



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



March 2016



Package Bee Ads Pg2

Greetings from your Vice President Pg6

Support for Blue Dasher Farm Pg8

Mark your calendars for some upcoming IHPA meetings/events in 2016:

IHPA Board Meeting, DMACC in Ankeny, March 6th, 2016

Advanced Beekeeping Classes April / May if enough interest

Annual Field Day, Summer 2016, IHPA Board Meeting following Field Day Activities June 11th, 2016

Bids due for Iowa State Fair, June 30, 2016

Iowa State Fair, August 11-21, 2016

IHPA Board Meeting, September 25th, 2016

IHPA Annual Meeting, November 11-12, 2016

Package Bees for Sale

3lb. packages with an unmarked Italian queen loads scheduled March 22nd, March 31st, April 13th, May 11th.

Call (319-321-2494), website (www.kalonahoney.com) or by email (kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com).

1-9= \$115/ea; 10-99= \$110/ea; 100+= \$105/ea (no cage deposits or refunds)

Extra mated queens= 1-9= \$30/ea; 10-99= \$27/ea; 100+= \$25/ea

Tim Wilbanks
West Chester, IA 5/16

Wanted: Bee suit for an 8-10 year old child. According to Dadant the sizing would be the age of the child.

Contact:
Duane Dufoe
Grinnell IA
641-236-3780

FOR SALE: 3 # packages W/Italian or Carniolan queens
Price not yet confirmed, will be set in January
Pick-up in mid-April in Goodell, IA
For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

FOR SALE: 5 frame Nuc and Singles W/Italian or Carniolan queens.
Price not confirmed, will be set in January

Nucs and Singles will be ready for pick-up around mid May from Goodell, Iowa
For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

FOR SALE: I will have Queens's available mid April, Carniolan or Italian
Price not confirmed, will be set in January
Pick-up in Goodell.
For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

FOR SALE: Reasonably priced new and used beekeeping equipment & supplies.

Also offering bulk honey, beeswax, and bottling supplies.

P & P Honey & Bee Supply, Goodell IA
For more information, please call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

For Sale: Package Bees 2#, 3#, and 4# package bees for sale. April delivery with pickup in Lynnvile, Iowa. Choice of Carniolan or Italian queen. Prices are listed on our website www.eberthoney.com

Contact: Ebert Honey
Phil Ebert
14808 S 102nd Ave E
Lynnvile, Iowa 50153
ehoney@eberthoney.com
641-527-2639

Alex Ebert @ 641-821-9648

Foley's Russian Bees

For Sale: 2 & 3 pound Carniolan package bees with a mated Carniolan queen. We will begin taking pre-orders beginning in early January. Packages will be available to pick up at our Des Moines location the 4th weekend of April (the 23rd/24th) 3lb Packages start at \$112 and 2lb start at just \$94 each with discounts on larger orders.

For Sale: Russian mated queens. Help reduce your mite issues by re-queening your colonies with Russian bees. We are accepting pre-orders on our June, July, and August blocks of queens. Queens are \$30 each and come marked.

For Sale: Locally made Pine hive kits, just \$228 each. Kits are on pre-order basis and will be available for pick-up or delivery by April 1st. You can also request to have them held in the event you ordered bees from us, so you can get them at the same time. Kits include 2 deeps, 2 mediums, all the frames needed, inner cover, top cover, bottom, reducer, and division board feeder.

Visit us online to order, <http://www.russianbee.com/> 3/16

FOR SALE: Sugar for feeding bees—32 cents/lb in your containers. Contact Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or ehoney37@netins.net

FOR SALE: We will have a limited number of nucs for sale in mid-May. Contact Phi Ebert 641-527-2639 or Alex Ebert 641-821-9648 in Lynnvile or Adam Ebert 319-430-3514 in Mt Vernon.

For Sale: A Mannlake 18 frame radial extractor with base + uncapping tank in new condition. 319-385-1553

Tom Phelps
1723 Hilltop Rd.
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641-8215

Nucs for sale: \$140.00

5 frame 9 5/8 nuc includes in disposable box. 1 marked queen (Carniolan/Russian cross)
 5 frames 9 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life) Our bees are bred for Honey production and Iowa winter hardiness.
 Nucs will out produce 4 or 5 lb. package bees.

For Sale - 6 5/8 9 frame hive body box with bees : \$167.00
 9 frame 6 5/8 box includes 1 marked queen (Carniolan/Russian cross)
 (no lid or no bottom board) in a 10 frame Hive.
 9 frames 6 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life)
 I specifically select bees for mite resistance (not yet mite proof) Our breeder queens are VSH (varroa sensitive hygienic) and daughters are tested for the best hygienic and also for Iowa winter hardiness and for honey production.
 You may add a lid, inner lid, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for \$47.50.

For Sale - 9 5/8 9 frame wooden box with 1 marked queen & bees : \$175.00

9 frame 9 5/8 box includes (no lid or no bottom board) In a 10 frame hive.
 9 frames 9 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life)
 I specifically select bees for mite resistance (not yet mite proof) Our breeder queens are VSH (Varroa sensitive hygienic) and daughters are tested for the best hygienic and also for Iowa winter hardiness and for honey production.
 You may add a lid, inner lid, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for \$47.50.

