

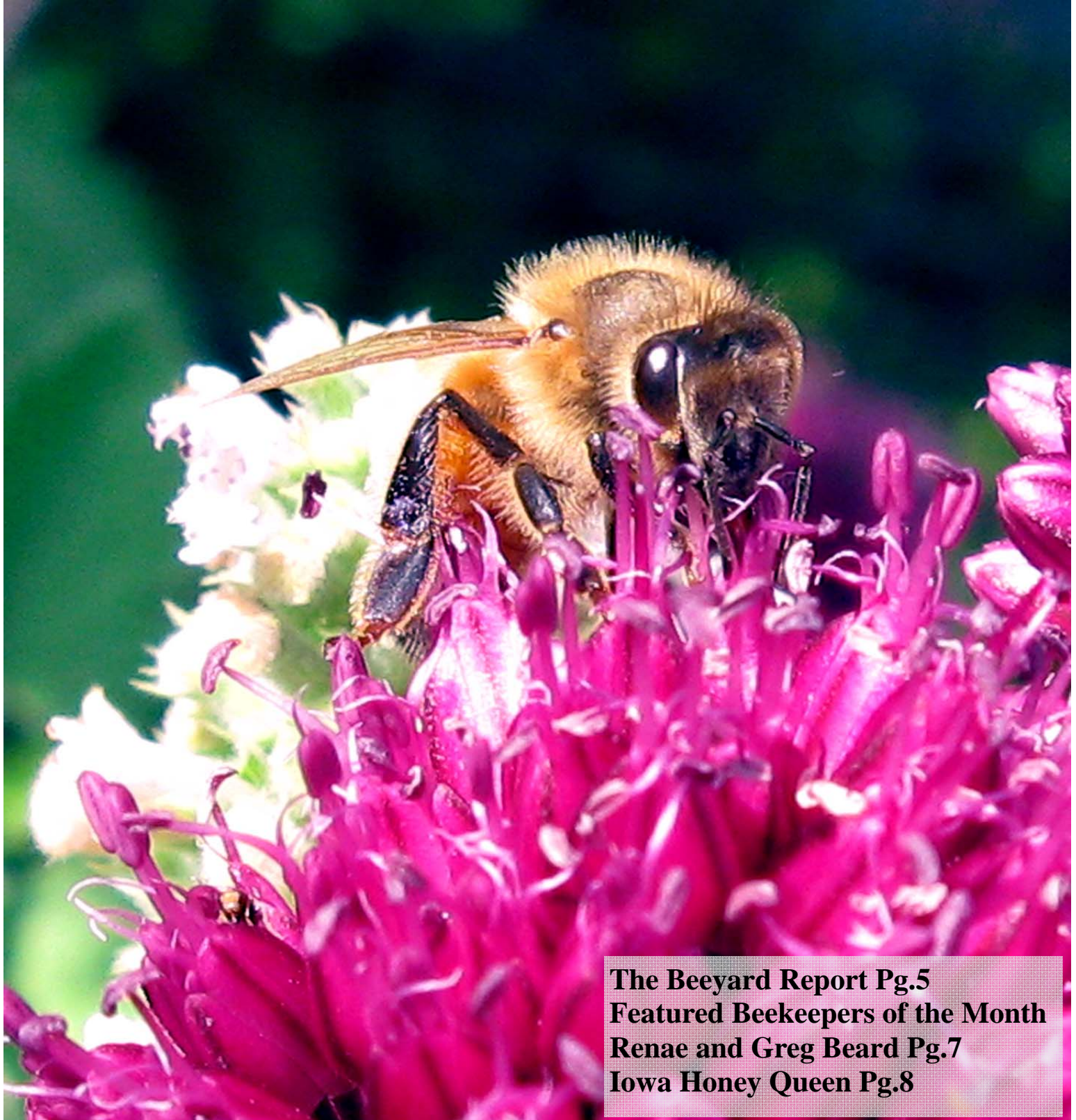


The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



July 2009



The Beeyard Report Pg.5
Featured Beekeepers of the Month
Renae and Greg Beard Pg.7
Iowa Honey Queen Pg.8



