



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



March 2015

2015 American Honey Queen Pg 5&6

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Oxalic Acid Registration Comments

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Dates to be Remembered

March 15th— IHPA Board Meeting

April 18th—CIB Annual Auction

The Central Iowa Beekeeper's Annual Auction is being held on April 18th 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The auction located is on Hwy 141 on the north side of the road – just 1 block west of the hospital in Perry, Iowa.

FOR SALE: I will have Queens available mid-April, Carniolan or Italian.
Price: \$30.00

Pick-up is in Goodell.

For more information, call Pat Ennis
@ 641-444-4767 4/15

FOR SALE: Beekeeping Equipment, honey, beeswax, and bottling supplies - Goodell IA

Offering reasonably priced new and some used beekeeping supplies & equipment.

For more information, please call Pat
@ 641-444-4767 4/15

For Sale: 3lb. packages with unmarked Italian queen.

Pick-up in West Chester, IA

Load 1: March 21, 2015 (experienced beekeepers only due to early install date)
Load 2: May 13th, 2015

Price:
1-9 \$110 each
10-99 \$105 each
100+ \$100 each
(no cage deposit or refunds)

Also available: complete cypress hive kits (fully assembled) \$225 each

Call Tim Wilbanks 319-321-2494 or order through website: www.kalonaHoney.com

Kalona Honey Co., 2104 Hemlock Ave, West Chester, IA 52359

FOR SALE: 3 # packages W/Italian or Carniolan queens.

Price:

1-10 - \$106.00

11-99 - \$100.00

100 + - \$97.00

Plus cage dept of \$6.00 each

Pick-up mid-April in Goodell, IA

For more information, call

Pat @ 641-444-4767 4/15

FOR SALE: 5 frame Nuc and Singles W/Italian or Carniolan queens.

Nuc : \$135.00

Single: \$175.00

Nucs and Singles will be ready for pick-up around mid May from Goodell, Iowa

For more information, call

Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767 4/15

FOR SALE: 2 or 3 pound packages of Italian bees with queen. Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, Iowa in mid-April. Bees from Hill-Ward Apiary in California. All orders must be received by February 28.

Contact Douglas Child 319-634-3682

For Sale: 3lb Carniolan packages with a Carniolan Queen starting at \$105 each with discounts for volume orders.

Carniolan queens available mid May for \$18 each. We still have some Russian queens available for late summer re-queening of your hives for \$30 each (Shipping available on queen orders).

Aromatic cedar hive kits (2 deeps, 2 mediums, cover, inner cover, bottom, reducer, all the frames, and a board feeder) starting at \$278

Pine hive kits (2 deeps, 2 mediums, cover, inner cover, bottom, reducer, all the frames, and a board feeder) starting at \$228

To order, visit us at

www.RussianBee.com

(orders can be placed online or print out an order form from our site)

For concerns with the website or large volume orders you call us at 515-991-4666. Otherwise please visit us on the web www.RussianBee.com

Nucs for sale: \$140.00

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

For Sale - 6 5/8 9 frame wooden box with bees : \$163.00

9 frame 6 5/8 box includes 1 marked queen (Italian/Carniolan/Russian cross) (no lid or no bottom board) in a 10 frame Hive.

9 frames 6 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life)

Our bees are bred for Honey production and Iowa winter hardiness.

You may add a lid, inner ild, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for \$47.50.

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

9 frame 9 5/8 box includes (no lid or no bottom board) In a 10 frame hive.

9 frames 9 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life)

Our bees are bred for Honey production and Iowa winter hardiness. You may add a lid, inner ild, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for \$47.50.

Queens for sale \$37.00

1 marked queen

(Italian/Carniolan/Russian cross)

New Complete assembled painted Hive Kit \$350.00

Includes 2 - 9 5/8 hve bodies

20 - 9 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell

2 - 6 5/8 supers

20 - 6 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell

Telescoping cover with inner lid

Bottom board with reducer AND How to get started FREE

No Bees (You will want to get this so you are ready when your bees arrive.)

Bees will be available April 15th 2015 (depending on weather)

Deposit of \$75.00 when you place order. (Place order early before we're sold out)

Curtis Barnhart

PO Box 70

Monticello, Iowa 52310

319 480-4209

autum49@yahoo.com

For Sale: Package Bees**3 pound with Carniolan or Italian Queen**

1-9 \$106.00
 10-99 \$100.00
 100+ \$97.00

2 pound with Carniolan or Italian Queen

1-9 \$88.00
 10-99 \$82.00
 100+ \$80.00
 There will be a \$6.00 Deposit on cages.

We have a supply of Italian & Carniolan Queens \$30.00 each

We are offering 5 frame Nucs this year Italian or Carniolan Queens

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

Frames of brood @ \$20.00 a frame
Single Story Hives \$175.00

We will supply 1 gallon corn syrup and 1 # protein patty for \$7.00 extra with purchase of Nucs and Package bees.