New Complete assembled painted Hive Kit \$290.00

Includes 2 - 9 5/8 hive bodies
 20 - 9 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell
 2 - 6 5/8 supers
 20 - 6 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell
 Telescoping cover with inner lid
 Bottom board with reducer (NO BEES) AND How to get started FREE.
 (You will want to get this so you are ready when your bees arrive.)

Bees will be available May 14th 2016 (depending on weather)

Deposit of \$75.00 when you place order.

(Place order early before we're sold out)

Curtis Barnhart

PO Box 70

Monticello IA 52310

[email: bee.cbarnhart@gmail.com](mailto:bee.cbarnhart@gmail.com)

~

For Sale: 5 frame 6 5/8 nucs with carniolan queen. \$125.00.

10 frame: \$170.00.

Call Jeremy Van Donselaar, Cedar, IA 641-670-7468.

**For Sale: Package Bees**

Nucs: Available April 25th through early June, 2016
Package Bees Available April 15th through early June
We do not ship package bees. We will ship Queens!

Prices:**Carniolan or Italian Queens****3 pound package with queen**

1-9 \$113.00 10-99 \$108.00 100+ \$105.00

2 pound package with queen

1-9 \$96.00 10-99 \$88.00 100+ \$85.00

There will be a \$7.00 Deposit on cages.

We have a supply of Italian & Carniolan Queens \$32.00 each

5 frame Nucs

1-9 \$135.00 10-99 \$130.00 100+ \$125.00

We will supply 1 gallon corn syrup and 1 # protein patty for an extra \$7.00 with purchase of a package or nuc.

Corn Syrup

40# bucket \$18.00 50# bucket \$23.00

.40 per pound your container

500#s or more syrup .35 per pound

Protein Patties

\$2.00 each Case of 40....\$70.00

50# Bucket Honey \$127.00 (\$2.40 per pound + \$7.00 bucket)

Honey Styx for sale

I sent 2 barrels of honey to Oregon to have put into styx. Good flavored light honey.

\$0.09 each in boxes of 2000 - \$180.00

0.12 each 500 - 1999

0.15 each 1 - 499

We will update website on any changes!

find us on Facebook

Connie 515-480-6076

Curt 515-480-6075

Mark Your Calendar for the CIB Annual Beekeeping Auction!

The Central Iowa Beekeeper's Annual Auction
is being held on April 23rd 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

The auction located is on Hwy 141 on the north side of the
road –
just 1 block west of the hospital in Perry, Iowa.

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg have graciously offered the
Central Iowa Beekeepers the use of their "in town honey
house" again this year.

There will be a restroom available, as well as hot coffee, hot
chocolate, bars, and rolls.

WE ARE IN NEED OF CONSIGNERS AND BUYERS!!

Now is the perfect time to clean, sort, repair, paint and sell
your extra beekeeping equipment.

Or to keep an eye on the consignment list to purchase good
beekeeping equipment!

Please e-mail me your list of items you would like to consign.

All consigned items received by February 10 and March 10
will be advertised in the March and April Buzz Newsletter.

To have an updated listing of the items being consigned,
please e-mail me after April 1st and I will have one sent to
you.

Consignment fee for members of the Central Iowa Beekeep-
ers is 10%

Consignment fee for non members of the Central Iowa Bee-
keepers is 15%

All drawn comb will be inspected by our State Bee Inspectors
or State Apiarist.

*For your convince, there will be signs
posted on Highway 141.*

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

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!!

Central Iowa Beekeepers Auction April 23,2016 Starting at 10:00 am

Consignment listing to date: 2-18-2016

6 steel queen excluders, ready to be added to your wooden
frame

1 steel queen excluder, wood framed

1 fume board

1 outer cover

1 inner cover

1 smoker

1 knife

8 x 4 3/4" supers with metal strips on bottom edge

1 x 5 1/2" super

1 x 6 3/4" super

1 x 9 1/2" deep with metal rabbets

2 bottom boards

30 gallon stainless steel holding tank

1 new pine hive kit - 2 deeps, 2 mediums, cover, inner cover,
bottom, reducer, all the frames, division board feeder, painted
and ready for bees.

Used entrance feeders - 30 to 50

Various bee related signs etched into cedar and pine
A variety of other misc bee keeping equipment-used

IHPA DISTRICT 4 NEWS

Should be around the first of March when you are reading this.
Hopefully on the days that were warm enough, you checked
your hives and added food if needed. I have heard of some
deadouts. They were hives that were either weak going into
winter, or hives that were not checked or treated for mites. No
one wants to "treat" for mites or put anything foreign into
their hives. But the sad truth is, we cannot ignore the "Varroa
Destructor". If you are losing hives in the late fall/winter, usu-
ally mites are a big factor.

Beginning Beekeeping classes are still going on. All the class
sites I have checked on have had amazing numbers of stu-
dents. It is encouraging to see this amount of interest in Bee-
keeping. Our challenge is to get them READY to become Bee-
keepers. Take a newbie under your wing, if there is a scholar-
ship winner in your area, be a mentor. Hopefully we will see
dandelions' blooming before the month is over. Bee encour-
aged.

