

There's still time to register for the annual conference! Get details on Pages 5 and 6.

See how the upcoming legislative season is looking on Page 4.





Get an update on the IHPA president transition on Pages 2 and 3.

## The Buzz

The Buzz is a monthly publication printed by the lowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA). This is one of the many perks of being a member of the IHPA!

You may opt to receive an electronic version of The Buzz, as a donation to the IHPA. Please contact the editor at:

ihpaeditor@gmail.com

## IHPA Officer & Director News

### Ramblings from the Russian Bee Guy President, Jason Foley

Hello and welcome to the October edition of The Buzz!

It has been an amazing 3 years of serving as your president. We got finances handled and strengthened the bank accounts, added a new program of Bee Camp, set up standard operating procedures, set up a decision log for easy access to our perpetual rulings on matters (what a mess it was trying to remember what months'/years' minutes something was in when trying to look up a ruling), I've had the honor of serving as the chair on several committees and have aided virtually every committee at some point. I had the honor of awarding one of our college scholarships and so many interviews and talks. I even help out on writing The Buzz and getting it sent out electronically. One of my accomplishments that I am really proud of has been to grow our annual conference; to give you more perks, more speakers, better auction items, to have new highlights like the reception with free food, and to have some of our fundraising to

cushion the effects of inflation. All-in-all I've done my darndest to put membership and all beekeepers across lowa (hobbyist to commercial) far ahead of any personal aspirations. My only real regret at this point is that for 3 years I've been working with our legislative team and talking to government representatives to finally give Iowa beekeepers the same tax break on honey bees that virtually all other states recognize. Every year it passes each and every committee with 100% unanimous votes, but at some point it hits a person's desk who just doesn't care about the matter and they put it at the bottom of their to-do-list. Then time runs out in that session, and we have to refile the next year. But don't worry, I will be continuing to be part of this great organization and fight for our rights! I'll be damned if Iowa remains one of the only 3 states that still charges taxes on honey bees like they are some goldfish at a pet shop.

So many of you have been asking why I am stepping down. No, the job hasn't gotten too tough, and no I don't have some health crisis to deal with. Going back in the history of IHPA, the presidency has always been meant to be a position that is held for a few years and then new blood and ideas are brought in by the next



### IHPA Officer & Director News

passionate IHPA member. I'm sure if I stayed in office, that in the next few years many of you would start feeling like our organization was just pressing the "replay" button. That's why it's so important for all members to consider serving on the board and bringing in their ideas, their frustrations over some beekeeping matter, their willingness to donate some of their time to make a function successful. Some of you may even look at the IHPA's "Officer and Director" page and wonder why many of us have 3 or more roles. It's not because we want to hog all the fun, it's because we need people who care to come forward.

With that being said, I fully support Chis Puetz in his candidacy for President of our organization. Chris is still young in the beekeeping world and to our board, but don't let the lack of years in IHPA fool you. Chris served as the President of the Iowa Jaycees; a huge non-profit organization. He also served on their national board as well! The IHPA is growing and I can't picture a more well suited person to help guide our organization into the next steps. Chris has years of H.R. training that is invaluable for those times where board members might not see eye-to-eye, and is a real asset in knowing how best to communicate with others. Also, I personally know Chris's character and would vouch on his moral upbringing being that every action he would take, would be in the best interests of our members and not for some personal preference or gain. From day 1 of my presidency it was impressed upon me to be on the look-out for a shining star to

take over when my time came. Well folks, I found that diamond in the rough and have all the confidence in the world that he can take us to even greater heights.

Goodness, I really rattled on there. Well with the last little bit of space I have here I will tell you what I have been up to lately relating to beekeeping. For months now I have been consulting with state and federal government officials, what felt like a 100 forms and revisions later, and I can now proudly say we've opened a new chapter for the Honey Hollow business. We are now a fully licensed and bonded winery (I mean meadery, but the government doesn't differentiate). Early this spring our good friends at Buzzed Bee Meadery approached us with an offer to carry on their legacy. The offer was so amazing we jumped on it that day, and with their guidance we are up and running. It'll take some time for our batches of mead to be ready, but I can't wait to show you what all we can now do! It's just really exciting to be able to take your business and diversify it so much. At this rate we'll end up doing every related aspect of the beekeeping world!