Dates To Bee Remembered



August 13th through 23rd, 2009 The Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, IA
9/27/2009 IHPA Board Meeting at the Heartland Inn in Des Moines at 2 p.m.
10/29/2009 IHPA Board Meeting at the Best Western Regency Inn,
Marshalltown at 7 p.m.
10/30&31/2009 Annual Meeting at the Best Western Regency Inn,
Marshalltown, IA

For Sale: Belt driven four frame tangent extractor, motor, stand, base, included. Unit has been maintained and is in good shape.

Contact:
Tom Phelps
1723 Hilltop Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
319-385-1553

For Sale: We have a good stock of nice light colored honey for anyone who is running short prior to the new crop--buckets or barrels.

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

IHPA Membership and The Buzz

Please check your issue of The Buzz for your membership expiration date. Dues for 2009 are past due. It is still \$10 for the primary member and \$5 for each additional family member at the same address. This issue, the July Buzz, will be the last one sent to members who have an expiration date of 2008. Dues for 2010 are also being accepted now if you would like to send it in.

Melanie Bower, Treasurer
207 S.E. Diehl
Des Moines, IA 50315



DUTCH HONEY BREAD

Printed from COOKS.COM

3 tbsp. honey
1 lb. brown sugar - can use 1/2 lb.
brown sugar & 1/2 lb. honey with
1/2 tsp. baking soda

1 1/4 c. milk
4 c. flour
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. cloves

Combine honey, brown sugar, milk.
Beat well. Gradually add flour, soda,
salt, baking powder and spices.

Oven temperature: 325 degrees.
Convection oven: 275 degrees.
2 loaf pans

Bake 1 hour.

This is great served warm or toasted for
breakfast.



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,
Swarms are dominating my phone calls and messages. I have been receiving lots of calls from people asking what to do with the swarms of bees that have taken up sudden residence in the vicinity of occupied dwellings! I usually ask them how long the swarm has been in its present location, ask if they are sure they are honey bees, ask how high they are off the ground and if they know of a beekeeper in their area. I ask about the height just because if it is in my area, I don't do heights. Sometimes I can match up beekeeping members with the caller, other times I am at a loss. If you get a request from some frantic neighbors, you can probably thank me. I don't know who is interested in getting swarms, helping neighbors and answering questions. I can only look at our membership registry and suggest beekeepers. Sometimes, I do know a beekeeper in the area where the swarm is, other times I do not. If you would prefer to not be on my "swarm" list, please let me know.

Remember to register your hives if you relocate them or get more hives (such as above, swarms). Call Andy Joseph, the Iowa State Apiarist if you need help.

Andy's number is (515) 725-1481 or andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov.

Hives can be registered at any time this year. Commercial applicators only need to check the registry at the beginning of each month. If you register in the middle of the month, your registered hives will be visible on the registry website for the beginning of the next month. Let's keep the registry as current as we can.

The IHPA Field Day was very successful. Around 50 people attended the "entering items for the state fair" workshop. The food was delicious and some great door prizes were given away. Thanks for attending. Pat, Peggy, Curt

and Connie did an outstanding job as usual. Thanks to them for their hard work. Jack Trowbridge was the lucky winner of the observation hive, complete with honey bees. Royalty also attended. Iowa Honey Queen, Shiliah Spaulding and American Honey Queen, Diane Jurchen both attended the field day.

I know that I am starting to sound like a broken record, but we still need workers for our booth at the Iowa State Fair. None of the days are filled as I sit here writing this article. If you are able to work at the IHPA sales booth, please call me, (402) 677-2460, email me, mbrahms@netins.net or send me a letter, Donna Brahms 65071 720th Street Cumberland, IA 50843. The money earned for all of your hard work is used to support the programs that we sponsor each year. Without each of you, we could not do nearly as much as we do. I will send you tickets for entry onto the fairgrounds. You will need to pay for your parking. IHPA t-shirts, tank tops or aprons are available for you to wear while working also. Contact either Melanie Bower or myself for information on the IHPA apparel. We are putting together another order for IHPA merchandise. Tell us if you would like us to order something that we don't have.