Doyle



President's Message

March, 2016

Fellow Iowa beekeepers

A Saturday night 8 pm and I'm watching TV and my wife is in her barn quilting. I have finished my beginning classes I teach with mixed feelings. I enjoy teaching and will miss seeing the people and answering their questions. On the other hand I need to get my plans going for 2016 beekeeping season.

When I expected being your president, I felt that getting around to all the clubs in Iowa is something the president should do and I want to do that. These clubs, I feel, are the grass roots to teaching and making sure our new bees understand some beginning steps to success with bees. However, I have run into a snag. I have an employer that says he will not work with me to make it to them during the week. Don't let anyone tell you owning your own semi is easy; it sometimes makes you lose a little religion. Praise God for Sunday! I feel I need one every 3 days instead after 6. I will keep trying and get to all I can. I have to ask if you can have a meeting on Saturday that day works the best for me. I understand if this does not work for your club. We will make the best of it.

My projector, it's like this, it would make a little girl in her doll house a GREAT projector to show images or pictures for her friends in the dark! It will show pictures off of a San disk card. If the lights are on, it's not powerful enough to see what's showing. Maybe I will auction it at annual meeting!

We have had our first board meeting and wow what a meeting it was. There was a lot discussed. We touched base on a lot of stuff and got through it and I'm hoping I can get us through meetings in much shorter time than this meeting was in the future. I feel very good about the future with the current board and officers. We all seem to really want great things for this association. I feel 2016 is going to be a very exciting year for the IHPA. Too the membership that elected the board of directors my hat is off to you as it's a real pleasure to work with a board like this one!

I want to say thank you to Julia McGuire, Alex Ebert, and Ivan Rickers for attending. Julia for helping with some issues with legislation. Alex giving us an editors report. Ivan for coming to us with an issue that you will be hearing about more of soon.

Being it's March now, I hope we all have alive bees and are feeding and using pollen patties if needed. I can't wait to see what I have alive to make my 2016 the best yet! I may sell a few hives as I may be forced to cut back if my work doesn't settle down. I hope I can figure a way through, but my lottery ticket has not been a winner.

More next month, take care of yourself, take care of your

spouse, and take care of the bees.

Roy Kraft

IHPA president



Advanced Beekeeping Class

Through many requests, the IHPA is again offering Advanced Beekeeping Class's in two locations. Requirements are having a minimum of least two years' beekeeping experience. These classes will be 'hands on'. Please bring your bee suit and veil.

The two classes are both offered on "*Splitting Hives and Diseases*".

The **first** class will be April 30th, at Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry.

The **second** class will be May 7th, at the Mahaska county extension Office in Oskaloosa.

The time is 9:00- 4:30 for each class. For noon break, we will have a pot-luck. Registration will be limited to 25 people. Pre-registration is required.

No walk in's please. The cost is \$75 per class.

To register please contact:

Rhonda Heston

515-724-2124

52735 187th Ave

Chariton, IA 50049

r.heston@yahoo.com

Profits from both classes will go towards helping support the IHPA Youth Mentor Programs throughout the state and with education.

BEE HAPPY!!

Pat Ennis

Save the Dates

IHPA Summer Field Days

June 11, 2016

Goodell, Iowa

104th IHPA Annual Meeting

November 11-12, 2016

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Greetings from your Vice President:

Assuming the role of VP of the IHPA was not an easy decision for me! In fact, I declined the nomination several times prior to coming to my senses and accepting the nomination. My reasons for saying yes...great networking opportunities, great people to work with, great chance to get on the inside of the organization, great opportunity to help, or 'they' just wore me down! But, since I said, 'Yes,' I have had a peace about the decision and all has been going great. Thank you to those who voted for me at the annual meeting and to President Roy Kraft and Past-president Pat Ennis for all your help and just know I will be seeking more! This is not a lame duck position but is a lot of work. I have a great sense of admiration for all those who came before and have done it. Great job!

Plans have been made for our **IHPA Summer Field Day**. The date is set for **Saturday, June 11, 2016** at **Goodell, Iowa** (just south of Clear Lake on the map). We will start with an 8:30 registration and 9:00 meeting at the Goodell Community Center in the morning and spend field time at Pat and Peggy Ennis' Apiary. All but the dessert for lunch will be PROVIDED. Please bring a DESSERT to share!

Gregg McMahan, the Bee Guru, from Colorado will be our guest speaker. Check him out online and youtube.com or his webpage, <http://www.rockymountainbee.com>. He has a pretty complete bio at <http://bee-people.com/gregg-mcmahan> also. He specializes in bee removal, rescue, and educating others about his passion - bees! Gregg also 'stars' in a movie/documentary entitled, *Bee People: Get Stung*. More to come about this event and our speaker to come in future newsletters but be sure to mark your calendar now.

Another event you'll want to mark on your calendar is the **IHPA 104th Annual Meeting on November 11-12, 2016**. Deciding a venue for this meeting is not an easy decision but I have decided to return to the Clarion Inn in Cedar Rapids. We will be making some logistical changes for our convenience in the hotel itself. The vendors will be much closer to the meeting area as well as the cooking, photo, hive box, and mead contest areas. The people at the Clarion have done an awesome job with brainstorming how to make this annual meeting even better than it was and how to more efficiently accommodate us.