Chris Puetz for President

## IHPA Officer & Director News

One of the duties of the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) is to monitor laws and regulations related to honey bees, apiaries, and associated agriculture.

Part of our ongoing work in the Iowa State House is our continued effort to eliminate sales tax on the sale of honey bees in the State of Iowa. Wisconsin, Illinois, and Nebraska do not charge sales tax for honeybee sales such as nucs, packages, or queens. While it may not seem like much money when purchasing one or two packages, the cost can add up significantly if you need to replace 10, 30, or 60 hives due to winter losses or other reasons. The estimated impact to the State of Iowa is only \$20,000 should the bill become law, which is a small amount compared to the \$2 billion state budget. We have come close in the last two years, with the bill passing the House but falling short in the Senate at the last minute of the legislative session. House Bill 2627 (HB2627) will be reintroduced this November. I will be asking IHPA members across the state to write to their state legislators to not only continue to support this bill but also to ensure it progresses past the Senate Committee for a vote on the Senate floor.

On a national level, IHPA, along with several national honey producer associations, is currently monitoring modifications to the Truth in Labeling Act, which requires the "country of origin" and ingredients to be listed on bottles of honey. Additionally, on September 10th, Senator Braun, Senator Tuberville, Senator Manchin, Senator Cotton, Senator Tester, Senator Marshall, Senator Fetterman, Senator Grassley, Senator Blackburn, Senator Ricketts, Senator Barrasso, Senator Britt, Senator Baldwin, Senator Young, Senator Fischer, Senator Ernst, and Senator Lummis introduced the Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024. This act aims to add the Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to provide another layer of scrutiny on foreign acquisitions of U.S. farmland and agricultural industries. Specifically, it seeks to flag farmland purchases by foreign adversaries like China, North Korea, Russia, and Iran for CFIUS review. Part of this bill includes tighter restrictions on honey imports from countries that have attempted to sabotage honey prices by dumping honey in the U.S. to crash prices or alter honey with additives.





HR Cook
District 2 Director
Legislative Chair
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## IHPA Annual Conference & Trade Show





H.R. Cook, Co-Chair Annual Conference

#### Don't Miss the 2024 IHPA Conference and Trade Show!

Fall is here, and while you're busy with your beekeeping tasks, don't forget to register for the annual IHPA Conference and Trade Show! Visit www.iowahoneyproducers.org to secure your spot today. As co-chair of this exciting event, Sara Holton and I along with the committee have been working hard to ensure it's packed with valuable education, entertainment, and opportunities to connect with fellow beekeepers. Whether you're a beginner with countless questions or a seasoned commercial beekeeper looking to enhance your operations, this conference has something for everyone. Known as the premier bee conference in the Midwest and one of the best in the U.S., you won't want to miss it!

#### New and Improved for 2024

We've made some fantastic updates to this year's schedule. The quilt and fundraising auction will now be held on Friday night during the free President's Welcome Reception in the trade show area, making it easier for everyone to join in. Plus, we've added a comedy performance by professional comedian Doug Thompson to liven up the Saturday Night Awards Appreciation Banquet. With so many new breakout sessions, we've even expanded into more rooms at the Prairie Meadows Conference Center!

#### **National and International Experts**

IHPA is known for bringing in some of the leading and engaging speakers for our conference. This years line up is no different. Each speaker will be presenting topics at least twice during the conference.

#### **Diverse Educational Sessions**

Our conference will cover a wide array of topics, including:

- Integrated Pest Management
- Queen Rearing
- Queen Viral Infections and Prevention
- Critical Thinking in Hive Evaluations
- Nucs and Colony Management
- Grants Available in Beekeeping
- Swarming Behavior and Management
- Value-Added Products

- Mead Making Basics
- Queen Cells Demystified
- Cut-outs and Bee Removal
- Insurance for Your Bee Operation
- Preparing Your Entries for the Fair
- Splits and Winterization
- Working with and Changing Local Bee Regulations
- Turning Your Bees into a Business

#### Speakers

- Randy Oliver
- Megan Mahoney
- David Burns
- Judy Wu-Smart
- Dr. Larry Conner
- Esmaieil Amiri

We'll also feature panels where you can ask any question in our "Safe Hive Room Panel."