Don't forget the deadline for entering items for the state fair exhibits. We need to have a full slate of entries or we could run the risk of the State Fair eliminating some of the categories. Not only do you get a ribbon with bragging rights, but you also get a cash payment placing in the classes. Anything done well takes time, but it is worth it for yourself and the good of the Apiary exhibit displays. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Bower at (515) 287-6542 or melrb@msn.com

Things are hectic around our place. Farmers' Markets are in full swing. Not only am I attending markets, our son, Steve, is also. It takes a lot of time

to get fruits and vegetables picked, cleaned, and put into bags. Filling honey jars, labeling them, making products and packing the vehicles is a never ending process. I do enjoy talking with customers, but sometimes it is hard to remember the customer is always right! Several weeks ago, one of the markets had a downpour of rain. The parking lot where the market is held was muddy and had standing pools of water in it. The customers would stand in the middle of the parking lot and ask if we vendors would deliver items to them so they could look at them. Today I was asked if I would cut the tops of the beets off for a customer. The never ending question, "Have you ever been stung?" also gets old. I just try to smile and say, "Not yet this year". It makes for some interesting days.

I hope you have as much Sweet Clover, White Dutch Clover, and trees blooming as we do. We have had adequate rain also. Lightning bugs are out also. The old wives tale tells us that if you seen fireflies there is a honey flow on. Keep those supers handy and check them often. Let's hope for a "beautiful" crop.

Sincerely,
Donna Brahms, IHPA President



Dear Honey Producers:

We hope you will be able to help the Iowa Honey Producers Association with honey and lemonade sales at the 2009 Iowa State Fair. Dates of this year's fair are August 13th through the 23rd. Please bring any other helpers with you who may be interested in working. Children who are ten years of age and older enjoy assisting and are welcome.

We will send passes which provide free entry to the State Fair to all who assist with honey and lemonade sales.

Days, dates and times for which help is needed are listed at the bottom of this letter. Please return the work schedule, call or e-mail, if you prefer, indicating the dates and times you will help. Also, if possible, please list a first or second choice of dates and times you can be available to help with sales. Please state the names of all those coming with you who will be helping with State Fair sales.

I already have dates filling up. Thanks to those who have asked for a specific date at this early time. Remember that we need approximately 21 people per day to fill the necessary shifts. The building is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for each of the 11 days that the Iowa State Fair runs. This is the main money making project of the Iowa Honey Producers Association. Please help us maintain adequate money to provide the necessary programs of the association.

We had a fantastic year last year and hope to continue the large amount of sales this year. Please consider helping your association.

Hope to see you at the Iowa State Fair!

Donna Brahms, IHPA Booth Manager
65071 720th Street
Cumberland, IA 50843-8125
(712) 774-5878-H or (402) 677-2460-C
E-mail: mbrahms@netins.net



Name: _____

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City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Date(s): _____

9:00-1:30 _____

1:30-6:00 _____

6:00-9:00 _____

Date(s): _____

9:00-1:30 _____

1:30-6:00 _____

6:00-9:00 _____

We always have a "Honey Of A Time" working at the Iowa State Fair!

THE BEEYARD REPORT

I finally mowed the lawn on May 30. It was about a foot tall. I didn't really get it mowed the first time through. I knocked it down and cut off some of the seed heads. When explaining the directions to my place to a customer, he asked me, "Is that the place where nobody lives?" I didn't think it looked quite that bad. It has always seemed to me that mowing was a waste of good grass. There should be something to eat it.

I have a pair of barn swallows nesting above the door to the house. They are gone during the day. At night, the female is in the nest. The male perches on a nearby nail. A normal person would probably knock the nest down. There is a lot of poop when the new-borns start to mature.

