wintering we found brood in the upper chamber in February. That gave the colony an extra good start in the Spring. Another idea came from a beekeeper in Williams, Iowa. He suggested placing Styrofoam on top of the hive. The first we used it we put the Styrofoam directly on the top bars of the upper chamber. It was the beady type of foam and the bees promptly chewed it to pieces. Following years we cut the foam so it fit within the rim of the inner cover and covered the hole in the inner cover with tin or foil. This works well and is a must.

We provided each colony with a middle entrance which was used at Iowa State College during the years of research there. It was simply two pieces of cedar shingle about 1 1/4" wide placed along each side of the lower hive body and two prices of lathe 7 1/2" long along the front which provided an entrance right in the middle between the two hive bodies. This acted as an escape in case the lower entrance became plugged. We tried other kinds of middle entrances but found the one mentioned was the best. Last but not least the hives were wrapped with 15 pound asphalt paper. With two hives or more we found it best to wrap two together. The paper would be cut down the middle to make pieces to go around the pair 18" x 112" that left about 6" for the paper to lap at the ends. The cover piece was cut full width of 36" x 48" which allows 8" lap over the entire top. That was folded down at the corners and lathed all the way around. We found on some wintery days the temperature

in between the two hive inside the paper was 30 degrees warmer than the outside temperature.

Having achieved all this by the year 1951 the next 45 years we no longer needed feeders and didn't buy a pound of sugar or a package of bees throughout all those years. Some of those years we would place deep bodies of foundation, or comb for the bees to fill with honey and that we would use to bring all colonies up to weight in the Fall. Some years we would simply eliminate maybe 10 percent of our colonies and use that honey for bringing the other up to weight. The extra honey in the deep hive body is not a loss but if not needed in colonies in the Fall it can be extracted and that provides new combs to replace old combs in each hive. However in the Spring we found our colonies had wintered well enough that by equalizing the brood we could increase our numbers by 25 percent and by June first they were built up to a strength of harvesting an excellent potential honey crop. Having no desire to increase our numbers we just imply sold nuclei to other beekeepers. Our actual Winter loss was then less than two percent.

Our motive for all this was to make the bees self sufficient and at the same time produce a good crop of honey. It is a great feeling of accomplishment when I hear beekeepers from throughout the entire country talking about how, when and what to feed their bees.

In the 1970s because the price of honey was four times that of sugar, beekeepers began to rob their bees of every drop of honey possible and replace it with sugar syrup for the bees mere survival. That was likely the worst decision that ever hit the beekeeping industry. For years after that the sugar companies said that beekeepers were their best customers and at the same time our sales of honey were in competition with sugar. Beginning with those years beekeepers have begun losing more and more colonies from winter and diseases. Good healthy colonies cannot be built using sugar syrup. O.W. Park during his research at Iowa State College in the 1920s and 30s found the lives of bees raised on sugar syrup were shortened by ten days. Since the lif of the worker bee during the Summer is only 42

days that means that you have about on forth the bees in the colony to collect honey.

Some beekeepers choose to divide their overwintered colonies to the extent that they remain so weakened they do not swarm. A colony that hasn't built up to swarming potential isn't worth keeping, they are going to produce very little. May and June are swarm months so it is necessary to check each colony often during that time to remove swarm cells.

A beekeeper in North Central Iowa for more than forty years that I knew about, had operated his 2200 colonies starting them all with packaged bees every Spring. He would get the first 1100 packaged bees the last week in March and the second 1100 the first of April. He would feed all liquid honey from the day they were installed. They produce d bountiful honey crops as I know firsthand because I inspected them. The last few years he had bees he converted to feeding sugar syrup and he told me, in private, that his bees never mad him a dime after starting feeding them sugar syrup. That in itself tells us something.

We know that honey is our most perfect food because bacteria don't live in it and it provides our bodies with quick energy. So, why should we deprive our bees of what they gather for themselves knowing it is the only complete diet for raising healthy bees.

Beekeeping is due for another major change back to some reasonable methods and sugarless years ahead. Beekeepers move one foot ahead and slide back two by the time winter is over they are back to again feeding sugar and ordering packaged bees. Hobby beekeepers would like their bees to at least pay their way and side liners expect a little profit. Major beekeeping operations struggle because of the feeding and package expense. Changes in practices are overdue.

