

The Buzz

Newsletter of the

Iowa Honey Producers

Association

May 2025



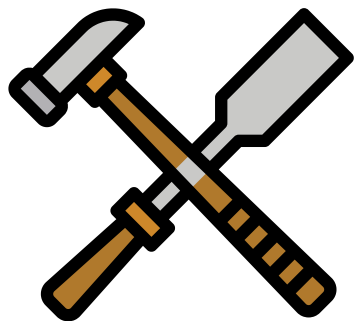
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STATE FAIR BIDS

**Rules and bidding info
on Pages 8-10**

**Learn how to register
your beehives on Page 5.**



**Andy the Bee Guy talks
tools on Page 11.**

The Buzz

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



You may opt to receive an electronic version of The Buzz, as a donation to the IHPA.

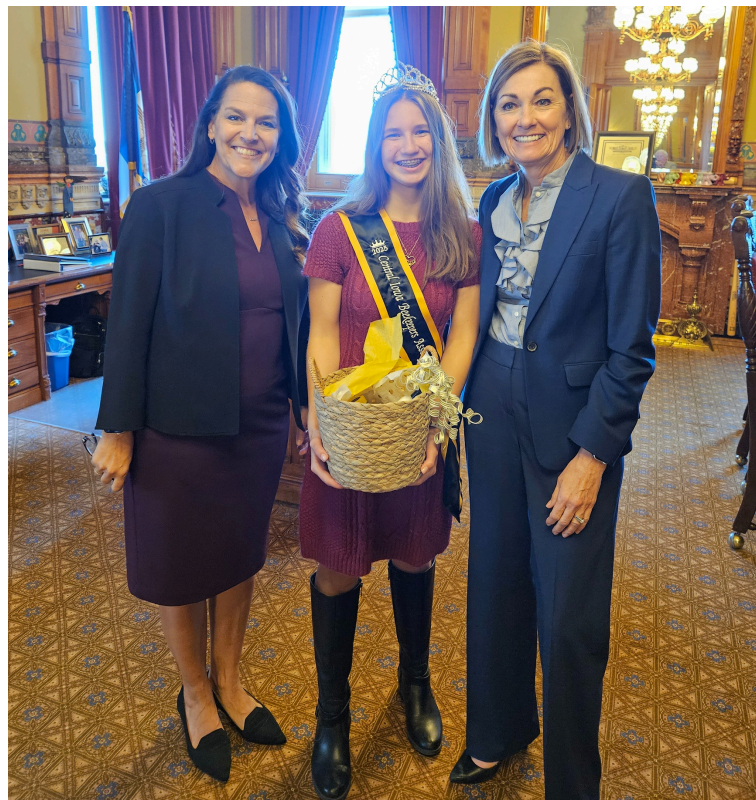
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Letters from the Wildhills

Ladies and Gents, start your engines....it's go time!

It's finally here, spring (at least I think/hope). Here in Eastern Iowa the weather has been all over the map, we have seen 80 and sunny and two days later 30 and snow. I think I've been quoted at least five times at the office stating "Go home winter, you're drunk." That said, recent checks on my hives have proven, yes, it's time for spring, and that just brings a little bit of joy. Each winter I find myself missing getting into the yards, hearing the bees buzz around, looking at frames as they go about their work, functioning as a single organism while all having their own jobs to do. It was the thrill of having our own honey that got us into beekeeping, it was the science of the hive that kept me. It's amazing how they operate, in near complete darkness, yet almost perfect harmony. I just got home from picking up 30 packages, as I write this. It's exciting, almost as much as my colonies are growing, gosh, I think we could be in for an early swarm season (that's likely almost past by the time this goes out). Splits will be happening soon on those who are growing at an exponential pace, thankful for Tyler Holton's demonstration at the last conference as a refresher. Keep in mind, I'm just now growing out of the hobbyist stage.

So I picked up a bunch of packages today, noted above, but I have to say, I always find it rather entertaining when I have a truck load of bees and get stopped at a light. What people have to think as the rogue bees on the outside of the package are flying about... I bet it's rather entertaining and reminds me of the first time I picked up nucs. I had no idea what to expect and put them inside my cab, little did I know I would then be driving home with hundreds of bees flying around inside my truck for 3 hours. How I didn't get walloped at that moment....still shocks me.



CIBA Queen Morgan Spaulding delivering a honey basket to Lieutenant Governor Chris Cournoyer and Governor Kim Reynolds.

Anyway, I'm really excited to install my packages tomorrow and mentor a few folks while doing so. Our bee club here in Dubuque had a ton of people interested in getting started beekeeping this year. I couldn't be more proud and honored to help out, help others join the ranks of being a beekeeper.

So what is going on in my world outside of picking up bees and laughing while I'm at a stop light? Well, I have been traveling, a lot, for my job: Boston, Fort Worth, Madison, Atlanta and next week Nashville; however, I was super excited to get to attend Honey Bee Day at the Capitol. For those not in the know, this is a time we gather at the State Capitol and mingle with legislators, lobbyists and most of all educate people on beekeeping. I spent most of my time talking with representatives and lobbyists about HF247, the Honey Bee Tax Bill. I'm happy to report the work paid off, House Bill 247 is now Senate File 555 and moving forward. I cannot thank everyone enough who took the time to write to their representatives asking for their support; it goes miles! Our work is not done here though, we have to stay the course. Not to sound like a broken record, but it will take all of us to continue to get this moving forward, and we need to show up. There are bigger challenges ahead. We need to show up, and with one voice. Hopefully in 2026 we will see more than double the people at Honey Bee Day.