We are hoping to locate a venue closer to the center of the state for 2017 but have many logistical factors to consider. Please feel free to email, text, or call me if you know of a place that would accommodate all of us and be available for our weekend. This is about the toughest decision to make with so many items to consider but we are willing to check out other hotel/convention centers that would work within our budget.

6 James Tew and Jennifer Berry are scheduled to be our

keynote speakers for this 2016 annual meeting. Both these speakers are well-known for their expertise in the bee world and will provide us with exceptional learning opportunities. We will be making some changes in our various contest areas so keep checking for updates in the future newsletters



for the details. As always we will have a silent auction, a queen's auction and luncheon, mead tasting, and an evening banquet. We are also adding a Saturday noon pizza/salad buffet at the hotel where you will have a chance to meet your IHPA officers and board members. We hope you will plan to join us for this meal and have an opportunity to share your ideas and/or concerns. Keep reading your newsletter for more details to come.

After all that, a little bit about myself. I am a retired school teacher and my husband, Tim, is an organic farmer and contractor. Together we are beekeepers. We love our bees, are truly very busy hobbyists, and are even dabbling in queen rearing. We love spending time with our three grown children and their families. Our five grandchildren love visiting their Grandbee and Papa and even love helping with the bees - but not the bee stings! Selling honey and talking with any organization or group that will have me has filled my retirement days to the max. My favorite educational presentation was done at my granddaughter's 1st grade classroom where she, dressed as a honey bee, helped me share many fascinating facts to her fellow classmates. We read a story, sang a song, danced (yep, we wagged to our food source, a snack), drew bees and a skep, and tried on protective gear! I was surprised, as was her teacher, about all she knew about the honey bee just by being around us and them. Sharing our passion with family, friends, and even strangers has been so much fun. Accepting the position of vice president of the Iowa Honey Producers Association gives me more opportunities to pass this love onto others.

Finally, from St. Francis de Sales, "The bees collect honey from flowers in such a way as to do the least damage or destruction to them, and he leaves them whole, undamaged and fresh, just as he found them." Love the quote and believe we should

strive to do the same but, I think, we should give the girls credit, not the boys! If you're confused, read the quote again and check out the gender! Maybe during St Francis de Sales time they didn't know the workers were all female!

Until next time,
Bee grateful and Bee blessed,
Mary Wiltgen

State Fair Honey Entries

Submitted by Matt Stewart

I was honored when Roy Kraft called and asked if I could pass along information about State Fair entries in the Apiary division, in liquid honey Class 4 through 7.

Just a little history first we started keeping bees in 1990 and our first entry was in 1992. Of what I've entered we ended up with 2 blue ribbons, observation hive and cut comb honey. I don't remember how the other entries did but it was a time when there were at least fourteen entries in a lot of classes.

Some of us still remember Lynette Kellog, Tim Laughlin and Ann Garber who would be on top of the ribbon entries.

Information from the Iowa State Fair for registration of classes: Jack's Scale will be used for color placement in Classes 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Class 4 - Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline Jars White Extracted Honey

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.

Class 5 - Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline Light Amber Extracted Honey

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.

Class 6 - Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline Jars Amber Extracted Honey

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15; color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.

Class 7 - Six 1 lb. Glass Queenline Jars Dark Amber Extracted Honey

Score Card - Container: free of defects, 5; flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or other off flavors, 15;

color of honey, 15; moisture content, 20; uniform volume of honey in all containers, 10; clarity of honey, 15; freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation, 20. TOTAL 100.



All use the same 1 pound Queenline jar (although Andy will change the wording to allow classic jar) they are similar but a judge burned me on containers because I entered classic jars. All jars have a mold number printed on the bottom. If you have time you can sort and find the best number bold to use but remember it's only 5 points. Look close if you see cardboard dust inside you need to rinse or blow with compressed air to remove.

You could use a lot of points on the next subject as it is flavor... free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants or off flavors. Here you need to run the best that you have usually I have 2 to 3 to choose from in each category. No special hints. Good for 15 points.

Color of honey is about the same if you have extracted at different times early enough you can get a darker or light amber if you do it right and watch what is coming into the supers. 15 points.

Moisture content except for the use of a refractometer is a guessing game although at 75° if you invert the filled jar, you count how long the bubble takes to rise, 3 seconds puts you close to 15 plus points out of 20 by guessing.

Uniformity of fill in all containers is 10 points and if you look at your jars close, just below the thread for the lid is a ring that goes around the mouth. Fill right to the center of it on all containers. This is important to get all at this level for the 10 points.

Freedom from impurities including foam and granulation. 20 points.

Extract your honey warm off put it through a bucket nylon strainer into a bottling bucket with valve at lower. Let settle for 2 to 3 days. The foam will float and the heavy particulate will sink below the bottling valve. After you have bottled your entry, if it looks cloudy then you need to put it in an environment that is at least 110° till you see the cloudiness has subsided. Sometimes you will leave foam on top so you could remove it with a Q-tip. I have never had this happen, but others have had this happen.