Bulk Corn syrup .40 per pound in your container. Corn syrup 40# bucket \$18.00 50# bucket \$23.00 We will continue to carry a line of equipment needed to start and maintain your hive.

Call: Connie Bronnenberg (515)480-6076
 Call: Curt Bronnenberg (515)480-6075

Honey Styx We have sent barrels of our Iowa honey to Oregon to put into Styx!
 Case of 2000 \$180.00
 500 – 1999 .12ea
 1 – 499 .15ea

Call Connie @ (515)480-6076
 Curt @ (515)480-6075

For Sale: Package Bees. 2#, 3#, and 4# package bees arriving in April for pickup in Lynnville, Iowa. Choice of Carniolan or Italian. Please visit our website for pricing: www.EbertHoney.com

FOR SALE: 100 Gallon Kelley stainless steel tank with heavy duty stand and strainer cone--\$100. Contact Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

FOR SALE: Queens for pickup in Lynnville IA beginning in early April.
 Call: 641-527-2639 or ehoney37@netins.net or alex.ebert@eberthoney.com

We won't be shipping any queens until May. Those will come from Mt Vernon. Contact Adam Ebert at Adam.ebert@eberthoney.com



March President's Message



March is the beginning of the beekeeping season for me. Our wait for the bees to come back from pollinating almonds in California to Iowa is soon to end and we have much to prepare before their return. We have to have our split boxes (a split box is a deep super with a division board feeder, 6 frames of drawn comb and 2 frames of foundation.) ready for when the bee' return. We also need to have the queen's ordered, any new supers nailed together and painted, new migration pallets (a pallet that holds 4 hives) made up and ready, syrup for feeding, pollen patties on hand and anything else we want to have done before the bees come back. Once they return we usually don't have time to do anything else because our focus is on the girls, we have to feed them usually twice and sometimes 3 times. When the bees return home from California, they are usually 6 to 10 almost full frames of brood, that's about 60,000 bees that have just come out of 50 – 70 degree days of California sun to Iowa's weather of.....well in Iowa it could be just about anything that time of year, 30 -40 temp. days or colder. Last year we had freezing temps and snow. The girls were not happy, as was not the beekeeper. It takes a lot of syrup & pollen patties to help keep them going thru this transition. Out of the roughly 3,000 hives that will return, we will make close to 1,200 to 1,600 splits and shake around 800 3# packages of bees out of them. This is about a 4 week process to get all this work done. This year we are a bit little short handed, so we're looking for someone who is not afraid to work long days, get stung, work sun or rain, hot or cold, can do heavy lifting, and is teachable. I know the commercial side of beekeeping and this type of work is not for everyone, but every day I get up to do what I love to do, my nephew tells me I don't have a real job. If you think you might be a fit, contact us.

Have you got your calendar marked for the Central Iowa Beekeepers Auction coming up on April 18th at 10:00 AM in Perry Iowa? If you're looking to find a new home for your extra beekeeping equipment, let me know with your list and we'll advertise it in the Buzz. The auction is a great place to sell your beekeeping items, and also a great place to find that great deal, and purchase extra equipment you need and are looking for. The auction will be in Perry again this year. Thank you to Curt and Connie Bronnenberg for letting the Central Iowa Beekeepers use their place along highway 141 in Perry for the auction location.



If you like to plan ahead, be thinking about

the Summer Field Day of the Iowa Honey Producers, It being planned for July 11th at Ebert's Honey (Phil Ebert's) in Lynnvile Iowa. Roy Kraft, our new vice President is working hard to get this all set up. He is looking for help in this process, not only in presenters but people to help set things up and the many other details that need to be done. Let him know if you're willing to help or have suggestions.

Last but not least, you need to get out and check you bees on those warmer days. In most places in the state, you will need to feed them so they don't run out of food stores. What you feed them is up to you, if you saved some honey back in frames, some sort of syrup, dry sugar, candy board, whatever you use, but give the girls some help to make it through to spring, these next few month are the months were most of the winter losses take place. Also think about giving them a pollen substitute. Last fall, it looked like a lot of bee hives had little to no incoming nectar or pollen. No winter pollen stores and the brood rearing doesn't begin, they cannot raise brood without pollen. Take some time to take care of the girls, help them out!!

Till next month, bee happy, bee faithful, bee yourself and bee grateful for another year of beekeeping. Hope for an early spring, but be prepared if it's late.

Pat

March Trivia: can you name 5 flowers or trees that bees will get pollen and or nectar from in spring, late April/early May in Iowa? Answer on page 13.

Springtime Activities for Bee Health

By Gary S. Reuter, Apiculture Technician, Department of Entomology; University of Minnesota

In this article I would like to discuss the factors in a honey bee colony that pertain to winter and early spring. How does a colony make it through the cold winter? What are some of the hazards? What can we do to help? This is the continuation of the article written last fall that started the same way. Remember that this is written from the perspective of the Twin Cities area in Minnesota. The principles will be the same but you will just need to adjust dates for your area.