Honey Bee Day Report

Well, Iowa's Honey Bee Day in the Capitol Rotunda on March 26 was a success. What an event that connects beeks with Legislators. There were over a dozen different honey bee displays that showcased the importance of honey bees to Iowa's economy. These displays were "manned" by some IHPA members. I want to thank those who helped out. Hopefully I do not miss anyone but here goes: Morgan Spaulding (Central Iowa Beekeepers Association's talented Honey Queen), Jim Crandell, Bill Ohnemus, Carilyn Kenyon (the CIBA scholarship student) and her entire wonderful family (which included Conner Kenyon, one of the IHPA scholarship students), Chris Puetz (IHPA President), Richard Vonderohe (North Iowa Beekeepers President), Jim Marshall (IHPA District 1 Director), Tina Marshall (IHPA Historian), Brie Marshall, Stephanie Meyers (IHPA Scholarship Chair) and her wonderful family, Connie Bronnenberg (IHPA Queen program Chair), Chelsa Bronnenberg, Katie Flinn, Julie Swett, Mike Swett, Dean and Barb Johnson, Lynn Campbell, two Choose Iowa representatives and finally Jim Obradovich and Jefferson Fink (the lobbyists for IHPA).

What a great group of volunteers from across the state that I know had a good time! This is quality time well spent representing beekeepers. Great connections with legislators were made including Gov. Kim Reynolds and First Gentleman Kevin Reynolds. Even Iowa's Lieutenant Governor Chris Cournoyer was there. Morgan (CIBA's Queen), was able to meet them in person and had conversations with everyone. She presented the governor one of the honey baskets that had many different kinds of honey products. We can be so proud of how she represented beekeepers for all of Iowa.



Above: The Marshalls with Sen. Behn and Rep. Hayes.
Right: Chris with First Gentleman Kevin Reynolds, Reynolds' granddaughter and Morgan.

The other honey basket was given out as a free raffle prize and won by an aid to the governor. Her name is Anna Still and she was ecstatic about winning her prize.

Our talented President Chris did a fantastic job of representing IHPA. He received the Governors Proclamation on designating March 26, 2025, as Iowa's Honey Bee Day. He engaged with a lot of legislators and made some critical connections. Thank you Chris.

Then, Jim and Tina Marshall brought a display of all the bee clubs and their locations. They also brought a lot of other items showcasing honey products that come from the hive. They were able to connect to some legislators. Good job Jim and Tina.

Thanks to those that made this day happen. As an FYI, I have reserved the Capitol's rotunda for Wednesday, March 25, 2026, for next year's Honey Bee Day.

Jamie Beyer Honey Bee Day Organizer.



IHPA Officer & Director News

It may seem early, but the State Fair will be here before you know it! Did you know the IHPA has been a part of the Iowa State Fair since at least 1912. The State Fair is our number one fundraiser, plus we are able to showcase and promote beekeepers delicious honey from all over the state.

I have volunteered many hours at the IHPA Fair booth since 2016. It is a lot of work, it's hot, and even sometimes sticky, but it is so fun and amazing to see how many people walk through the AG building to visit our exhibits and buy honey! A lot of times when people are looking to buy some honey, there are a lot of options at the booth and they aren't sure which one to buy. We help by suggesting somewhere close to where they live- and find the coordinating beekeeper's honey. Some years we have a lot of options and some years we do not...

This year we really want to showcase all the amazing beekeepers in our organization! Did you know anyone can participate in the Case Lots? Even if you also bid on Sole Class. We want to encourage as many beekeepers to participate. Case Lot categories this year are one pound glass and one pound plastic. To participate you just need to be able to provide a minimum of 24 jars (one case). With a maximum of four cases (this number could go down depending on participation).

There will be a special display for these one pound jars. The display details are not set in stone yet, but the honey will be displayed with emphasis on the location it comes from to help customers find what is closest to them. We will also be putting together a map with all participating beekeepers (who wish to be added). This will be shared both digitally with QR codes posted around the booth and physical handouts for customers. This is a great way to help get your name out to thousands of honey and bee enthusiasts.

Now I know the whole "bid process" can seem confusing and overwhelming, so let me answer some questions and give you the whole rundown on what you need to know to participate.

- You must be a current member of IHPA to sell at the fair booth
- Submit your application by June 1st
- You must read and follow all rules -they will be posted soon and have not changed much from previous years, but they include following labeling requirements, no sticky jars, have tamper proof seals, all honey must be from Iowa harvest, volunteer two shifts at the fair booth. (Find detailed rules in the buzz or on the IHPA website)
- To submit your bid, use the provided Bid sheet in the buzz. Within the sections you will see the name/ description of the item, the last two years of number sold, and the price you will receive as a producer. If you wish to bring that item, just simply put an X in the box.

- If there is a container requirement, it will be listed in the description. Ie, if you submit for an 8 oz Muth jar and win, then you have to bring it in those specific jars. If the jar is not specified, only the weight/ size, then you can bring it in any style jar you wish as long as the weight/ size is correct for that category.
- If you submit for the Case Lot option you will be allowed to submit for one or both jar styles, glass and plastic.
- If multiple people submit for the same item (this applies to all categories except the case lots), then the item is drawn to see who will provide it.
- Please note you must have proper licensing to sell any altered honey products ie, flavored creamed honey, infused honey, etc.
- If you have a new product you'd like to bring that is not listed on the sheet, write it in, along with the wholesale price you'd like for the item. The bid committee will let you know if you will be able to bring it or if they have any follow up questions.
- To submit your bid sheet you will need to email it to the committee: Kris Silvers, Heidi Love, & Roy Kraft. (Their email addresses & contact info are provided in the rules.) A hard copy will also need to be mailed to Kris Silver. Postmarked by the due date. This ensures everyone is following the rules, no bids can be changed, and submitted by the cut off date.
- Once the bid committee has finalized who has won all the bids, you will be contacted with what you are allocated to bring to the fair.
- All products will need to be delivered to the IHPA booth at the fair along with a provided invoice. The invoice can be super simple, you just need the basics- your name, contact info, name of products brought, along with the quantity of each product you have provided.
- If you need to/ or are asked to restock a category during the fair, and are able to, you will need to provide an additional invoice for each separate delivery.
- You will also need to fill out a W-9, this will be provided to you at drop off.
- If you have any products left over that did not sell, they will be available for pick up the last Sunday evening and the following Monday. Other arrangements can be made for pick up.