Glen Stanley
Iowa State Apiarist, Emeritus
Ames, Iowa 50014

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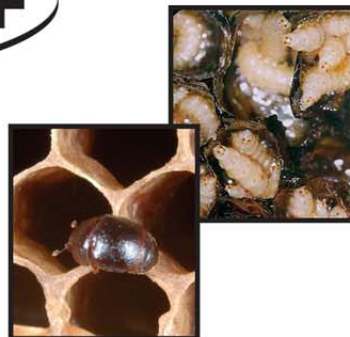


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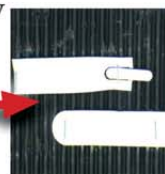
SHB Life Cycle

Eggs → Larvae → Pupae → Adult

Avoiding SHB Infestations

- Keep strong healthy hives by treating for disease and mites when appropriate.
- Feed syrup and pollen substitute to keep your hives strong when natural sources are not available.
- Use CheckMite+™ and GardStar® at the first sign of infestation.

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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Honey Containers Make the Sale!

Queenline Glass Honey Jars

Size of Jar Honey Capacity	Number of Jars Per Carton	Lid* Style (see below)	Order Number	Ship Weight Per Carton lbs.	Price Per Carton 1-99 Cartons
8 ounces	24	(48 mm)	M001952	10	\$13.70
1 pound	12	(58 mm)	M001962	8	\$8.29
1 pound	24	(58 mm)	M001972	14	\$15.95
2 pound	12	(63 mm)	M001982	12	\$11.85
4 pound	6	(G70)	M001992	10	\$11.20

Lid Style White plastic (glass not shipped by UPS)

*We reserve the right to substitute lids should the style you requested not be available.

**Check out our catalog for
other types and sizes of
quality honey
containers!**

* 8 oz. and
2 lb. bears
are also available.



M00255



M00255CPN

Honey Bears

M00255 12 oz. Regular Bears
with Cap and Collar (38mm) Cartons of 12
Case of 12 Ship Wt. 3 lbs. \$6.69

M00255CPN 12 oz. Clear Bears
with Cap and Collar (38mm) Cartons of 12
Case of 12 Ship Wt. 3 lbs. \$7.15

M00256 Bulk Pack - 250 per case
1-4 Cases 250 per case. . \$86.95 per case
5 & Up Cases. \$84.45 per case
Ship wt. 30 lbs. per case

M00256CPN 12 oz. Clear Panel Bears
with Cap and Collar (38mm)
1-4 Cases \$99.95 per case
5 & Up Cases. \$95.95 per case
Ship wt. 30 lbs. per case



3 lb. and 5 lb. Plastic Honey Jugs

Great Containers for Packing Yard Rent Honey

With 38mm Yellow Ratchet
Style Lids

3 lb. Jugs

150 Jugs per Case

M00280 Ship Wt. 70 lbs. per Case
1-5 Cases \$79.30 per Case
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5 lb. Jugs

120 Jugs per Case

M00281 Ship Wt. 70 lbs. per Case
1-5 Cases \$79.30 per Case
6 & Up Cases ... \$76.20 per Case



Glass 3 lb. Round Jars

Carton of 12 with white plastic lids

M001932

1-99 \$13.50 per Carton

(All Ship Wts. 12 lbs. per carton.)



1 lb.
M01158

Closeup of Pattern



Inverted Plastic Jar With Hexagon Pattern

Inverted Plastic Honey Jar
With Hexagon Pattern
with 38mm Snap Caps

Jar Size	No. of Jars Per Ctn.	Item Number	Ship Wt. Per Ctn. lbs.	Price Per Ctn. 1-99 Cartons
1 pound	24	M01158	3	\$16.99

1 lb. and 2 1/2 lb. Attractive Plastic Containers

With Honey
Bee Emblem



Carton of 24 -1 lb.
Container with plastic lids (43 mm)

M002042

1-99 \$10.94 per Carton

Carton of 6 -2 1/2 lb.
Containers with plastic lids (58 mm)

M002052

1-99 \$5.32 per Carton

(Ship Wts. 3 lbs. per carton.)



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All prices are subject to change.

The Buzz Newsletter

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ISSUE 11 – November 2009



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Cumberland, IA 50843
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Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club

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Oskaloosa, IA 52577
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weic@kdsi.net

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30930 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA 50134
Home phone 515/597-3060
Cell phone 515/450-9494
ajfoell@huxcomm.net

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

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

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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