The bees look great. We have numbers. Now, we need to get a crop. It's like planting a seed and waiting for it to grow. The boys have had a lot to haul and have been running two trucks. Alex has been hauling supers with the flat-bed (it holds about 200). Adam has been driving a pickup with syrup, extra brood boxes and various other items. We had planned to get a mite treatment in before supering but things are moving too fast. We are skipping some mite treatments to go for honey. We may have to pull supers in August for an early fall treatment in those yards. We'll have to monitor the mite load closely.

Yellow sweet clover was in full bloom around Lynnville by June 4. There is a lot of it in the road ditches. Trefoil followed shortly. The rain has encouraged the shallow rooted Dutch clover. So far, the weather this summer has mirrored last year. It's very wet with lots of bloom. There is potential if it dries out. Last year, it never did.

Alex and Adam were working our yards in Lucas County when they hit a soft spot in a field and got stuck. They went to a nearby farmstead to borrow a

tractor. It turned out that the owner of the place had a sister who works for Mann Lake. It's a small world.

Adam has about 60 queen mating nucs set up in the pasture that is about a ¼ mile behind the house. Set up turned out to be an evening job. They would pull one or two frames of brood from the boomers as they supered during the day. They would get home with the extra brood about 8:30.

When I saw or heard the trucks headed for the pasture, I start would supper. Our normal supper time through the spring is around 9:30.

Once in a while we catch virgin queens as we work colonies that have had swarm cells. We have never had much luck getting them introduced. Alex was hauling some brood that turned out to have a virgin running around on one of the frames. He ran her into a queenless colony without touching her but had little hope of acceptance. Much to our surprise, she took. Adam has some other virgins that he put into mating nucs. The jury is still out on them.

I have culled 70 boxes of old combs. I am, at present, running them through the wax melter. I have been amazed at how many of the frames fall apart after the comb has been melted. I wouldn't even venture a guess as to how old they are. I never got my drone frames made. I guess that is

going to be a summer project.

Early on, I was taking inventory to see how much equipment we needed to make. When things went downhill, I stopped. After things turned around, we had to make it as we went along. It jammed us up a little but we got it done.

Everything is in place. The bees look great. There is great bloom. All we need is a crop. Will it ever stop raining???

Submitted by Phil Ebert



Jack Trowbridge was the lucky winner of the observation hive given away at the 2009 IHPA Field Day. It came complete with honey bees!



Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeepers are Renae and Greg Beard. Their parents are Randy and Jackie Beard and they live on a cattle farm near Chariton, Iowa. They also have pigs, horses, sheep, two donkeys, chickens, pigeons, cats, dogs, a couple of rabbits and three new beehives.

Renae and Greg are participating in the mentor program through the Iowa Honey Producers. Their mentors are Jack and EV Trowbridge who the Beards say are like long lost relatives, because they answer questions and check up on them and treat them like family.

Renae is 15 years old and a freshman at Chariton High School. She plays saxophone with the concert jazz band. She is in the Future Business Leaders of America, dance and 4-H. She received her varsity letter in cross country this year and is running in track. She likes reading, running and hunting. After graduating Renae is planning to become a psychologist and special education teacher.

Greg is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Chariton Middle School. He plays trombone with the concert band. He is an active 4-H member, plays football and runs track. He likes hunting, trapping, and building things out of wire. Greg is undecided about what he will do after graduation, but his interests include veterinary, working for the DNR and cooking.

Greg and Renae enjoy their livestock and through 4-H every year show swine, sheep, and dogs and also take between 10 and 20 projects to the exhibit building. They also give educational presentations at the fair and are successful at it. Each year they have been eligible, they

have taken their presentations to the Iowa State Fair. Last summer they did a presentation together about Honey Bee Equipment and received a seal of excellence. Renae has submitted an application to receive a state 4-H award for beekeeping and communications. She will participate in the first round of interviews for this in late March.