Hopefully you have found this helpful, and not more confusing. I know when we started volunteering back in the beginning of our beekeeping journey, selling at the fair seemed a bit scary and overwhelming! But if we can do it, so can you. :) If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask the bid committee. And I hope to see you all at the 2025 Iowa State Fair!

Sara Holton
IHPA, VP

IHPA Officer & Director News

Are your bees safe?

We all know it's important to care for our bees. In the spring we work to ensure they have resources in the form of pollen and syrup. We form a mite plan and execute. We watch them like a hawk for signs of swarming and when it's time to split. Summer is monitoring our hive populations, space and adding supers and then later harvesting. Fall we finalize the mite checks, treatments and winterize.

One thing that we should all be doing is making sure our hives are listed on Beecheck via Driftwatch. It is a means to help prevent accidental poisoning of our bees with pesticides (via commercial applicators). Now before we dive down the path of pesticides, it's critical everyone knows I come from a farming background and to this day we use pesticides. We, along with all others, cannot afford for our crops to be destroyed via pests. However, if you have not listed your colonies yet, please make sure to do so, now at <https://beecheck.org/signup#beekeeperCheck> - Home.

Unfortunately, it's also come to light some have hives listed on BeeCheck that are no longer there. If that is your case, we are asking you to go in and remove them. If we are going to ask applicators to follow the Bee Rule, we must do so as well. It's the age old "What is good for the goose is good for the gander." We must find ways to join Iowa Agriculture and meet them at their level. Working together we can likely make some great strides. If we don't, they will push back. If needed, we do have the ability to audit the lists, but I would prefer not to have to go that route.

So why the article on this? Well, there is some chirping about potential changes to the Bee Rule which creates "safe zone" for our bees. As discussions continue, we need to ensure all of us are following the same rules we ask applicators to follow.

Chris Puetz
IHPA President



IHPA Historian

I picked up a pamphlet the other day. It appeared rather inconspicuous. It was actually a small booklet of 16 pages. Before I knew it, I had read it from cover to cover. If it had belonged to me, I would have dog-eared all the pages and made some highlights, a couple per page. There were so many fascinating tips and tricks I had never heard of before. Even the prose was compelling, with fancier words and poetic sentences. I wish I could reprint the whole pamphlet for you, because it was so good. (I'm not sure I would be able to chase down the publisher though, even if The Buzz had room for it all.) So, within their respective subject headings, here are the intriguing highlights I've pulled from this little pamphlet for you to enjoy.

Modern Methods in Bee Culture by G. C. Matthews

Taking Bees Out of the Cellar

- The time for taking bees from the cellar is a little subject to weather. Try to leave them in till April 10th. "If, however, they show signs of dysentery, if they roar uneasily, they should be set out as early as possible after March 15th." Set them out late in the evening, with no snow on the ground. "In no case should the bees be set out in the morning of a bright day because in taking flight while still stirred up by moving, they do not adequately mark their locations." This will result in drift and colonies "sadly depleted of bees."

Locating the Colonies

- "Perhaps a worse effect is the blowing away of water carriers [worker bees on gathering flights]. The first instinct of bees in spring is to carry water with which to dilute honey for making larval food. When they must go some distance from their hives, load up on ice water, and then return against a strong cold breeze, their chances of getting home alive are much reduced. Many weak colonies are in this manner so depleted that they die. This is more especially true after bad wintering when bees are old and nearly worn out."

Protecting Against Cold

- In lieu of wrapping hives in "heavy paper or flaxboard...remove the outside empty combs, confine the bees to five or six combs and wrap these combs inside the hives in newspapers. No better protection than this can be easily given."
- "It is the beekeeper's place to see that they have protection, stores, and water. Given these three things, they need no more till May."



Providing Stores of Honey

- "In case of shortage the best possible way to feed a colony is to give it a comb or two of sealed honey carried over from the previous year. When one does not possess such combs he must feed sugar syrup...It can then be poured into empty combs by means of a tomato can with twenty or more holes in the bottom. If the comb be held over a tub and cans of syrup be held above it the small streams will fill most of the cells. Each comb will hold two pounds and three such combs will carry the bees till May first."

Placing a New Swarm

- "During the next six or eight days after the emergence of the first swarm the bees in the old hive are waiting for their first virgin to walk forth from her cell. She ordinarily does this on the eighth day. After eating a little and resting a little she is ready to take her first trial flight. If during the interim between the first swarm's emergence and her appearance, a large number of young bees have emerged from the brood they will no doubt cast a second swarm with this virgin. In fact, the bees frequently hold down the lids of other queen cells so as to prevent all the young queens from coming out to destroy each other till but one is left. They instinctively prepare to cast the second swarm."