We winter in three deep boxes. If you wintered last year in one or two deep hive bodies, this year you can build to three deep and see how it works next year. The time to start thinking about wintering your colonies is in March. The same time you start thinking of getting ready for your major honey flow. The goal is to have a large (60,000 bees), healthy colony at the time of the major honey flow so the bees can maximize the amount of nectar they collect. We also want a medium size (40,000 bees), healthy colony with plenty of honey and pollen for winter. The bees will need the honey to get through early winter and then the pollen and honey once they start to raise brood.

So to get them off to a good start about the first of March we give them a pollen patty. If we have done our job last year they will not need it because they will have pollen available that they stored. But, just to be sure I like them to have a pollen patty. Do not just throw it in there any old way. The pollen patty needs to be in contact with the cluster so they can get to it even on a cold day. If the cluster is between two boxes, do not put it between the cluster and divide the cluster. This will make it harder for the bees to regulate temperature. Just on the top of the cluster is idea. If the top of the cluster is in the middle of the box you will have to put it on one edge of the cluster between the boxes.

When the bees are using all the available space in the top box we do a "partial" reversal. This means we reverse the positions of the top two boxes. This will put open space above the cluster for the bees to move into. The fact that the open space is above the cluster means it will be warmer and they can move up easier. We make sure they always have at least some pollen patty in case they run out of pollen. After the reversal it is placed between the two boxes making it on top of the cluster.

When the bees are again using all the available space in the top box we do a "full" reversal. This means we reverse the positions of the top and bottom boxes. The middle box stays in the middle. This will once again put open space above the cluster for the bees to move into. The fact that the open space is above the cluster means it will be warmer and they can move up easier (remember?). By this point there should be ample natural pollen available but if you are in doubt leave some pollen patty on them.

When it gets to be fruit bloom time (May 15 here) we will do a divide. For detailed methods to do divides see our manual "Beekeeping in Northern Climates" available at http://beelab.umn.edu/Resources/Beekeeping_manuals_videos/index.htm#northern. This will simulate (virtual swarm if you will) swarming and lessen the chance that they will swarm on their own. After doing the divide you will have two colonies, one in a single deep with a new queen (the divide) and one in two deeps with the old queen (parent). The parent will be given honey supers and we will not winter it.

If you are starting the season with a package of bees, hive them in the usual manner. Again see our manual. Be sure to give the new package pollen or pollen patty and sugar syrup if you do not have frames of honey.

Entomology website: www.entomology.umn.edu

Gary's website: www.tc.umn.edu/~reute001

Lab website: www.BeeLab.umn.edu

Editor's Note: Watch next month for a continuation of this article, answering when to add the next box.

Source Kelly beekeeping February 28-2013

2015 American Honey Queen



Princess Hayden and I right after crowning.



Honeybee Quiz Bowl!!!



One of my first school presentations with my new title.



Practicing cooking demonstrations
at training.



2015 American Honey Queen

Hello Iowa Beekeepers!

As you may have heard by now, I became the 2015 American Honey Queen in January! I am honored to be representing the beekeeping industry on this level. Thank you so much for supporting me and sending me to California to compete.

The competition was judged on a several different categories. First, before the competition began, I submitted an application about myself and an essay about honey. Once in California, I was judged on my presentation, speaking, and interview skills along with my knowledge of honey bees. I had the opportunity to give a presentation on honeybees, participate in a honey-bee quiz bowl, help out at the kids and bees expo, have an interview with multiple judges, meet a large amount of the people who attended the conference, and participate in other activities as well. I had a wonderful time representing Iowa, and I'm excited I will be continuing my travels.

As the 2015 American Honey Queen, I will travel the country to share information about honey and honeybees. To prepare me for my year, I had a training course with past royalty and other volunteers which lasted multiple days. I now feel prepared to give great school presentations and cooking demonstrations as well as participate in bee meetings. In addition, I will be spreading knowledge about bees through media outlets. As I write this on February 10th, I have already been featured in two newspapers and multiple webpages. I have also already given four school presentations as the American Honey Queen. I am now looking forward to traveling to Florida on February 12th to the 17th. I will be giving cooking demonstrations, attending bee meetings, taking part in interviews, and helping out with the bee booth. I'm very excited to visit as many states as possible in the coming year.

If you have any events you would like me to attend, please contact the American Honey Queen Chair, Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. In addition, you can follow my travels by "liking" the queen Facebook page "American Honey Queen Program".

Thanks again for everything you have done to support me. I learned so much as the 2014 Iowa Honey Queen, and I know I will continue to learn as the 2015 American Honey Queen. I wouldn't be where I am without all of you, and I truly appreciate all you have done for me.

To Iowa Beekeepers:

I read with interest "The Future of Beekeeping in Iowa" by Glen Stanley.