Color of honey really is a problem if you are entering the amber and dark amber. This was brought up by Phil Meyer when he was the Apiary Superintendent. He looked up in the IHPA by-laws (I believe that's where we saw it), but the previous year's honey may be used for those classes because

there is hardly any dark honey coming into the hives till after the State Fair is over with. I'm sure it still applies. This means special handling to make a good entry.

There is 100 total points and if you are tied up with another entrant the judge will go back and nit-pick to break a tied entry, it's really sad when you get a 98 total and the blue ribbon gets 99 total. I've had it happen.

Good Luck!
Matt Stewart
319-662-4145

Support for Blue Dasher Farm

Dear Beekeepers & Friends of Bees & Beekeepers,

As all of you know, the last several years have been challenging for the bees and beekeepers. Pest, pesticides, pathogens and poor forage have taken their toll on the health of honey bees and the beekeeping industry. It has pushed normal annual beekeeper losses from 10 - 12% a few short years ago, to a current loss near 50 %. As a result, the bees have been in the news a lot the last few years and this has resulted in more researchers across the country taking a look at what is happening to the bees.

Dr. Jonathan Lundgren is one of the scientists looking into the challenges faced by the bees. Receiving the USDA's Herbert L. Rothbart Outstanding Early Career Research Scientist Award in 2011, this man is one of the nation's top scientists. He is committed to improving our agricultural systems and the food supply by using insects to better our farming systems. Dr. Lundgren's research shows that neonicotinoids are harming bees, monarch butterflies, and other wildlife; without providing any economic benefit to soybean farmers. Additional research has shown that RNAi, a new form of genetic pesticide, could potentially harm bees in unpredicted ways. And perhaps worst of all, Dr. Lundgren found that intensification of monoculture is at the root of the problem with our bees.

Based on his research and findings, Dr. Lundgren sounded the alarm that challenged the status quo. He published the discovery of his work without concern for the vested economic or political interest. If Dr. Lundgren had not discussed and published his findings, he would have had a much longer and more comfortable career within the USDA, all he had to do was stay quiet and put in his time. Instead, he told the truth about the obstacles beekeepers and farmers are facing. The truth that high input chemical farming systems are harming the bees and other beneficial insects, as well as harming the soil, and they weren't always helping farmers in the way they were being portrayed. For taking this stand and exposing the truth, the USDA has put up countless roadblocks in an attempt

to diminish Dr. Lundgren's research, crush his spirit, and has made the lives of his family and his laboratory group living hell (see links below).

Unfortunately, Dr. Lundgren is not alone, other scientists whose research challenges the vested interest or political dynamic are routinely stifled at universities and stifled in federal-funded research. (Some of our National Land Grant schools have presidents that sit on the Board of Directors of major chemical companies). Only a few other scientist and researchers have had the courage and integrity to risk career and economic wellbeing to stand up for what is right. By taking this stand, Dr. Lundgren has risked everything to make the world better for bees, farmers, and the next generation. We desperately need more scientists with this kind of integrity, and courage. We cannot let Dr. Lundgren fail at this point. If he fails, it will send a message to other scientists that if they tell us the truth, then they are flushing their education and careers down the drain.

Dr. Lundgren has decided to work harder than ever to help the beekeepers, farmers, and ranchers instead of giving up. He is starting an independent research, education, and demonstration initiative to help train the next generation of scientists and farmers in how to produce crops using ecological principles. Rather than taking a piecemeal approach to solving the bee problem, Dr. Lundgren is working to solve the root of the bee problem "we need to transform agriculture to make an environment where bees and farmers can thrive"

This research laboratory and demonstration farm will be Blue Dasher Farm, and he is fundraising to get the facility up and off the ground www.indiegogo.com/projects/blue-dasher-farm (check out the additional videos in the "gallery" tab too on that website)

This is an exciting opportunity for you to be a part of the solution! Join Dr. Lundgren, take a stand and donate today! Any amount is helpful, but your donation, support and participation allows Dr. Lundgren to add your name to the list of donors and supporters so that he can use this as leverage to do additional fund raising. Also, spread the word through newsletters, bee clubs, gardening groups, conservation societies, churches, schools... your friends and family on FaceBook. Get the word out anyway you can! The only way Blue Dasher Farm is going to be able to help us, is if we give him the chance by using our sphere of influence.

Time is of the essence here. It cannot wait, his fundraising campaign is taking place now and will be done in the next few weeks. Let's make it a success and send a message: We can have a better system, one where bees stay alive, farmer's expenses go down, their profits go up, and our environment and food is healthier.

Thank you,
The Executive Board,
American Honey Producers Association

Below is more about Dr. Lundgren's story.

www.indiegogo.com/projects/blue-dasher-farm

www.bluedasher.farm

<http://www.honeycolony.com/article/heal-the-soil-to-solve-the-bee-problem/>

<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/12/23/usda-scientist-in-whistleblower-case-starts-research-initiative>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/federal-eye/wp/2015/12/23/judge-green-lights-whistleblower-claim-against-usda-by-pesticide-researcher/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/26/president-obama-honors-outstanding-early-career-scientists>

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/pandp/people/people.htm?personid=37024>

For those who use USPS

Dr, Lundgren
Blue Dasher Farms
2016 State St.
Brookings, SD 57006

Iowa Commercial Horticulture Survey for Food Crops

Have you received the Iowa Commercial Horticulture Survey for Food Crops? If you have, the Association urges you to complete it and return it to the Iowa Department of Agriculture!