IHPA Historian

Foul Brood

- “...colonies which do not work, which are weak in numbers and seem listless. Such colonies usually possess poor queens or have foul brood....But if on opening one of these colonies, he finds a poor brood nest, the comb looking ragged in appearance because sealed brood, larvae, and eggs are all mixed up together, he may be pretty sure that the queen is failing. He should then look her up and kill her.

Supply Stores for Winter

- “In localities where the honey flow stops by August first and no fall flow occurs, light feeding should be done from August 20th to September 20th or later, as a means of keeping the queen laying. Few realize the importance of rearing young bees in the fall. Yet many of the winter losses are due to lack of young bees in the hives in fall.”

Essential of Good Wintering

- “...the best possible winter food for bees is sugar syrup. Because they must hold all waste matter from fall to spring, bees cannot consume honey containing much indigestible materials and live.... But sugar syrup is almost entirely digestible. It contains almost nothing to fill the bees intestines during the long months of confinement.”

Feeding for Winter

- “The reason for feeding about October 15th, instead of sooner is to make certain that the bees will store the syrup in the center of their hives where it will be more convenient for winter food. If fed earlier when brood is still present it will of course be crowded into the outer combs.... But if fed after brood rearing ceases, it will be stored in the area from which the last brood emerged so that it will be the first for the bees to eat in winter.”
- “Bees require at all times a temperature inside their cluster of 57°F or more. To keep up this temperature they must eat honey or sugar and from it generate heat. The more heat they generate the more rapidly feces accumulate in their intestines and the more rapidly they wear themselves out and become old. Therefore, anything that reduces heat generation prolongs their lives and enables colonies to come through winter with more bees.”

When to Put Bees in Cellar

- “...cellar the bees the next day after they get their last flight of the season....watch for a flight day after November 10th. [If you] cellar without a flight they are put in after some waste matter has already accumulated in their intestines. The presence of this plus the disturbance might cause them to start brood rearing; brood rearing causes further accumulation of waste matter; waste matter causes more uneasiness and heat generation and brood rearing; and so on in a vicious circle till the bees are all dead.”

Proper Place to Winter

- “With the conditions above mentioned all present winter losses should not reach five per cent. Let us repeat the conditions again for the sake of emphasis. First, a young, vigorous queen preferably reared in July or August. Second, fall breeding to secure thousands of young bees. Third, thick sugar syrup fed after the last brood emerges... Fourth, a cellar between 40-45°F... Fifth, plenty of ventilation... Sixth, absolute darkness in the cellar. Seventh, utter quiet... Given these conditions the bees will need nothing further till setting out time comes again.”

How does that read for some very MODERN methods of beekeeping? Some old and / or new thoughts to ponder, isn't it? At least a couple items that made you go “huh” for sure, I imagine. You decide if they are outdated methods or ingenious new techniques that should be implemented. Either way, they are definitely conversation starters.

I hope you've enjoyed these excerpts from a Beginners Guide published by P. J. Doll Bee Supply Co. of Minneapolis, Minn., circa 1920.

Tina Marshall, IHPA Historian
Waggle More – Sting Less



State Fair Bid Rules

RULES FOR 2025 STATE FAIR PRODUCTS BEING SOLD AT THE IHPA BOOTH

1. There will be a 3-Person committee including the booth manager.
2. Applications must be sent by email to all 3 committee members: Kris Silvers Kristin.silvers@gmail.com, Heidi Love ihpasecretary@gmail.com, and Roy Kraft kroyster.rk@gmail.com
3. Acopy of Application shall be sent by USPS (United States Postal Service) to Kris Silvers; 2088 310 th Ave. Woodburn, Iowa 50275
4. **Firm cutoff date of June 1 , 2025 (must be postmarked by this date)**
5. The committee will meet on June 7, 2025 at the Ames Public Library. The meeting will be held in a predetermined neutral place. The general IHPA membership will be allowed to witness. (in person only)
6. All comb honey is to be from 2025 harvest.
7. All glass honey containers and creamed honey containers must have a protection seal.
8. All plastic honey containers must have a pressure seal. (This includes all large containers)
9. All products must show proper labeling (Supplier, name, city, phone #)
10. Any item **not listed** on the application sheet or any specialty items you wish to market at the IHPA State Fair Booth needs to be approved by the booth manager by the committee deadline. **(June 1, 2025)**
11. **ALL CONTAINERS NEED TO BE CLEAN, NON STICKY; AND ARE SUBJECT TO REJECTION BY BOOTH MANAGER.**
12. Honey for the Honey Lemonade (50-pound buckets) will be a sealed bid only. Low bid takes it all.
13. Pollen must have a "US Pollen" label
14. **Due to the time frame of honey styx production it will be a one year commitment starting 2026.**
15. **ALL HONEY MUST BE FROM IOWA HARVEST**
16. One application per household. Must be current IHPA member.
17. **All Bid winners are required to work two shifts at the fair booth (or have someone work for you)**
18. These rules will be reviewed by the Iowa State Fair Bid Committee annually.

SOLE CLASSES:

- 1) There will be one person that will have a sole class of honey or item based on price list. For example: one person will have ALL 24 oz. bears for the state fair based on price list. If 2 or more producers apply for that item, it will be decided by a draw, winner will take the whole class.
- 2) You will only be allowed to win every other draw, however if you are the only one that entered that class you will get the class and be eligible for the next draw.
- 3) Draw order is per list on application sheet

OPEN CLASSES:

- 1) All beeswax products (candles, ornaments, blocks, soaps, lotions, lip balms etc.) must be packaged to maintain cleanliness and for presentation. (This will be the booth managers discretion)
- 2) Please submit a list of what you would like to market at the Iowa State Fair for 2025. Please provide a phone number where you may be reached if committee has questions.