I have known Glen and Lloyd Stanley for 38 years and have a lot of respect for the way they have kept bees for over 80 years. I bought my first three hives, not packages, from them in 1977. I had taken a beekeeping course at ISU and when Glen, then the State Apiarist, visited our class and talked about diseases, I just had to get to know him. Glenn and his brother Lloyd had their honey house in Gilbert, IA and that first year of beekeeping I was at their honey house about every other week – not to mention all the phone calls. Like many of you first-time beekeepers, I was inspecting my bees almost every day and Lloyd finally told me to leave them alone; they know what they are doing. I did make a small crop of honey that year, but I left it on the bees for winter. Of course I took some honey for me and my family. It was the best honey that I had ever tasted because it was MY honey.

Yes, I remember 1988, and I did have a super crop of honey. I ran out of supers and had to start extracting honey early so that I could put supers back on the hives, and those wet supers really attracted the bees to fill them again. However, I also had the worst honey crop in 2014, and many of my hives did not produce enough honey to overwinter, which I agree is the best food for honeybees. I was not going to let these bees die, so I've been feeding them 2:1 sugar water; some colonies took as much as five gallons of syrup. When I put them away for the winter, I placed two Dadant winter patties on each hive and as of 1/24/2015, all 14 colonies were still alive. You asked if the cost is worth it, and I say it IS based on the package prices of \$110 or more. I will do whatever it takes to get my hives through the winter, and I am teaching others to do the same.

I understand that beekeeping today is a lot different than when Glen and Lloyd were keeping bees. The biggest problem they had to deal with was European and American Foul Brood, which, because of Dr. Marla Spivak's Minnesota Hygienic Bees, we do not see too much anymore. However, these diseases are still present and we need to remain vigilant. As Glen suggested, we rotate our old comb out of the hives, because they harbor diseases and other chemicals. I started numbering my frames in 2009 and here it is 2015 and I still have frames with no numbers on them. It is a tough job, but I must be alert for

Best Wishes,
Gabrielle Hemesath

any signs of diseases. Today's beekeepers have other problems: Varroa mites are infesting our colonies, pesticides are killing our bees, and we are losing bee pasture every year. It is a difficult time for Iowa beekeepers.

Still, I must disagree with Glen Stanley about our future. Even with all these problems, I am still optimistic about Iowa and her beekeepers. Honey prices are up. Media attention has many people concerned about disappearing honey bees and the impact on agriculture, food supply, and society as a whole. There are more federal funds and grant monies available for bee research. Everywhere I go, people ask how they can help the bees. The Iowa Honey Producers reported in the November BUZZ that there will be TWENTY ONE beginning beekeeping classes offered this winter. I am attending Andy Joseph's class in Ankeny, and we had over 100 people attending. I have heard from other people teaching beginning beekeeping classes, and they have high attendance also. Not all of these people will be beekeepers, but many will.

Education is the answer. It always has been. It was my answer in 1977 when I first started beekeeping. It was the answer in the bumper crop of 1988, and it was the answer in the lean crop of 2014. Things don't change overnight, but they do change one person at a time, one family at a time. The more future beekeepers we cultivate, the more we can work together, learn together, and "take back the hive" for the next generation. One beekeeper at a time.

Yours in Beekeeping,
Arvin Foell
Assistant Honeybee Inspector

A Simple but Efficient System for Working the Hive

By Dennis Brown, Lone Star Farms, www.lonestarfarms.net
Editor's Note: Bee-ginners often ask how to work the hive. Dennis explains an efficient approach for doing so.

Always pry up the second comb closest to you first. The first comb is usually anchored to the side wall in several places by the bees and it is much harder to remove first.

Once you remove the second comb, hold it to the side and look at the face of the third comb for the queen. You will be able to locate the queen much easier if you adopt this system because you are always looking ahead to the face of the next comb. (Don't worry about looking for the queen on the comb in your hand first, because if the queen is on it you already

have her.)

If you don't see the queen on the face of the third comb, then inspect the second comb (the one in your hand). After inspecting this comb for all of the things you should be looking for, stand it on its end up against the back of the hive to avoid kicking it. By leaving this comb out, you have provided more space to work in. (In the bee catalogs you can find a new comb rack that hooks onto the side of the hive and gives you a place to rest the combs if you don't want to put them on the ground.)

Next, remove the third comb and hold it to the side while you inspect the face of the fourth comb for the queen.

After inspecting the third comb place it next to the first comb which is still in the hive next to the wall.

Remove the fourth comb and hold it to the side and inspect the face of the fifth comb for the queen. *Note: If at any time during the inspection you find the queen, you should inspect her carefully and slide the frame back into the hive. **Never** place the frame that has the queen on it outside the hive no matter which frame you find her on.*

After looking at the face of the fifth comb inspect the fourth comb. After inspecting the fourth comb, place it back inside the hive next to the third comb.

Remove the fifth comb and hold it to the side and inspect the face of the sixth comb for the queen.

After inspecting the fifth comb place it back inside the hive next to the fourth comb.

Remove the sixth comb and hold it to the side and inspect the face of the seventh comb for the queen.

After inspecting the sixth comb place it back in the hive next to the fifth comb.

Keep working the hive this way until all of the combs have been inspected.