#### An Unmissable Trade Show

This year's trade show is set to be one of the best yet, with vendors like Lappe's Beekeeping Supply, Honey Hollow, Dalen, Holton Homestead, WICWAS Press, Choose Iowa Program, Ebert Honey, FBN Insurance, and Momentum Ag already on board.

#### Join Us!

We have an incredible lineup of educational topics and activities—the only thing missing is you! Join us on October 25-26 at the Prairie Meadows Conference Center and Resort. Register now at www.iowahoneyproducers.org.



### **IHPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Oct 25th/26th date

Registration										
Contact Name: Phone #:										
Address:										
Email:										
Please choose your registration types										
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Member Registration										
Non-Member Registration										
Youth 17 and Under Registration										
Active College Student Registration				\$20						
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1 Day Non-Member		day	Saturday	\$65						
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Saturday Youth Lur		ain	Vegetarian							
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Checks payable to IHPA

## Annual Conference Vote: possible changes to bi-laws

BY-LAWS of the IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION Amended 1966, 1990, 1997, 2008, 2019, and 2022

#### ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 2. The annual membership dues in the Association shall be <u>recommended by the Executive Board and</u> determined by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting of the members of the Association. The membership dues in the Association shall entitle the holder membership from January 1 until December 31. The record date for determining the members entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting of the members of the Association shall be sixty days prior to the annual meeting of the members. Each member in good standing as of the record date shall be entitled to one vote at the annual meeting of the members of the Association.

#### ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- SECTION 1. The officers of this Association shall be a president, a vice-president, secretary, treasurer and
  historian. There will also be seven directors, one of which will be the immediate past president. All officers will
  hold office for one year and be elected at large from the State of lowa. Each officer or director shall be 1821
  years of age or older. Six directors shall be elected, three each year for two year terms. The immediate past
  president shall remain as a director until the election of another president. The six directors, excluding the past
  president, shall be elected, one from each district of lowa, with these districts corresponding to a map approved
  by the board. Map changes can only occur once per year.
- SECTION 4. Any Executive Board member may be removed from the Executive Board upon failure to fulfill the
  duties set forth in Article V4, or as deemed necessary by the Executive Board, as determined by a two-thirds vote
  of then-seated Executive Board. Any member of the Executive Board who has missed three (3) board meetings in
  a given twelve month period will be removed for cause.
- SECTION 5. Any vacancies on the Executive Board shall be filled appointed by the Executive Board for the unexpired term.
- SECTION 6. Newly elected officers and directors shall assume responsibilities of such offices of such offices of such of the following year at the close of the annual meeting.
- SECTION 7. Officers may serve up to 5 consecutive terms. (This begins effective as of January 1, 2025.)

#### ARTICLE V44 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- SECTION 1. President The president shall: preside at all meetings, appoint all committee chairs and perform such
  other duties as pertain to the office. The president shall concur with respective chairs on completing committee
  personnel.
  - The president shall be the principal executive officer of the Association and shall oversee business and affairs of the corporation;
  - Preside at all member meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors;
  - Appoint all committee chairs and concur with respective chairs on completing committee personnel;
  - Form and/or dissolve committees as necessary to aid the function of the Organization;
  - When required, along with the Vice President, form the Audit Committee for purposes of an Audit of the books;
  - Consistently promote membership to seek committees/appointed roles/board roles;
  - Appoint and/or terminate and replace heads of committees/subcommittees/parties within IHPA outside of the elected board.
  - The President may sign, with the Secretary or any other proper Officer of the Association, deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Board of Directors has authorized.
  - The President is limited to a maximum of 2 positions outside of their presidency they can be in charge of.
- SECTION 2. Vice President
  - o In the absence of the president, the vice president shall act as President and perform the duties of the president until a new President is elected or returns to office.
  - Oversee Events Coordinator and committee.