State Fair Bid Rules

CREAMED AND FLAVORED HONEY RULES: MUST BE IOWA HONEY:

- 1) Flavored honey and creamed honey must come from a certified kitchen.
- 2) A copy of the license must be on file with the booth manager and booth manager must have them with them at the state fair. **(License must be attached and mailed with application package)**
- 3) If more than one person is wanting to bring a flavor, a draw will decide who brings the flavor.
- 4) You are required to provide a 1 ounce sample, by committee deadline, if you wish to bring pure creamed honey. (MUST HAVE SAMPLE TO **HEIDI LOVE BY NOON ON JUNE 1, 2025**)

CASE LOTS:

- 1) **EVERYONE MAY PARTICIPATE IN CASE LOTS. YOU MAY BRING 1-POUND GLASS AND OR 1-POUND PLASTIC. YOU MUST REQUEST IT ON THE BID APPLICATION.**
- 2) Case lot classes are 1-pound glass, 1-pound plastic
- 3) Case lots will be in case quantities of 24 bottles
- 4) You may bring no more than 4 cases of each class. **This is subject to change based on participation.**
- 5) Minimum is one case of 24 for a class.

CUT COMB, ROSS ROUNDS and CHUNK HONEY:

- 1) Must be in a sealed container
- 2) Must be well-drained without liquid honey (Chunk honey excluded)
- 3) Quality standards will be used (clean capping with all the cells capped)
- 4) Needs to weigh at least 14-ounces (Chunk honey excluded)
- 5) **MUST** be frozen for a minimum of 48 hours prior to arriving at the Iowa State Fair, subject to rejection, booth manager's discretion. (Chunk honey will need to be frozen as well.)

DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS:

- 1) All products must be delivered to IHPA booth at the Iowa State Fair
- 2) **Product must be delivered between Sunday to Tuesday hours are as follows: Sunday Noon-6PM, Monday 10AM-6PM, Tuesday 10AM-6PM (unless other arrangements are made with the booth manager)**
- 3) **YOU MUST PROVIDE AN INVOICE WHEN PRODUCT DELIVERED AND EVERYONE MUST HAVE COMPLETED A W-9. (W-9 will be provided on site if we need one from you.)**
- 4) Please make plans to pick up unsold product on Sunday evening 9PM-10PM or Monday between 8AM-NOON. (unless other arrangements are made with booth manager)

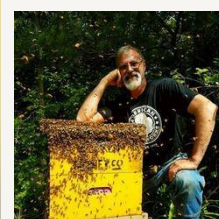
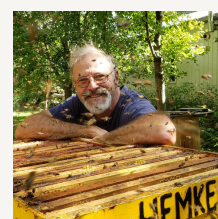


State Fair Bids

HONEY - SOLE CLASS										
		Amount Sold in 2023	Amount Sold in 2024	PRICE	I want this class		Amount Sold in 2023	Amount Sold in 2024	PRICE	
	2 ounce bear	308	665	\$ 1.55			Honey for Lemonade			
	(light honey) 8 oz honey bear	198	173	\$ 3.30		Honey for Lemonade - 50 pound pails	2742	2641		
	(light honey) 12 oz honey bear	96	231	\$ 4.40						
	24 ounce bear	255	482	\$ 6.33			SPECALITY ITEMS			
	2 pound jug									
	3 pound jug	85	83	11.55		Comb Honey (Clamshells & Boxes)	612	373	\$ 11.00	
	5 pound jug	40	49	17.60		Ross Rounds				
	12 pound gallon jug		35	\$ 38.50		Chunk Honey - 12 oz		84	\$ 8.00	
	4 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	54	26	3.30		Bee Pollen 8 oz	125	144	\$6.00	
	8 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	69	34	4.68		Bee Pollen (1 pound)			\$ 12.00	
	16 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	124	97	7.15						
	Honey Stix-For the year 2025	25589	29562	0.15						
						Hot Honey	172	128	\$ 9.00	
						Double Barrel Aged Honey	180			
HONEY - CASE LOT - 24 PER CASE						Whisky Barrel Aged-11 oz	157	178	\$ 12.00	
		Amount Sold in 2023	Amount Sold in 2024	PRICE	Limit 4 cases per class	Whisky Barrel Aged-19 oz	56	40	\$15.60	
	1 pound glass (liquid honey)	169	228	\$ 5.78		Rum Barrel Aged-12 oz	90	86	\$12.00	
	1 pound plastic (light honey)	192	333	\$ 5.50		Rum Barrel Aged-25 oz	22	22	\$21.00	
CLEAN-UP										
	1 pound glass									
	1 pound plastic	20								
CERTIFIED KITCHEN - SOLE CLASS						BEESWAX PRODUCTS				
	Flavored Honey- 8oz	Amount Sold in 2023	Amount Sold in 2024	PRICE	I want this class					
						Beeswax Bar - 1 ounce	54	32	\$2.00	
	Apple Cinnamon	96	100	\$ 5.00		Beeswax Bar - 1/2 pound	15	15	\$4.00	
	Blackberry	46	50	\$ 5.00		Beeswax Bar - 1 pound	22	27	\$7.00	
	Butter Rum	61	75	\$ 5.00		Wooden Honey Dippers	59	48	\$1.75	
	Chocolate Mint	17	25	\$ 5.00						
	Cinnamon	50	75	\$ 5.00						
	Peach	79	100	\$ 5.00		List your candles, lotions, lip balms, products with price				
	Raspberry	87	100	\$ 5.00						
	Creamed Honey - 1 pound	Amount Sold in 2023	Amount Sold in 2024	PRICE	I want this class					
1.00	PURE	416	328	\$ 7.50						
2.00	Cinnamon	256	224	\$ 7.50						
3.00	Apple Cinnamon	166	185	\$ 7.50						
4.00	Apricot	96	71	\$ 7.50						
5.00	Bavarian Crème	197	296	\$ 7.50						
6.00	Blackberry	105	125	\$ 7.50						
7.00	Blueberry	140	160	\$ 7.50						
8.00	Chocolate Mint	99	102	\$ 7.50						
9.00	Cranberry/orange	96	125	\$ 7.50						
10.00	Dutch Letter	453	384	\$ 7.50						
11.00	Lemon	176	224	\$ 7.50						
12.00	Mango Habanero	88	96	\$ 7.50						
13.00	Mango Tangerine	96	82	\$ 7.50						
14.00	Pecan	96	141	\$ 7.50						
15.00	Pumpkin Spice	76	32	\$ 7.50						
16.00	Raspberry	190	118	\$ 7.50						
17.00	Raspberry Jalapeño	140	112	\$ 7.50						
18.00	Strawberry	109	137	\$ 7.50						