Always place the combs back in the exact position they were in when you started. The last comb you remove should be placed back where you got it. Then, slide each of the other combs into their original position. Remove the first comb, which is still on the side wall, and inspect it and place it back on the wall. Take the second comb, which is outside the hive, and place it in the second position in the hive. At this time all of the combs are back in their original position and the inspection is complete.

Get in the habit of looking for the queen herself, not the



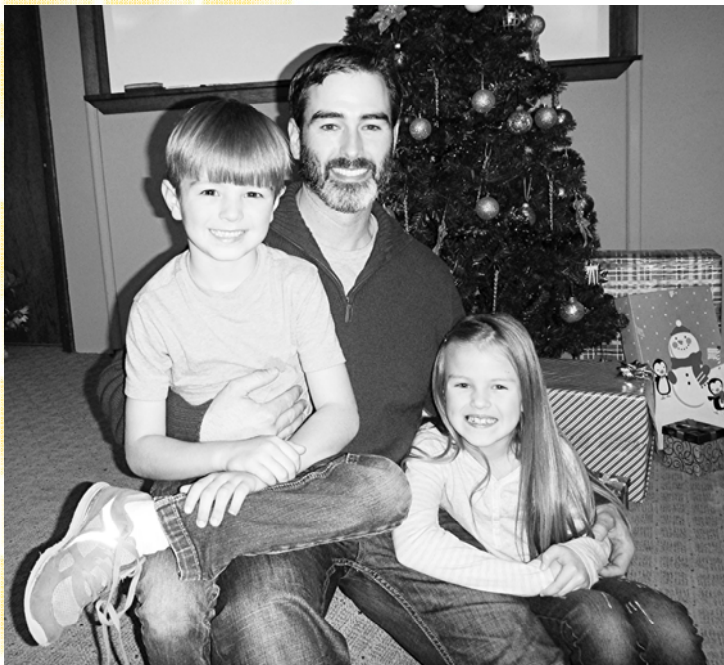
colored dot on her back. Beekeepers who order their queens to be marked always get in a habit of looking for the colored dot instead of the queen herself when they inspect their hives. Sometimes this dot fades and is not visible. Sometimes the same queen you started with is not there any longer, and the new queen doesn't have a colored dot. Use the colored dot as a secondary means of locating the queen, not the primary means.

You will know you have become skilled at opening and working a hive when you find the queen still laying eggs in the cells as you watch. That means that you have performed the inspection with very little disruption to the hive, which is what you should strive for.

Dennis is author of "Beekeeping: A Personal Journey"
Source: Kelly's Beekeeping, April 1, 2013

Tim Wilbanks, Speaker Colony Management for Small Numbers and Growing to the Next Level

Back to Basics Bee Club
Oskaloosa, Iowa
December 12, 2014



Speaker Tim Wilbanks with Harrison and Ansley

Tim Wilbanks spoke about how to keep small, manageable colony numbers and how to grow and expand for beekeepers thinking about taking it to the next level, perhaps even to a commercial scale. He covered obstacles and opportunities to consider along the way. How fortunate Back to Basics was to have a speaker of this caliber and experience. Tim is a fifth generation beekeeper, and his young children repre-

sent the 6th generation of beekeepers in the family. The Wilbanks family maintains a small hobby farm in rural Iowa. Tim grew up in Claxton, Georgia, working for the family business, The Wilbanks Apiaries, Inc. Tim and family return to GA two or three times a year, bringing back packages and queens. They now have up to fifty colonies in rural SE Iowa, specifically West Chester near Kalona.

Kalona Honey Company is featured in the September 2014 issue of the *Radish Magazine* out of the Quad Cities. Tim taught a beekeeping class for the University of Illinois Extension Service. Read more about Tim at <http://radishmagazine.com/stories/display.cgi?prcss=display&id=696388>
By Nicole Lauer, nicolellauer@gmail.com.

The Wilbanks family loves Jesus, family, bees and pure, natural, sweet honey. Harrison, age 7, and Ansley, age 8, accompanied Dad to the meeting while Tim's wife, Sarah, remained at home with the two little ones, Priscilla, 2 and Reed, 3. Sarah has a Master's and Specialist Degree in School Psychology. Pending the birth of their first, Sarah and Tim made the decision to plan a family lifestyle whereas they would spend maximum time with children. Tim's primary occupation is chiropractic, and 2 years ago, he sold his primary chiropractic practice and started a three-day a week schedule of practicing chiropractic in Kalona, IA. Two years ago they started Kalona Honey Company. Learn more about the Kalona Honey Company at their website: <http://www.kalonahoney.com>. Sarah and Tim will have enjoyed their ten-year family life in Iowa in February 2015.

Tim suggests the best thing a want-a-bee beekeeper is to learn the basics, read books, magazines, find a mentor, and maintain an index of reference resources so you can find exactly what you need when there's a bee emergency. Every season presents something new and every season is a teaching tool. Tim and Sarah continue to learn. Tim talked about queen rearing and the advantages of raising queens within our own area. Tim and Sarah are involved in several clubs including the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers and the East Central Iowa Beekeepers. Tim has spoken to numerous clubs and associations throughout the states of Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. Tim Wilbanks can be reached at kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com, or 319-321-2494.