The two wrote. We love honey, so every year we stop at the bee booth to collect our routine honey sticks, and that was when we discovered how to become a bee scholar. Mom picked up the card, read the information and said, "Do you guys want to do this?" We quickly responded, "Yes!"

We filled out our applications and got

Family Living Magazine about our bees. We've also give two Honey Bee Equipment presentations through 4-H. (It seems like everywhere we go we somehow relate the conversation back to bees!)

The biggest thrill came when we actually got to extract. We loved the whole process of it and even helped Jack and EV! The best part now is being able to have honey whenever we want!!

This year the Bear family worked at the IHPA booth at the Iowa State Fair and logged 14 hours over three days.

An interesting story they tell. We collected a swarm this year! It was quite an experience! Jack and EV had already told

us how to make a swarm box (cardboard box with lid that you have to cut out an end in and put a screen on) and had told us the process of basically just thumping the bees into it. For this particular swarm though, the man told us to bring a hive body with a bottom and a lid. When we go there, he nailed little pieces of wood over any holes and got a ladder. We put the hive body on the ladder under the swarm, because it was in a tree. Then we waited awhile before finally thumping the bees in. We set the hive body on a white sheet, this he told us, would enable the bees to "see" the hive body better. (Then we left for a 4-H meeting.)

When we returned there were no bees flying anywhere. We were amazed. The hive body was all secured and ready to go. Dad finally asked how he'd done it. "Well, " he'd replied, "Bees don't like wind, so I got ma' leaf blower out and blew em' in there!" (The swarm appears to be wintering well.)

In the future Greg and Renae plan to show their honey at the fair along with beeswax candles, and keep promoting beekeeping.

Thanks for your story and all your interest in promoting the beekeeping industry.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

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letters of reference and before we knew it we'd been interviewed and were the proud owners of bees. We took classes at Winterset with Pat Randal. We watched lots of beekeeping movies and asked endless questions. Pretty soon our bees arrived, which is when Jack and EV entered the picture.

Jack and EV were, and continue to be a great help to us! We absolutely love them! They helped us understand a lot of things – there is so much to absorb! They helped us with the installations of our bees and we got to see their bees too!

We attended the summer Field Day in Perry where we were shown how to graft queens and mark them. We also gave a presentation for the Summer Reading Program kids for "Catch the Reading Bug", giving a general overview of bees. We were featured in the Farm Bureau

2009 IHPA Field Day

This year's IHPA Field Day was a big success. The theme of the day was the Iowa State Fair. Subjects included Entering the State Fair, Making Cream Honey, Beeswax and Candles, Photographs, Honey, Comb Honey, and Observation Hives. Each speaker pointed out the tips that have helped them prepare their own Iowa State Fair entries. Around 50 people attended this year and enjoyed the expert information and a hearty pot luck lunch. A big thanks goes out to all those who donated their time and effort to make the Field Day such a success!



Pat Ennis explains how to setup and maintain an observation hive. The observation hive entries at the Iowa State Fair are always a big attraction.



The weather cooperated perfectly, as did these honeybees. No veils required here.



Phil Ebert opens up a hive to check on the population. Speaking about comb honey production, he is looking for a hive with a very strong population that will aid in building new combs from foundation.



Pat demonstrates how to load the observation hive with honeybees. In the drawing afterward, Jack Trowbridge was the lucky recipient.



Iowa Honey Queen

Greetings to all!!

I am back in Iowa from two wonderful weeks in Wyoming. I really could have stayed longer, but brother, Whitt, was anxious to see some corn fields and get started working at Hultgrens Impement in Ida Grove.

We had a really good time and seen a lot of beautiful country and interesting people. One thing I really noticed is that what you see now out and around the ranches is the same way it looked 100 years ago! When we drove to the brandings, it was always through the gates that connected all the ranches!!

The branding day started at 3:30am with eggs, bacon, biscuit and juice. Then the horses were trailered to the branding site by 5:30. We had a social hour with doughnuts and coffee. That is when I about chocked on my doughnut, when Dallas started telling stories about his good friends, Chris Le Deux and Garth Brooks! I was like a little girl listening to Santa Claus! Ha!