From the Honey House



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

Hive Tool Ergonomics

Back in 1996 when I began beekeeping, I was starting by trial and mostly error. The first hive tool I purchased was an 8" prybar from Elliott's Ace Hardware. It seemed to do the job, but was not an actual hive tool. The straight end of the hive tool is normally tapered, and never sharp. It should be able to slide into the gap between boxes, frames, etc., to easily force the wood apart without damaging it too much. The hardware store prybar had a chisel point, so that each time I would break hive boxes apart, the shoulder of the angled side of the point would push into the wood, and bend up the wood fibers. Eventually the corners of the hive boxes would be beat up and rounded. Fortunately, I found a regular hive tool, and realized the difference.

There is a difference in tools, both use and utility. In most cases tools are tools, and sometimes we make do with what we have. How many of us have used a screwdriver as a punch? It works, but the right tool may work better. As we age and learn, and we tend to realize that there are better tools for function and quality.

I was sent some foreign beekeeping tools many years ago, which were not well made. A friend and I put one of the hive tools in a vice, and with our hands bent it right over. Not the proper steel, and not tempered at all. I think back to trying to separate two deep boxes with lots of honey, where they didn't separate, but lifted the entire hive off of the stand. That's a lot of stress on a tool!

What prompted me to write on this topic was a recent incident. I ordered a couple 12" stainless hive tools from a large bee supply company. I wanted to try them out, to see if the larger size was an advantage. I was excited when they came, and started using one while sorting deadout equipment. To my annoyance, the front of the tool was a chisel point, and quite sharp. It ended up digging into any wood that it touched. It was almost useless for scraping beeswax and propolis. The chisel point bent up the wood, or simply sliced into the wood. I sent a note to the company explaining the problem and my irritated state of mind. A few days later I was moving the hive tool aside on my workbench and it actually sliced my finger wide open. Another message to the company, indicating my displeasure.



Andy, show the front of two different hive tools.

I pay attention to my work tools, greasing, sharpening, oiling, cleaning, and generally spending time maintaining them. They work better that way. With the amount of use that my hive tools get while cleaning, scraping, banging on bee equipment and other things, I need to maintain them also. The bent end gets sharpened to a bevel for better scraping while pulling. The straight end gets the taper dressed up to fix any nicks, and I purposely dull the end on the concrete, to have a dull, but pointed end. The tools work better that way. Oh, and a new coat of red spray paint, so that I can find them in the tall grass easier.

I hope that this finds everyone in good humor, your replacement packages and bees growing, and your tools kept shiny.

Andy Hemken, Bee Guy
andy@hemkenhoney.com

From the Beeyard

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

Written by Phil Ebert

My two colonies of Iowa bees look good. They had five to six frames of brood when I checked them March 27. Pollen was coming in. Of course, the question is, why are these alive and looking good when so many are dead. They were never fed. They foraged the dead outs we brought home. They were super heavy. Stanleys always said bees winter better on honey. That's probably true but I would rate it as a minor factor. They didn't get much for mite treatment either. I threw in a couple of oxalic pads as an afterthought. The hives closest to home seem to get the least attention. I leave them for last because I can get to them any time. Then, sometimes, I don't get to them at all.

What I know is that we could not get our mites knocked down last fall. We were getting counts of eight and nine in late July. That's way too many for that time frame. We treated repeatedly thru the fall with Apiguard, extended release pads and oxalic dribble. The mite load stayed constant thru all of that. So, I think most of the losses come back to the mite/virus complex. Still, we have a host of other variables to throw in— quality of forage, pesticides, weather, etc. I raised the question of water quality last month.

So, I had two colonies that had very little mite treatment. They survived. Do they have any mite resistance? I would say it was doubtful. I have seen this before. When we move into the 2nd year, mite buildup always follows the other colonies. We bought our queen cells for the Texas splits from Ryan Lamb this year. He is trying to select for resistant bees. You can read about it on his website. Time will tell what the results are. What I am hearing from around the country is that the bees that are alive are doing really well. Is this a genetic thing or just the luck of the draw?

Cartons and entrance reducers are still in for my Iowa bees (April 11). I get questions when cartons and reducers should come out. To my mind, it does not matter much. It is more of a matter of convenience. When do you want to get them out of your way? We have left them on until May and, other times, removed them in April. The bees can get a little warm in May.

They start hanging out. If you remove the entrance block, it's not a problem.

Randall Cass has left Iowa State for Cornell. That's a big loss. I think this is a step up for him, but there was talk that his position might have been on the elimination list. That would be in the rumor category. We will see if ISU replaces him. Given the position of our current government toward universities, funding may be in doubt.