Editor, Marilyn Jackson, jacksmarilyn@hotmail.com,
Back To Basics



Mark Your Calendar for the CIB Annual Beekeeping Auction!

The Central Iowa Beekeeper's Annual Auction is being held on April 18th 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The auction located is on Hwy 141 on the north side of the road – just 1 block west of the hospital in Perry, Iowa.

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg have graciously offered the Central Iowa Beekeepers the use of their "in town honey house" again this year. There will be a restroom available, as well as hot coffee, hot chocolate, bars, and rolls.

WE ARE IN NEED OF CONSIGNERS AND BUYERS!!

Now is the perfect time to clean, sort, and sell your extra beekeeping equipment, or to purchase good beekeeping equipment! Please e-mail me your list of items you would like to consign.

All items consigned will be advertised in the March and April Buzz Newsletter. (Please have your list to me by February 10 or March 10 to make the Buzz printing deadline)

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

Consignment fee for members of the Central Iowa Beekeepers is 10% Consignment fee for non members of the Central Iowa Beekeepers is 15%

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

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

SOLD!



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

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!!



Global Iowa Tidings

Jeralyn G. Westercamp, 14BS, 14BBA, a health administration graduate student in the UI College of Public Health, received a sweet honor earlier this year when she became the Iowa Honey Producers Association's 2014 Iowa Honey Princess. An active, accomplished student leader with an interest in agriculture and the environment, Westercamp will use her title to advocate the benefits of beekeeping and honey production at appearances around the state. —University of Iowa Alumni Magazine



I was pleased to be featured in the February 2015 University of Iowa Alumni magazine. The circulation is global with an estimated 100,000+ issues.

CATCH THE BUZZ

Oxalic Acid Registration Comments Wanted By EPA

Alan Harman

There's great news for beekeepers with the U.S. Department of Agriculture seeking approval for the in-hive use of oxalic acid dihydrate to control Varroa mites.

It's a treatment long used in Europe that kills up to 97% of mites in a hive. The government's Federal Register lists an application for Environmental Protection Agency approval for the product, long successfully used in Europe in the colony against Varroa.

The notice is signed by Robert McNally, director of the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division of the Office of Pesticide Programs.

A spokeswoman at the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs confirmed receipt of the USDA application. Approval of the application would give U.S. beekeepers a new weapon in their fight against Varroa.

European beekeepers say they successfully use vaporized oxalic acid, or a 3.2% solution of oxalic acid in sugar syrup, as a miticide against Varroa. It can be used in both the liquid form and as crystals that can be evaporated by electric heater pans.

Oxalic acid had been successfully used by beekeepers in the United Kingdom for several decades to kill Varroa when Sussex University conducted a study to determine the effectiveness of different doses and application methods of oxalic acid on mite and bee mortality.

The experiment involved 110 hives comparing three application methods and three different doses that was completed in 2014. Hives were treated in early January 2013 when they had no brood.

Oxalic acid does not kill Varroa in sealed cells, but rather kills mites carried on the bodies of workers and also those crawling in cells not yet capped. The researchers determined the proportion of mites killed by washing the mites off a sample of about 300 workers bees immediately before and after 10 days of treatment with oxalic acid.

10 They also determined the number of bees killed at the

time of treatment, together with hive mortality and strength four months later in spring.

The university says the results came to a clear and encouraging conclusion. Application of oxalic acid via sublimation, where it is applied in its pure form by vaporizing the crystals with a special heated tool, was superior to application as a solution via either spraying or dribbling.

Sublimation gave a greater kill of Varroa at a lower oxalic acid level and showed no increase in bee mortality. In fact, four months after treatment, the hives treated via the sublimation had more brood than the 10 untreated colonies.

The sublimation method is quick and easy, as the hives do not need to be opened.

To confirm the results, the sublimation technique was retested a year later in broodless honey bee colonies.

"An amazing 97% of the Varroa were killed by using 2.25 grams of oxalic acid per hive, and colony survival three months

later in spring was close to 100%," the university says.

It says beekeepers only need to carry out this treatment once a year because it reduced the number of mites so dramatically it takes them a long time to build back up again.



The Federal Register notice says the application potentially affects those involved in crop and animal production, food manufacturing and pesticide production.

Comments must be received by the EPA on or before March 6.

Oxalic acid dihydrate is a colorless, odorless, crystalline solid. It is potentially fatal if swallowed or inhaled. It can also cause discoloration, irritation and burns of the skin as well as permanent damage to the eyes.

One operating manual says all employees who handle this material should be trained to handle it safely.

"Areas in which this compound is used should be wiped down periodically so that this substance is not allowed to accumulate," it says.

In Canada, the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture says oxalic acid dihydrate should only be applied in late fall when the colony has no brood. Any open brood in the colony is likely to be killed by oxalic acid.