## Annual Conference Vote: possible changes to bi-laws

- To the extent authorized by law the Vice President shall have such other powers as the Board of Directors
  may determine and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Vice President by the Board of
  Directors.
- SECTION 3. Secretary The secretary shall: record the minutes at each meeting of the Executive Board.
  - The secretary shall have charge of such books, documents and papers as the Board of Directors may determine;
  - attend and keep the minutes of all the meetings of the Board of Directors;
  - keep a record containing the names and mailing addresses of all persons who are Association Directors,
     Officers, and members of the Association.
  - The Secretary may sign with the President or Vice President, in the name and on behalf of the corporation, any contracts or agreements authorized by the Board of Directors.
- SECTION 4. <u>Treasurer</u> The treasurer, under the direction of the Executive Board, shall handle all the funds and
  carry on all business of the Association. A report will be given at the annual meeting concerning the Association
  finances as of September 30 of that year. The annual review will be published in the Association newsletter.
  - The Treasurer shall have the custody of all funds, property, and securities of the corporation, subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the Board of Directors. A report will be given at the annual meeting concerning the Association finances as of September 30 of that year. The annual review will be published in the Association newsletter
  - o Treasurer may endorse on behalf of the corporation for collection checks, notes, and other obligations and shall deposit the same to the credit of the corporation at such bank or banks or depository.
  - The Treasurer shall sign all receipts and vouchers.
  - The Treasurer shall make such payments as may be necessary or proper to be made on behalf of the corporation.
  - The Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of all monies and obligations received and paid or incurred for or on account of the corporation, and shall exhibit such books at all reasonable times to any director of the corporation.
  - The Treasurer shall provide a summary report at regular meetings and a yearly report to the Audit Committee. The summary report will include separate listings for special project funding.
- SECTION 6. All proprietary information shall be relinquished to the president at the end of an officer's or director's term or upon their resignation.
- SECTION 7. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to cancel any activities of this Association found in the bylaws which they deem advisable during any emergency.

#### ARTICLE VI¥ - MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the president or upon written request from a majority
of the Executive Board. Such written request shall be sent to the Association secretary. Five or more Executive
Board Members shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Board. Attendance at an Executive
Board Meetings shall take place in-person, by electronic meeting software or telephonic conference call. Except
for Executive Sessions, all board meeting shall be open to members of IHPA. The president shall determine
whether input shall be heard from the general membership at the Executive Board meeting. The Executive Board
shall meet 8 times a year. 4 of which will be held in person. One in-person meeting will be held at Summer Field
Day and another at Annual Conference.

#### ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

The by-laws may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, providing proposed amendments have been presented in writing via mail or email to the members at least ten days before the annual meeting.

#### ARTICLE VIII EMERGENCY

It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to cancel any activities of this Association found in the by laws which they deem advisable during any emergency. Moved to Article V. Section 7

## From the Beeyard

A collection of information from those with direct, personal knowledge about beekeeping

#### Written by Phil Ebert

Fall has always been my favorite time of year even though it signals the end of things rather than the beginning. The green countryside starts to turn brown. A negative mindset would find this depressing but I have always found harvest time uplifting. The downside is that winter comes next. It is also our busiest time. Honey has to be pulled and extracted, mite treatments put in plus the bees have to be rounded up and fed. While this is going on, we still have to bottle two or three times a week and take care of the delivery route. There are a lot of days when I wonder how we are going to make it all happen. It seems worse this year. The honey came late. We didn't start extracting until just before we went to Threshers. That killed a week. After we got home,, it was a few days before things got rolling again. Labor has been an issue.

It seems like we have had more queen problems this year. I don't have numbers but Alex keeps bringing drone layers home. We have a couple of yards that started out with 28 colonies that are now down to 14 or 15. I am sure we will find more as we start to strip the yards. Queens are not what they used to be. We tried raising our own some years back. I don't know if they were better. They disappeared into our system. Tracking them was difficult and time consuming. In the end, there was not enough time with all the other projects we had going on.