Alex and Adam are back from Texas after a two week sojourn. The bees were good but not quite as good as we had hoped. Still, they were able to make several hundred splits. On the downside, the transfer case on the flatbed they took to Texas blew up. We are looking at a \$5,000 repair bill on that.

I was headed to Mt. Vernon a few days ago with the 2001 flatbed— the newer of my old trucks. I was just east of Grinnell when it started to sound like I was driving down the rumble strip— only I wasn't. I pulled over on to the shoulder and found I could turn the driveshaft freely by hand with no resistance from the rear wheels. I called for the hook. After I got it home, I pulled the cover off the rear end. It looked good. I was encouraged. Then I pulled the left side axle and found it was broken. I was really encouraged then but after I looked closer, I found the spindle nut had come unscrewed and jimmied the threads on the spindle. I took it to Lynnvile repair for an estimate but I suspect the truck is destined for the junk yard.

Happy spring—may your wheels keep turning without mishap!!





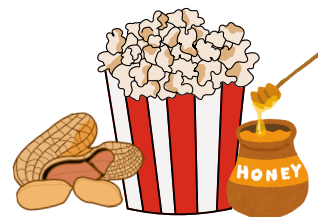
Recipes by Emma Ingram

May came around with a little rain and lots of nice weather. Although my bees all died, I'm getting ready to install some new hives and hoping to make a few splits and catch some swarms to get my number back up. Moving to a new house has brought with it new challenges and a lot of new pollen sources to watch blossom this spring. I was excited to find I have a large assortment of lilacs already established and am looking forward to finally having my own yard for native flowers. With all that excitement and spring starting to pop, I am as busy as a bee. After a good day's work in the gardens, I need a sweet treat to grab as I run out the door to baseball, Bible study, game night, spring bonfires, and so much more. The two snacks I tried this month are perfect for sharing and high in protein and minerals. What could be better than a handful for crunchy popcorn or a bite of chewy monster balls?

Crunchy Popcorn (Pg. 147)

½ cup butter, melted
½ cup honey

3 quarts popped corn
1 cup nuts



Blend butter and honey and heat until well blended. Add nuts. Pour over the popcorn. Mix well. Spread over cookie sheet in a thin layer and bake in a 350 degree oven for 12 minutes until crisp. Stir often, burns easily.

Emma's Notes: This popcorn mix was easy to whip together, has a little extra protein from the peanuts, and a pop of sweetness to keep you going on a hot day. We put the mixture on an extra-large cookie sheet to keep from spilling as we mixed it while cooking. We also stirred it as it cooled to prevent it clumping together. To make the process faster and easier, we used a colander to strain the un-popped kernels and a jar of toasted peanuts. The peanuts paired well with the honey, but any other nuts would work too. Next time, I am planning to get a container of mixed nuts to see how that compares. Overall, I really liked this recipe and hope to make it again soon. It made about one, one-gallon ice cream bucket worth of crunchy popcorn.

While the popcorn was toasting, I started on the monster bars.

No-Bake Monster Cookie Bar Bites (Pg. 87)

1 ¼ cups old-fashioned oats
1/4 cup honey
1/3 cup mini chocolate chips

1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
1/3 cup mini M&M's



Dump all your ingredients into a medium sized bowl. Stir well for a few minutes until everything is combined and oats and chocolate pieces are coated with wet ingredients. Roll mixture into small balls (about 1 to 1 ½ inches in size) carefully. Wash your hands occasionally to prevent mixture from sticking to them too much.) Place bites on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Store in a refrigerator in an airtight container or Ziploc bag.

Emma's Notes: I microwaved the honey and peanut butter together just enough to be soft and easy to combine without it getting hot enough to melt the chocolate. This sped up the mixing time considerably. As I mentioned in my introduction, I was looking for super quick recipes that anyone, even a kid could make. For this recipe, I was really thinking about speed. Instead of making a bunch of little balls, I decided to pat them into a pan and make bars. This made the process faster and easier to transport for a picnic; however, if you are needing something for a someone to do after school, this is a perfect activity. The old-fashioned oats gave the bars texture and structure, but did not remain too crunchy after they set up for a little while. The bars did remain a little sticky even after setting up overnight, so either bring along napkins, or be ready to lick your fingers!



From the Editor

Sara Sleyster, IHPA Editor

sarasleyster@gmail.com



Hello, everyone!

The stars aligned last month and I was able to attend the Honey Bee Day at the Iowa State Capitol for the first time. My substitute teaching job originally scheduled for that day got canceled, leaving my morning open to stop by.

I visited the event with my 14-year-old son, who I lured there with the promise of honey lemonade. I tried one of Julie Swett's honey treats, and Ben tried several. We were there at the same time Gov. Kim Reynolds, her husband and granddaughter stopped by the event. She posted pictures on her Facebook page and if you look closely Ben's in the background checking out the no-bake honey cookies.

I enjoyed getting to meet the IHPA Queen Program coordinator Connie Bronnenberg and IHPA Historian Tina Marshall in person. We've communicated several times via email getting The Buzz set up so it was nice to put a face to the names.

I also got to learn more about the Youth Scholarship program. What a neat program to get young beekeepers started in the art of honey producing. It is something I would have liked to try as a teenager. Unfortunately, my teenager and bees do not get along.

I will look forward to meeting even more people at the next IHPA event.

Bye for now!
Sara



Above: Ben humoring his mom and posing for a picture at the Honey Bee Day March 26 at the Iowa State Capitol.



Left: A proclamation from Gov. Kim Reynolds recognizing Iowa Honey Bee Day.