“Even though the product is not as volatile as formic acid, always wear rubber gloves and safety glasses when handling the product,” it says “Avoid inhalation of vapors.”

The ministry says it should be applied only once. “Oxalic acid can be applied at cool temperatures, either through vaporization (crystals heated and converted directly into a gas vapor) or trickling an acid-sugar syrup solution onto the bees.

One European expert goes even further.

“It cannot be stressed too strongly that oxalic acid is an aggressive substance and needs to be treated with respect,” he says.

“Acid resistant gloves and goggles should be worn and an apron of the type used by mortuary attendants, along with wellington boots that have the tops covered by gaiters so that any falling liquid cannot fall into the boot.

“A respirator that has specialized organic acid filtering will be required in cases where the acid is sprayed or vaporized.”

The EPA is also seeking comment on an application from Certis USA L.L.C. to market a product called BmJ WG with a fungicide that claims to reduce plant viral infections and *Bacillus mycoides* isolate. It is intended for use on almonds, citrus, cole crops, cucurbits, fruiting vegetables, grapes, legumes, lettuce, pecans, pome fruits, potatoes, spinach, and sugar.

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Healthy Bees

By Education Specialist

Okay, all you girls out to the landing board for wing ups and pollen basket stretching! We are also going to groom well afterwards and dislodge these pesky Varroa mites. Obviously we can't put our bees through this regimen but there are a lot of things we can do to help keep them healthy. I am really going to get back to the basics here so you seasoned beekeepers may want to either skip ahead or bear with me.

What are healthy bees?

- * Healthy bees are headed by great queens
- * They are disease and parasite free
- * They live in solid equipment
- * They have room to expand and grow
- * They have ample stores of nectar and pollen
- * They have access to nearby water
- * They show traits of hygienic behavior

Great queens, in my opinion, are bred from survivor stock that has not been chemically treated and yet survived through all the problems that bees face today. (The chemicals I am referring to are the hard chemicals commonly used by beekeepers, such as Coumophos and Fluvalinate.) These queens lay a great solid brood pattern and build rapidly in the spring to catch the

first nectar flows. In some cases these queens may not produce the most gentle of offspring but I am of the opinion that you need a tough bee to survive.

Even with great queens there are a lot of things that we as beekeepers can do to help ensure healthy hives. Let's start with the home where we want them to live.

Bees do not like filth and go to great lengths to keep their homes clean and sterile. We can aid them by scraping bottom boards if using solid ones and or dumping our Varroa screens periodically.

We can provide them with solid, well-ventilated boxes. The boxes should be placed in full sunlight facing the east. The eastern exposure will get them moving earlier in the morning and full sunlight on the hives may help in the control of the Small Hive Beetle (SHB).

The ground around our hives should be maintained for the control of SHB and the grass and weeds should not be allowed to grow tall, as this can provide a highway into the hive for other pests.

Frames should be maintained in the hive by scraping off excess wax, burr comb and propolis, as this will aid the beekeeper in doing thorough inspections and making sound management decisions.

If no water is nearby a water supply should be provided.

A system of record keeping should be in place to aid the beekeeper in tracking what is working and what is not.

Healthy good food should be provided in times of dearth and protein supplements should be used when there is a lack of pollen.

Entrance reducers should be used when the colonies are weak or when there is a danger of robbing.

Mouse guards should be put on hives in the fall.

The bee yard should be maintained in good order so as not to attract skunks and other predators with a sweet tooth—don't throw discarded wax or dump old bee food nearby.

Queens should be replaced at their first signs of failing.

Continuing education should be sought to aid in the care of your bees.

Never feed the Fumagilin-B or apply a drench with honey supers on. Supplemental feeding and drenching should be



done prior to the nectar flow and again after the harvest. Mite checks should be done periodically and if using chemical controls be sure to follow the directions to the letter. If using more passive treatments let common sense guide you.

I once saw a headline on the cover of a tabloid that said “World’s Weather out Of Control.” I thought when was it ever controlled? This applies to all aspects of nature including beekeeping. Even when you feel you have followed the correct path and have done all you could do there are things that are simply out of our control, and they can be quite humbling.

Happy beekeeping—Education Specialist

Source & re-print permission: Kelly Beekeeping January 1-2012

Clean-up of Hives that Didn’t Survive

By Camilla Bee, Editor

Bees die. But, spring is the season of renewal. Finding a dead hive is discouraging, but please don’t give up. Bees need us. What do you do with “dead-outs” as they’re commonly called?

Dealing with Dead-Outs

First, remove the dead hive from the bee yard as soon as practical. Unprotected, any honey is an invitation for robbing by assorted wild critters and other hives. Moisture will also likely build up inside the hive, encouraging mold.

Second, try to determine the cause, as that will define what you can do with what the deceased colony left behind.