If you haven't received a survey and want to request one – or if you want to learn more about it, go to:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/agDiversification.asp> and click on the "Iowa Commercial Horticulture Food Crop Survey."

The survey hopes to capture the 2015 commercial production data of the state's fruit and vegetable crops as well as that of nuts, honey, maple syrup, and herbs. Data collected will also include information on acres under production, high tunnel and greenhouse usage, information on processed and value-added products, and marketing outlets. It's been 15 years since a similar survey was created and sent to producers. Commercial horticulture production in Iowa has been a rapidly growing and diverse sector of Iowa's agricultural economy, and it is vital that we capture reliable and current statis-

tics. The data gathered will provide insights and guidance to producers, researchers, policy makers, agricultural-related businesses, and the public at large.



Iowa State Fair Window Display



2015 window display entry created by Pat and Peggy Ennis.

We are trying to encourage more entries for the Iowa State Fair and I was nominated to coach you through the process of putting together a window display case. It has been several years since I have put together a window display but looking forward to putting one together this year.

There are only four display cases available and we don't normally have entrants to fill all of them but would love to see that happen this year. I am including only parts of the premium book that apply for window display from last year so you will need to go online and download next year's premium book when it is updated. I am including this because the judging criteria and rules won't change but the dates will. On Entry Eligibility, below, #7, only one sticker needs to be placed on the tag for window display not on each item in the display.

1. **SUBMITTING ENTRIES.** Entries may be made online at www.iowastatefaireentry.org. Entries may also be made on the

form available online at www.iowastatefair.org. Complete entry form and return it with **full payment** of all fees to: Iowa State Fair, Iowa Family Living Department, P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, Iowa 50317-0003.

2. **ENTRY DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1.** Entries must be submitted online or postmarked on or before August 1. Entry tags and admission tickets (if ordered) will be mailed to the entrant **ONLY** if the entry form is submitted online or postmarked by July 14. All entries submitted online or postmarked after July 14 require the exhibitor to pick up entry tags and admission tickets (if ordered) at the Entry Department on the Iowa State Fairgrounds **on or after August 7 until August 10 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.**
3. **ENTRY FEE.** Each exhibitor, as a requirement for entry, shall pay a fee of \$1 per entry. This fee applies in all classes except Limited Class 21 which is \$4.

ENTRY ELIGIBILITY

4. Exhibitors are limited to one entry in each class.
5. All honey and beeswax exhibits must be the product of the exhibitor's apiary and must be prepared by the exhibitor unless otherwise specified.
6. Entries are to be submitted by an individual, not by a business, club or organization.
7. A sticker with exhibitor's number must be attached to each container or exhibit (on lid when possible).
8. In all classes, adult and youth, items submitted must not have any reference to the exhibitor. This includes exhibitor's name, company name and/or logo. Any items so identified will be disqualified and will be on display only after judging is completed and if space is available. All containers must be unlabeled. Beekeeper's label may be applied only after judging.

DELIVERY OF ENTRIES

13. **Exhibits must be in place by noon on Wednesday, August 12** and remain in place until 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 23. Exhibits may be brought in between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 9; between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11 and after 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 12. You will need a Pre-Fair Pass to bring your vehicle onto the Fairgrounds on Tuesday and Wednesday.

21 Limited Class - Entry Fee \$4; Premiums - \$40, 30, 25, 20

Window Display (four feet wide by four feet high by two feet deep) depicting most attractive way to promote honey, wax and beekeeping. Materials used in this display may not be used in any other class. Two shelving tracts (**total of three shelves**) and fluorescent lighting provided on inside of window display box with a locked, glass front. Entry must be prepared and placed by the exhibitor. The exhibitor must do the majority of the work on the window but may have some help with the display. Each window must contain a minimum of 21 items. Honey and beeswax must be from the exhibitor's apiary but may have up to three (3) honey or beeswax items from another source. Each must be identified with the name of the Apiary or source it is from. Failure to do so will disqualify the entry. **Limited to first four entries.** Contact Superintendent for more details.

Remember these dates are last year's dates!

The theme of the window display is entirely up to the entrant and can be about general beekeeping topics or focused on a specific aspect of beekeeping. Pollination, Honey Production, Beekeeping past and present, information for the new beekeeper, pesticide and bees, What can I do to help the honeybees are some examples. Educating the public about your topic is critical to get your point across to the viewer. Remember to make any printed material large and bold so it can be quickly and easily read. It is good to add eye catching visual items to establish interest in your display. Keep in mind the lighting; you don't want a cluttered top shelf that would block the light. Your reading material can be attached to the back and sides of the case or small easels could be used to display reading material. There are two shelves and can be adjusted to different heights. The cases have locks so your valuables will be safe! Hope this is helpful, don't be intimidated, Just have Fun!