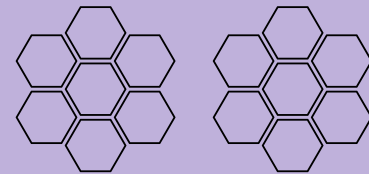
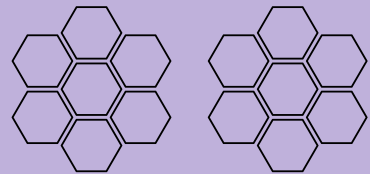


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**Summer
Field Day**
June 21, 2025

Ebert Honey
Mt. Vernon, Iowa

In 2025 we are excited to announce that Summer Field Day is going to traveling to the eastern side of Iowa, and we are working on securing a location in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area.

The date of the event will be on June 21 and registration will open mid-March 2025. The planning committee of Sara and Tyler Holton and Christ Puetz are working to bring you a day of topics to help you in your beekeeping journey no matter where you are, and also be able to get into the Apiary and observe some inspections. This will be an event you do not want to miss!

If you are interested in participating in terms of being a host location or have a facility we can utilize for presentations please reach out to either Sarah or Chris.



Buzzz...worthy items to WAGGLE about in May

Submitted by Jim and Tina Marshall

- May 20 is World Bee Day (which includes other pollinating bees, besides honey bees)
- Schools and Conservation Centers are busy planning outdoor field trips. Offer to do a honey bee presentation.
- Plant a honey bee flower garden. They most appreciate: single layer of petals (doubles have less nectar & the pollen is harder to reach), not hybrids (they often have little to no pollen), and flowers of blue, purple, yellow, and white (because that is what they see best).
- Consider checkerboarding as a swarm management tool. Literally insert empty frames of foundation alternated between every frame of drawn comb.
- I'm sure mom would love a pollinator-friendly perennial to plant for Mother's Day. Hint hint!
- Remember the 7:10 rule when adding hive bodies or supers: when 7 of the 10 frames are pulled into drawn comb and full of working bees, it is time to add another box.
- Feed new packages, nucs, or splits until they quit taking syrup feed.
- Prepare for swarm season. This month they are worth a load of hay!

WHAT IS CHECKERBOARDING?

Checkerboarding is a tool for your swarm prevention arsenal.

The issue: What do you do when you open your hive for an inspection in the spring and see that it is jam packed with brood especially capped brood, and the queen is running out of space? The first thing you should do after confirming signs that the queen is present, is look for signs of swarm cells. If none are found, you might try checkerboarding to quickly increase brood space in the hopes of keeping the swarming instinct at bay. It usually requires a second or third brood box and often ends in splitting soon.

The process: Simply pull every other frame of brood from your brood box and move them into another brood box in a position that would be straight up from their original position. Replace these frames with new frames of foundation or empty drawn comb. Then fill the new box the rest of the way with new frames of foundation. The new frames should be between the old frames to spread the brood.

What happens? The bees will quickly begin pulling new wax and generating space for the queen to lay eggs. If you were able to install a frame of drawn comb she may begin using it almost immediately.

What's next? During your next inspection make sure you didn't miss any swarm cells and that your expansion worked. You should find a lot of newly drawn comb filled with eggs and larva. Now you must decide if the hive needs split or is ready to go to work.

"The flower doesn't dream of the bee. It blossoms and the bee comes."



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Iowa Beekeeping Clubs

Back to Basics Beekeepers Club: contact Tina Marshall at marshalltmf@gmail.com

Boone River Beekeeping Club: contact Roy Kraft at kroyster.rk@gmail.com



Cedar Valley Bee Club: contact Ryan Dermody or Robert Stwalley at dermody.ryan@gmail.com and robert.stwalley@hawkeyecollege.edu

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association: contact Jamie Beyer at beyersbog@aol.com

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers: contact Ellen Bell at ellenbell.ia@gmail.com



Dubuque Swiss Valley Bee Club: contact Paulette Lynn at pjlynn1@gmail.com

East Central Iowa Beekeepers: contact Joseph Klingelhutz at jo.aloysius@gmail.com

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa: contact Eric Kenoyer at kenoyer1270@gmail.com



Great River Bend Beekeepers: contact David Hayes at prairiecreekfrm@netins.net

Heartland Bee Club: contact Tom Hart at tomhart1107@gmail.com

Loess Hills Beekeeping Association: contact Chris Ruhaak at LHBA@LoessHillsBA.com

North Iowa Beekeepers Club: contact Richard Vonderohe at vonderohebees@hotmail.com

Northeast Iowa Beekeepers Club: contact Gerald Hunter at gmhunter@neitel.net

Northwest Iowa Beekeepers: contact Tim Olsen at nwiabeekeepersresearch@gmail.com



Omaha Bee Club: contact Pam Newell at AskOmahaBeeClub@gmail.com

Pollinators Paradise Bee Club: contact Dan Whitmore at Paddledan@gmail.com

Quad City Bee Keeping Club: contact Ron Fischer or Doug Dahlin at qcbeeclub@yahoo.com



Southern Iowa Beehivers: contact Mindy Butcher at msbutcher1@hotmail.com

Southern Iowa Hive Handlers: contact Scott Kent at clarkeccb@gmail.com

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers: contact Steve Hemphill at snwfarm@mepotelco.net



Southwest Iowa Beekeepers: contact Nathan Paulsen at southwestiowabeekeepers@gmail.com

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» Package Bees

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Please email ihpa1912@gmail.com

The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association
c/o Editor, Sara Sleyster
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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 June Edition of *The Buzz*

May 10th at 11:59 p.m.

Please submit materials to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com

