



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



February 2008

Time to think package bees and queens.. Ads on page 2.

Welcome Diane Jurchen, the 2008 Iowa Honey Queen! Pg. 4



A Report from the National Meeting in Sacramento. Pg. 4

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Dates To Bee Remembered



March 30th, 2008 IHPA Board Meeting Back Alley Deli/Des Moines/2:00 p.m.
June 14th, 2008 Field Day Raising Queens in Iowa / Place to be announced.
June 14th, 2008 IHPA Board Meeting Following the Field Day
Aug. 7-17th, 2008 Iowa State Fair IHPA Sales Booth/Fair Entries/Good Times
Oct. 5th, 2008 IHPA Board Meeting Back Alley Deli/Des Moines/2:00 p.m.
Nov. 6th, 2008 IHPA Board Meeting Best Western Regency Inn/Marshalltown/7:00 p.m.
Nov. 7th-8th, 2008 Annual Meeting Best Western Regency Inn/ Marshalltown

FOR SALE: Italian bees from Banks Apiary. 2# & 3# packages with queen. Please call for prices.
 Ph 515-278-1762
 Gordon & Bev Powell
 Des Moines, IA
 Orders must be placed by Feb 28.

FOR SALE: 2 or 3 lb. packages of Italian bees with queen. Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, Iowa the first part of April. Bees from Hill-Ward Apiary in California. All orders must be received by Feb 28, 2008. Contact Douglas Child 319-634-3682

FOR SALE: Package bees. In addition to our normal 2# and 3# pkgs., we are also offering a 4# pkg. with two queens. I can give a decent price on the 4# unit. You need some knowhow to handle the 4#. You will be splitting the bees into two units. Call me if you have questions.

Phil Ebert 641-527-2639

FOR SALE: A limited number of 4-frm nucs. Call for price and availability. Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or ehoney37@netins.net

FOR SALE: Queens—We will have a limited number of queens for sale during April. Most of these will be Carniolans from Koehnens. We are getting one lot of hygienic queens from Mark Sundberg. Prices are still unknown. I'm guessing they will be in the \$19 to \$20 range. There is no shipping on these queens. It is pickup only in Lynnville. We will ship queens from our own production but those won't be available until June.

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

IHPA T-Shirts (*These are membership prices. Non-member prices are available on request.*)

The t-shirts are a bright yellow shirt with brown lettering.

Youth	size (S) (M) (L) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$ 8.50	\$ _____
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Shipping is \$3.00 per shirt, or
 \$5.00 for two shirts.

Shipping \$ _____
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*An IHPA t-shirt makes
 a great gift for bee
 enthusiast of all ages!*

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Send form and check to:
Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer
 207 S.E. Diehl
 Des Moines, IA 50315

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.** The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society. IHPA Membership is only \$10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,

As I write this article, I can look out my window and see snow and some ice still remaining. I am not looking forward to the predicted "Artic Blast" that is approaching by the end of the week. Having just returned from California I am having a reality check. The weather wasn't very warm and sunny as I had hoped for, but Sacramento was experiencing some much needed rainy weather. The combined conventions of the American Beekeeping Federation and American Honey Producers Association were, in my opinion, a huge success. There were around 2,000 beekeepers attending seminars and meetings during the scheduled conference. Chelsa Bronnenberg did an outstanding job of representing Iowa and we should all be proud of her. She received the alternate position in the American Honey Queen competition. I have never been able to figure out judges. Iowa was represented by more attendees than usual. I didn't hear how many for sure, but I saw at least 13 Iowa Honey Producers in California for the meetings.

I have a new flavor for all of you ice cream lovers to try. [*Vanilla Honey Bee*] At the National Beekeeping Conference a tour of UC Davis was conducted. During the tour Haagen-Dazs ice cream unveiled their new honey ice cream. The container even features honey bees and information concerning the plight of beekeeping and honey bees. Haagen-Dazs has donated half a million dollars to honey bee research. [*They are donating \$250,000 each to Penn State and UC-Davis. Part of the UC-Davis funding will go to support a post doc candidate.*] Please support them by trying the honey ice cream. If you would like to find out more information, please go to their website: www.haagen-dazs.com

I hope that you filled out the Bee and Honey Inquiry conducted by the USDA Census of Agriculture and sent it back. We need to have Iowa represented in the numbers for the statistics. If you

have not returned yours, please take the time right now to complete it and send it in.

The past several years we have been working to try to get the State Apiarist position back in the Agriculture Department. I am pleased to announce that the new Iowa State Apiarist will begin work on February 22nd. Our new state apiarist is Andrew Joseph from Kentucky. Mr. Joseph just completed his masters thesis in entomology this semester at the University of Kentucky. Another announcement is that the actual office of the state apiarist will be moved to the DMACC campus in Ankeny and will be with the Entomology Bureau. With the move, the state of the art laboratory facilities of the entomology bureau will be available for use by the Apiary Bureau. Please join me in welcoming Andrew Joseph to Iowa. We have worked very hard to get this position re-instated and are very happy that it is finally a reality. We might need to get more money appropriated to replace equipment and to purchase the things that our new State Apiarist is going to need. We will let you know if you need to contact your state legislature members or not. I am sure that a note of "Thanks" from us to them for finding the money to get the Apiary Bureau back would be appreciated.