Connie Bronnenberg

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Legislative update:

I joined the Iowa Farmers Union two years ago, and participated in its Farm and Food Lobby Day on Feb. 10, 2016. The Iowa Farmers Union is a grassroots member organization that works to promote and strengthen the independent family farm. It's been the state chapter of the National Farmers Union since 1915 and represents an extremely diverse group of farming operations. I also committed to volunteering for the IHPA as the legislative liaison in 2016. The organization chose five bills in four areas to focus on. The bills as of Feb. 10, 2016 are:

1. HF 427 Local Foods. There is no Senate version of this bill. HF 427 would level the playing field among small, medium, and large operations, decrease the state's dependence on imported food (90% of our food comes from out of state).
2. SSB 3125 Pesticide Drift testing. There is no House version of this bill. Currently, IDALS Pesticide Bureau conducts drift investigations; analyzing field samples takes 6 - 8 months, which can devastate food crop producers. The State Hygienic Lab performs similar lab testing for the Depts. of Ag in the states of Missouri and Nebraska in 2 - 3 weeks. SSB 3125 would have IDALS partner with the Hygienic Lab, reduce redundancy and increase efficiency.
3. SSB 1190 and HF 289 Pesticide Drift fines. This is a holdover from last legislative session. This bill would increase an applicator's responsibility from \$100,000 \$300,000 per incident and up to \$600,000 annually. Conventional horticulture crops have an average fair market value in the field of \$25,000 per acre, and significantly more where there is a favorable market or an organic designation. Sensitive crop losses increase from lost organic certification and income.
4. SSB 1266 and HF 483 CAFO's. This bill closes a current loophole by ended 'pollution control device' property tax exemption for large CAFO manure storage facilities. Water quality. The IFU supports many stewardship initiatives, but because there is no bill in either chamber yet much discussion, the hired lobbyist's belief is that water will be a topic for next session. ,

IFU prepared materials for all participating members, some of which I will share with you later. Why later? Because the two funnel weeks will have past by the time you read this. It will be more effective for you to call and write letters in the off-season, and speak in person to any district candidates before their election or re-election in Nov.. The first three bills I listed above (Local Foods and Drift) were the main focus of Lobby Day. Our legislators are overall very accessible folks and I found my fellow IFU members to be kindred spirits with many of the same goals and perspectives as IHPA members. I will share more as Lobby Day information gets analyzed for March's Buzz

Julia McGuire

Membership Dues

Our membership year is January through December. If your Buzz has an expiration date of 12/31/2015, this could be your last Buzz Newsletter.



Membership dues are \$20 for the first beekeeper in the house and \$5 for each additional beekeeper. One Buzz Newsletter will be mailed per address. A membership with multiple members is considered beekeepers living at the same address.

All payments received as 2/15/2016 have been posted and reflected in this mailing. If you believe your dues have been paid, please contact Rhonda Heston at R.Heston@yahoo.com or leave a message at 515-724-2124.

New Bee's (Beginning Beekeeping Students)

Is this is your first time to take a Beginning Beekeeping class? If so, you are entitle to a one year free membership to the Iowa Honey Producers' Association. Please contact your instructor for the form. These forms could have been provided to you during class. You can also down load the form from www.abuzzaboutbees.com and include where/who you took the class and then mail the form to Rhonda Heston at the address on the form.

.10 Mistakes New Beekeepers Make (Continued)

6: NUCS: This is not really a mistake, but I recommend that you make up nucs for later use. Dr. Larry Connor recommend making up a nuc even if you start with one package. Nucs are small, but complete hives. In my humble opinion, I would rather buy a nuc than a package. With a nuc you can evaluate the queen and see her brood pattern. These nucs can be used in case of queen failure or to start another colony.

You can make a nuc several ways. One way is to take a frame of mostly eggs, a frame of capped brood, a frame of honey and a frame of pollen with 1-1 sugar water to feed the nuc. These bees are left to bees to produce their own queen. Another way to make a nuc is to use swarm cells using about the same configuration except use two frames of brood, no eggs. Also you can use this same configuration and add a mated queen to make up a nuc.

7. VARROA MITES: New beekeepers tend to minimize the threat of Varroa Destructor mites. If left to them, they will kill the colony within one winter. Over 40 years of research has been allocated to this parasite. There is no gold bullet like, Terramycin for American Foul Brood. The problem is that we are trying to kill a bug on a bug. Generally

the mite population increase as the brood increases with the population topping out in August or September. I usually check for mites after I take the honey crop off and get my treatment on.

A couple of years ago a friend started beekeeping and did quite well. He produced 106 pounds of honey that first season. These bees were started from packages and built up beautifully. I asked him what his mite load was. He hadn't seen any mites, so he didn't think he had a mite problem. I asked if I could do a sugar shake test and we did. We stopped counting after 25 mites. The lesson this new beekeeper learned from this mite check is don't guess on your mite load.

8. WAX MOTHS: I have had several questions about frames infected with The Giant Wax Moth. Anytime you have a colony become queenless and reduced to a very few bees, nature calls in the cleaners (wax moths). I use natural beeswax and wax moths literally destroy the comb. I have had the whole hive body so tight it was very hard to remove them. This time I just burnt the frames and scorched the hive bodies. If the destruction is not too bad, I will melt them in my Better Way Wax Meltier or a solar wax meltier you could build yourself. The best way to avoid wax moth is to check your hives every 10 days to two weeks as Andy Joseph suggests. Those of you who use plastic foundation can save and use your frames. Just scrape the damaged comb off the plastic, clean it and paint on a thin layer of wax. These refurbished frames are ready to be reused.