There is a fall flow going on as I write this (Sept 14). We see goldenrod honey in the boxes. The caps have a distinct color. It is a rather sickly yellow. The smell is quite distinct if there is a lot of it. There is still a lot of compassplant blooming in the roads ditches. The little white asters are starting to come out. The honey from those is pretty nasty. It is not the best for the bees to winter on, either. It has a lot of indigestibles In it. It is okay if they can fly and defecate, but long periods of confinement prove problematic.

I hope we are done extracting before Thanksgiving. That doesn't mean we have a lot of honey because we don't. In spite of that, it has been a banner year for comb honey production. I am not sure how many colonies we have dedicated to this. I am guessing around 80.

My parting word—KILL MITES, KILL MITES, KILL MITES. Remember—if the mite load gets too high, the bees will die no matter what you do.



## President Candidate

#### Written by Chris Puetz

Thoughts from a newish beekeeper....

What would anyone ever want to know from me? Always a great question. Since announcing my candidacy for President, I've had a few people mention, how can a semi-new beekeeper be the head of the Iowa Honey Producers Association? I think it's an easy answer: I love learning, enjoy working with people and rarely back down from any challenge. When I ran for President of the Iowa Jaycees, I had never helped arrange a convention before, but I figured it out. Just kind of how I have been learning about beekeeping.

I joke with my friends that beekeeping is one of the most painful and expensive hobbies I've ever had, and I have had some expensive ones. I've already talked about how I got into this little hobby, now turning small business. If it wasn't for the kindness of a few in this association, I may have walked away after we actually watched our first hive we installed abscond just two days later. It was like taking \$120 and tossing it in the air, and it never came back down. We have learned so much in the past 4 years, and that's my goal to continue learning, but even more, helping others. Gone are the days of people signing up for classes, most of our newer generations look at YouTube to learn anything they need. In the world of beekeeping...there are a million opinions on almost everything, and for the most part, they all have some relevance, but most also get met with opposite views, sometimes a bit aggressively. That's not me, if people will show respect, I return it. We all have thoughts on what is best for bees, business and all that, and working together and listening highlights and strengthens our beekeeping communities and welcomes novice beekeepers.

So what's cooking for my colonies? Right now, I'm wrapping up their mite treatments, I'll recheck on the numbers, and then start monitoring for feed stores. I

went with Formic this year; I like using it. Like most, we have had the oddest season with a very strong goldenrod flow, and late along with Dutch clover still in bloom in small areas. I'm hopeful the girls will be well stocked and I won't have to supplement, but just in case, I'm getting some new gloves. Sugar burns hurt. I do think I have a few weaker colonies which I will combine, I haven't done that in the past...learning, but would rather take a shot at that then to let them perish in the winter (rumor has it we are going to have cold...and snow). So that is what's going on here on the eastern side of the state.

If you haven't signed up for the Annual Conference yet, please do! The photos posted by the committee make it look amazing!
Chris





## From the Editor

Sara Sleyster, IHPA Editor sarasleyster@gmail.com



Hello, everyone!

Did you know that there was an American Honey Tasting Society? It was news to me! According to their website, they are the only organization in the United States to teach the methods of sensory analysis of honey developed by The Italian Register of Experts (more on them next month).

The society offers honey tasting courses and has helpful videos on getting the best tasting honey. They also have a panel of experts who are trying to create a Flavor & Floral Map of the different honeys across America. Their goal is to collect honey samples produced in the United States so they can connect each honey's sensory profile to its natural environmental properties. The sensory profile includes the look, smell, and taste of the honey, while the environmental factors will include region, climate, soil, and floral source.

The mapping project is one that will take years, possibly generations to complete according to the American Honey Tasting Society. The are looking for the following honey samples: citrus, sweet clover, goldenrod, linden, buckwheat, eucalyptus, black

locust, gallberry, sourwood, tupelo, tulip poplar, cotton, star thistle, Japanese knotweed, and dandelion. Samples need to be less than 2 years old.