Clean Up

Dr. Roger Hoopingarner, of Michigan State University, notes that most hives die from Varroa or starvation. Thus, reusing those resources (stores and drawn wax) is generally no problem. Brush off the dead bees, rap the frame the flat way to dislodge some stuck in the cells, and protect the wax from wax moths until they are may be reused. These drawn frames are ideal for starting nuc colonies from strong colonies that survived, or for welcoming a new package. Don’t worry about leaving a few bees behind in the frames, the new bees will clean them out.

A colony that died from AFB requires burning it all, although the hive bodies and major components may be singed or scorched with a blow torch to destroy spores. With Nosema it may be easier to burn it all, or, depending upon the extent of the damage, treat with the cleaning solution noted.

Mold, unless it is black mold, may be wiped off the frames and capped honey. Give any hard surfaces a good scrubbing, with maybe a little extra salt in the mixture. Air them out good and then freeze, saving as much comb as much as possible. The comb, honey and frames may be used in the hive again. Bees will clean up a bit of mold, although by doing it for them they can focus their talents elsewhere (pollination.)

If it is black mold, remove and trash the foundation (or melt for other uses). Clean the frames thoroughly, air out,

freeze, and reuse.

Wax moths may extensively damage the hive and comb, and it may be simpler to burn and start again. If the infestation is minor, remove larvae, clean out all webs, and freeze everything to kill all stages of the wax moth.

Source & re-print permission: Kelly Beekeeping February 28, 2013

Good Advice For Every Beekeeper, from A Successful Beekeeper

Sometimes there are items that are so helpful we want to give them greater exposure. Here’s some interesting insight; thanks to CATCH THE BUZZ, an e-publication of Bee Culture.

The most basic and essential advice for anyone with hopes of becoming a successful professional beekeeper is to “ignore” the ideas and advice commonly circulated by small-time beekeepers, especially those who try to be different and make things more complex than necessary and follow only advice and suggestions from successful professional beekeepers.

That good advice is generally offered quietly and without the evangelism that accompanies the propaganda circulated by the various beekeeping cults.

The main keys to achieving success in any business that depends on livestock are very simple:

The first rule for anyone who keeps livestock and is serious about doing a proper job, with profitability and success as the goal, is to ensure his/her livestock is properly fed at all times, with feed reserves on hand.

The second rule is to keep all livestock in good health and avoid wasting time and resources on livestock which does not show promise.

Culling losers promptly is essential to success—in the beekeeping world it is not simply letting all the bees die, but requeening with better stock.

Colony starvation begins long before the bees run right out of feed. As the stores in the hives dwindle, bees forage more desperately and brood rearing is cut back, resulting in disease and reduced populations.

Failure to feed livestock that is approaching starvation is an indication of the worst sort of ignorance and lack of competence. In advanced societies, starving livestock is illegal, and even criminal.

For some reason, bees seem to be an exception and many incompetent beekeepers promote various abuses of honey bees. Maintaining inadequate reserves in hives is one of the most widespread abuses and the cause of a great deal of colony loss and disease.

Beekeeping basics are really simple—too simple for many it seems.

Keep the colonies healthy and treat, eliminate or requeen any which are not.

Provide good housing for the colonies with appropriate room for the population and time of year.

Feed any colonies that may come anywhere close to running out during a dearth generously, and well in advance. The time to feed for dearth's and/or winter is as soon as any honey flows are over and any surplus is removed. The weights should be checked again routinely.

Source & re-print permission: Kelly beekeeping February 28-2013

Beekeeping Funnies

We're especially thankful to British beekeeper Stuart Ching, editor of "The Eke," for sharing funnies from "across the pond."

Every revolutionary idea in beekeeping evokes three stages of reaction:

1. It is completely impossible –don't waste my time
2. It is possible but it is not worth doing
3. I said it was a good idea all along

Words you don't want to hear your neighbor say: "I would have thought that tree would have fallen away from your hives!"

What's the difference between a beekeeper and a bee? A bee can put down a deposit on a BMW.

It's difficult to believe that Noah only took two Varroa mites into the Ark.

What is the difference between a stung beekeeper and an incontinent one? Ones going to itch and the other is itching to go!

What do you get if you cross a wax moth with a glow worm? An insect that can find its way around a dark hive.



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Trivia Answer: This will depend on your location within the state, (Pollen –P/Nectar-N) Willows –P/ N; Alder- P; Maples-P/N; Service Berry-P/N; Dandelion-P/N; Black Locust-P/N; Apple-P/N; Wild Cherry-P/N; and others.

Source: Major Flowers Important to Honey Bees in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States by D. Sammataro and A. Harman



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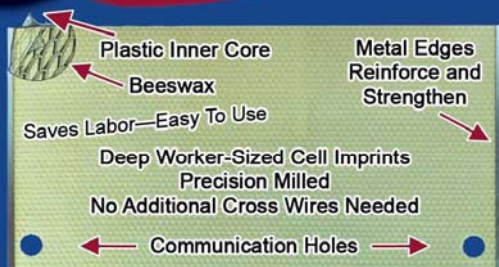
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