By 7am, it was time to start the branding vaccinations and castrating. It takes a team of two to hold the two hundred pound calves. The cowboys heel the calves, bring them to us, and one would hold the front of the calf and the second would hold the leg while they worked on them. The ladies vaccinated and the guys branded and castrated.

We were finished by noon. We all went back to the rancher's house for the noon meal. They usually served taverns,

beans and chips. We had cake and ice cream for dessert. Then it was time to head home and take a couple hours nap before it was time to do evening chores.

One of my brothers drives truck for the coal mines. He took us on the back roads and gave us quite a tour. The machines they use are so big and unbelievable! The scoop they dig with can hold three big pickups. It was so awesome! The tires were 15 foot in diameter. We have some really cool pictures and videos!!

The best part of the trip was getting to spend two weeks of nonstop fun with all my brothers and my sister-in-law. We have decided to do this yearly and leave Dad and Mom home to do chores!

I got home, jumped off the horse and started getting ready for my dance recital, on Sunday June 7, I had some lessons to make up and I helped make the decorations for the stage. Our theme this year is "Anything Goes," I will be dancing Tap, Lyrical, and Ballet with my group. Then I will be clogging my solo to Josh Turner's "Firer Cracker."

On Wednesday June 9, Mom and I traveled to Galva Holstein grade school to present two programs about bees. I talked to 35 kids and volunteers about the life of the bees. I also took my scrapbook for them to enjoy the pictures. They all had interesting questions. They had all seen the Bee Movie and wanted to know if that was what my bees did.

When I got back from Wyoming, it was time to put supers on Mom's hive, Cecelia and her new helper, Gerrett, put most of them on when I was gone, all the hives are looking very promising. The clover is in full bloom, which is great!

On Saturday, June 13, Mom and I were off to Perry, Iowa, for the Field Day at Curt and Connie Bronnenbergs's,

Spring Valley Honey Farms. The day started very early so that way we were sure to be there in time for it to start. We had a full morning of presenters. I was asked to give a preview of some of my activities that I have accomplished so far this year! It was a lot of fun to be able to go to the Field Day. Thanks Curt and Connie for letting us beekeepers use your facilities for a great learning experience!! I only wished I would, have pulled my name out for the Observation Hive they gave away as a door prize!!

My next adventure is going to my 9th church camp at Twin Lakes for a week. I will be a Program Assistant, with 5 other kids my age, this week will be a fun filled week with meeting old and new friends!!

Then I will be home for a week to work, on 4-H projects and to get ready for my State Fair Show Birds.

The next week, I will be going to stay at the Iowa State University, for the 4-H Conference, for a week where I will be learning about Swine.

When I finally get home, on Tuesday, July 7th I will be in Battle Creek, at the library, for their summer reading program!

On Wednesday, July 8th I will be in Galva, for their summer reading program!!

Then, the fair fun begins with Fair Clean-up and Communication Day. In between, those things there are projects to finish, presentations to prepare and animals to get ready!!

I hope every Dad had a great Father's Day with lots of hugs and kisses!! And for everyone to have a wonderful 4th of July!!

Shiliah Spaulding

Iowa Honey Queen



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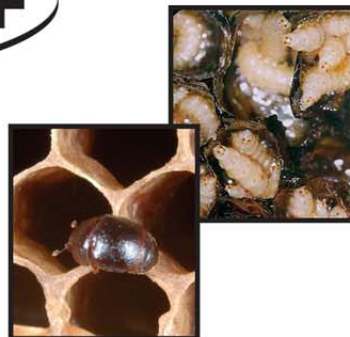


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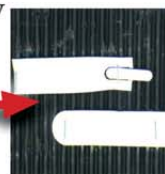
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- Treatment is most effective when brood rearing is lowest
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- Use 1 strip for every 5 frames of bees
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The Buzz Newsletter

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ISSUE 7 – July 2009



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Additional Links and Emails

IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

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