All information gathered from this study will be used to help us better understand honeybees' behavior, their floral preferences and the resulting flavor profiles of the honeys produced within each specific locations in the U.S.," according to their website. "We hope to identify single-origin, rare and unique honey while at the same time bringing attention to endangered honey plants and their honeys. Our work is to educate beekeepers as well as the consumers to choose quality honey... Every beekeeper is an essential part of this project."

If you would like to be part of the mapping project, you can find the submission form and additional information at

americanhoneytastingsociety.com/project-flavor-floral-mapping. Questions can also be emailed to AHTS.USA@gmail.com.

Bye for now! Sara





# Iowa Honey Royally



Britta McCollum - 2024 Iowa Honey Queen

Happy October everyone!

The year is almost up and our annual conference will be here before we know it. I am starting to wrap up my visits around lowa and finishing up my scrap book.

This last month I visited the Fort Dodge farmers market, Janesville, I-95 schools, McCaulley Terrace, Edgewater, and Farnhamville. I have covered the basics of beekeeping, the Iowa Honey Queen Program, and highlighted the youth scholarship program to these groups.

I have also been able to do a few cooking demonstrations as we finish up harvesting and have all of this honey. I can not wait to share the stories I have with all of you at the annual conference.

As I start to get my hives ready for winter I am reflecting on this year and everywhere I have been in the past 12 months, the kids I have met and talked to, beekeepers I have never met before, and all of the sticky fingers I have caused from having people try

different honey. I will see you at Prairie Meadows, and I can't wait to share my experience throughout the year.

I will be leaving a honey mustard dip that we tried at one of my cooking demonstrations down below! And until the conference stay sweet.

-Queen Britta

Ingredients:

½ cup of Mayonnaise

1 Tablespoon Mustard

1 Tablespoon Dijon mustard

3 Tablespoons Honey

1 teaspoon of Apple Cider Vinegar

1/2 teaspoon Garlic Powder

1/2 teaspoon Paprika

1/2 teaspoon Salt

Cracked black pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients in a bowl until well combined. Serve with either pretzels or chicken tenders.

### Ads and Information



Foley's Russian Bees is an Indianola, Iowa based producer of Primorsky Russian bees & beekeeping equipment. We specialize in Russian mated queens and Russian nucleus hives. We also are a provider of Carniolan packages. When you are in need of bees, we can help!

To place an order, check us out on the web

www.RussianBee.com



Order your honey bee decal: \$10 for one or \$15 for two. Make checks to IHPA. Send to lowa Honey Producers Assoc. c/o Lisa Montgomery 2543 170th Street Livermore, IA 50558

Type of Ad	Mo Price (\$)	Year Price (\$)	Size Horizontal	Size Vertical
Classified	5	50	n/a	1Tx4.1W
1/8 page	25	250	2.7Tx4.1W	5.25Tx2.0625W
1/4 page	50	500	4.1Tx5.25W	5.25Tx4.125W
1/2 page	70	775	5.25Tx8.25W	10.75Tx4.125W
Full Page	90	1000	n/a	10.75Tx8.25W

If you would like to place an advertisement in The Buzz please send information to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com





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### ABOUT OUR CONTAINER LINE

Ebert Honey offers competitive pricing on a full lineup of professional honey packaging supplies, featuring over 20 container and bottle styles. We welcome orders of any size!

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**Legislative Rep** 

Bee Ambassador

## IHPA Officers & Directors

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#### **Voting Members**

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If you would like to become more involved in the IHPA, we could certainly use your help!!!

Tyler Holton

The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association c/o Editor, Sara Sleyster 2233 E. Virginia Avenue Des Moines, IA 50320



The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society



Deadline for submissions to *The Buzz* is always the 10th of the month at 11:59 p.m. the month prior to when you would like to see information published.

If writing an article for *The Buzz*, submissions must be 800 words or less. Pictures are encouraged!

Deadline to submit information for the November Edition of The Buzz

October 10th at 11:59 p.m.

Please submit materials to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com