9. REQUEENING: It appears that many beekeepers including myself have trouble Requeening colonies. If you look on YouTube, you will find many ways to introduce a queen. My method was developed over the years with the fundamental steps from Lloyd and Glen Stanley. I have found that the best way to requeen a queenless hive is with a nuc. Generally the colony really wants a queen and a nuc with about 5000 bees will be accepted. I just place the five frames from the nuc box into the center of the hive that needs a queen.

If you are Requeening a colony with a queen, you must dispose of the old queen and wait at least 12 hours to 24 hours. Place the queen within her cage between the frames with wire side exposed so the worker bees can feed her and have the candy end up, thus spreading her pheromone among the bees. I put a piece of tape over the candy end for three days for the bees to get comfortable with their new queen. By this time I either release the queen or poke a hole through the candy so the worker bees can release her.



existing colony. As I spoke of making nucs, the same procedure is used for producing splits. Depending how many splits I can make, I sometimes split the original colony into two parts and wait a day and introduce a new queen as described above. Pat Ennis makes splits by shaking all the bees into the bottom hive body and then place a queen excluder over the bottom box and place two frames of brood in the top box. By the next morning, young nurse bees have moved up and covered the brood. All Pat does is set the box onto another pallet and add a queen to be released by the bees. In a week or so, they check to see if the queen is released and laying.

10. KNOWLEDGE: Never be satisfied with your beekeeping knowledge. Get involved with your local beekeepers, subscribe to a beekeeping magazine, or two. Attend our field day and the annual meeting. This is for new beekeepers as well as those keeping bees for 40 years or more. However, I would caution taking too much stock with articles on the internet. Talk to other beekeepers, they are very willing to share their experiences and answer your questions.

This is my list and I know that there are many more subjects I could of addressed, but these are some of the most common questions I have received in my first year of inspecting honey bees.

Arvin Foell

Build an Insect Hotel

By Eve Vanden Broek



It's

winter in Iowa. The days are shorter and the nights longer. Snow blankets the ground, the wind is howling out your window and the thermometer registers in the low double digits. Like all good beekeepers, you're using this time wisely to build new and repair bee boxes, you're putting frames together and you're pondering how many hives will make it through the winter. Given variety is the spice of life, how about a diversion to the monotony? If you haven't heard, insect hotels are growing in popularity and are easy to make from the excess wood piling up in the corner of your workshop. Got a couple of moments? Good. Please read on.



Like the honeybee, our wild pollinators such as the solitary, stingless and ground-nesting bees, butterflies and moths, they too are suffering from a loss of habitat. This is where you can put your creativity to work. Insect hotels provide just the spot for these small creatures to shelter year-round. Each species prefers a different type of nesting site; therefore, if you're not sure which ones frequent your yard or garden, it's best to plan to welcome many. You can, of course, build a hotel for one species, such as mason bees, but you will need to pay close attention to the size of holes needed (see below).

Ladybugs, for example, group together and hibernate between dry plant materials. Twigs crammed together will give them just enough room to squeeze in and lay low until temperatures rise. Known as a beneficial insect, ladybugs feast on aphids while other beneficial insects such as spiders, beetles, lacewings prefer to dine on mites and caterpillars. They may be creepy and crawly but these beneficials are harmless to plants, people and pets alike. Fill your insect hotel with a variety of plant material and you will encourage all sorts of lodgers.

Some of those lodgers, sadly, will commit atrocities on their neighbors. Nature can be cruel and predators are lurking on every stem and on the underside of every leaf. The best you can do is to strive for balance.



My insect hotel is built with 7/8" scrap wood and measures 24" x 6" x 5 1/2". The size you build is up to you or what you have available. As you can see, I have alternated various types of nesting materials, most collected from my garden: cut and drilled bamboo pieces, twigs and small branches, pinecones, dried hydrangea flower heads, hosta flower stems, seed heads of various perennials, ornamental grasses, acorn caps, and a dried mushroom or two. On the front, I have added a 3/4" all-



purpose mesh to prevent bird predation and to keep the material in place should it get bumped or fall. Add appropriate hanging hardware on the back and it's ready to install.

If you plan to build a mason bee nest, you'll need to drill the "bee holes" in a block of wood that are 4 - 10" deep and 5/16" wide. For leafcutter bees, the holes need to be 2 1/2 to 4" deep and 1/4" in wide. Holes should be drilled roughly 3/4" to 1" apart.

Adding an insect hotel to your garden or yard will enhance pollination and contribute to the health of your local ecosystem. Rest assured, there'll be no need for a vacancy sign. Just as you enjoy watching your honeybees come and go to their hives, you'll surely get enjoyment from watching who takes up residence in your insect hotel, friend or foe.



The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or alex.ebert@eberthoney.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Alex Ebert, 545 210th Ave., Pella, Iowa 50219.

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.



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The Buzz Newsletter

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American Honey Producers Association: www.ahpanet.com

American Beekeeping Federation: www.ABFnet.org

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