Following our last board meeting I received the "numbers" for the Annual Meeting. I know that a lot of our membership is unhappy about the cost of our meeting. I really don't want to "harp" on the fact, but the IHPA loses money each and every year that we have our annual meeting. For the last meeting we lost about \$2500 for the meeting. That doesn't even count the money spent on motel rooms for our speakers, their fees and the cost of airfare to get them to us. Why am I telling you this? The money that we earn from the state fair covers the expenses for our organization. We need to have your participation in our sales booth, both workers and bidders, to make

enough money to pay our bills. Please consider helping if you haven't in the past. The 2008 Iowa State Fair is August 7th through the 17th.

While we enjoy the wintery weather, let's remember that Spring is right around the corner. We need to make sure that we are ready for the spring by repairing equipment, installing new foundation, taking an inventory of equipment and needs, ordering packages and queens, registering your apiary locations, catching up on industry news by reading all the magazines and articles that we didn't have time to read, etc. One of the items that I heard at the Beekeeping Convention was that we need to replace foundation to help eliminate problems. Those cells of wax contain many things and we don't want to pass on any diseases by using excessively contaminated comb.

"Bee Sweet" to your family, friends, and to your honey bees. Make sure that you check your hives as soon as the weather permits and get some feed on them. They will need honey and pollen to quickly build up to be ready for the coming season.

Sincerely,
Donna Brahms, IHPA President

Marla Spivak Seeks Funding For A New Bee Lab

A new museum of natural history is going to be built almost on top of the existing bee lab at the University of Minnesota. Marla will retain her space in Hodson Hall but the place where most of the bee work is done will be severely compromised. Ironically, one of the most requested things at the museum are programs about bees. It is Marla's hope to build some kind of interactive program in conjunction with the museum. They approve of this but, of course, provide no funding. The initial estimate for the project is around \$2,000,000.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

2008 Iowa Honey Queen News



Hello everyone. I am Diane Jurchen. I was crowned the 2008 Iowa Honey queen this past November at the IHPA annual meeting.

I am going to take this time to introduce myself.

My parents are Jeff and Linda Jurchen of Cumberland. I have 2 sisters and was very involved in high school.

I am currently a freshman at Northwest Missouri State University majoring in elementary education. I really love working with children.

I am excited to be representing Iowa this year. I served 2 years as the Southwest Iowa Honey Queen. I learned a lot during that time, and am excited to keep learning. I hope that I get the chance to meet and learn from everyone this year!

If you would like me to come to an event and help, feel free to contact me. My phone number is (712) 779-0540. My email is: dianejurchen@hotmail.com
These are the best ways to get a hold of me.

Keep in touch,
Diane Jurchen
2008 Iowa Honey Queen

Apiary Registration Update

The apiary registration will be a bit late this year. The Apiary Bureau is moving to the Entomology Bureau in Ankeny at the DMACC campus. With this move, the new State Apiarist will begin his duties. We are not clear at this time what the process is going to be for the apiary registration. We will keep you updated as we find out the information.

We might even do a mailing to let you know the procedure for this year. It is still very important that you do register your hives with the Apiary Bureau. It needs to be done each year and if your hives and their locations are not listed, you do not have any protection from pesticide spraying. I am attending another meeting with the aerial applicators in the early part of February. We are working on the problems of aerial application of chemicals and how we can best serve the beekeepers and applicators.

Submitted by Donna Brahms

THE BEEYARD REPORT

I was coming down the road toward home as I returned from Sacramento. It was about 10:00 PM on Sunday night. The lights were on in the house and the honey house. There wasn't supposed to be anybody there. I thought to myself, "This can't be good." Monday is route day. I needed to load the truck. It turned out not to be too bad. Andrew Scholten, who does most of our bottling, had gotten sick and missed a couple of days. Alex was out in the honey house filling jars. Unfortunately, he didn't know how to interpret the multiple lists I had hanging on the tank. We wound up a little short on product but it wasn't a catastrophe. We were loaded by midnight so I got to take a nap prior to my 5:00 AM departure.

The snow and cold weather has put a crimp in some of my projects. We do most of the repair work in the garage. All I have for heat is a torpedo heater. The temp has to get up in the 20's or 30's before it has much effect. Maybe I'll get the inside of the house cleaned up.

After living in Jasper County for 20 years, I got called for jury duty. That's all the news I have for this month.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

The National Meeting Report

I don't know how many people were in Sacramento but it was a lot. I heard numbers ranging from 1200 to 1500. I would see people in the morning and then not see them again for a couple of days. There were a number of presentations that overlapped so I didn't get to everything I wanted to.

CCD UPDATE

The CCD update led off the meeting. CCD doesn't play favorites. It hits both good beekeepers and bad ones. When it hits, the average loss is 75%. They are recommending to not put bad bees on top of good ones. Put bad on bad. If CCD is transferable this may limit exposure. When the colonies crash, there is no robbing, no wax moths and no beetles. Nodules have been found on bees that seem to be recovering from CCD. Others may have melanization of the sting gland (blackening). The malpighial tubules (kidneys) may also be blackened. Causes are unknown.

The top lines of investigation are (1) pathogens, (2) pesticides and (3) environmental stress. Virus detection is high on the priority list. Jerry Bromenshank has used his connection with the military to gain access to a \$250,000 biological warfare machine to aid in virus detection. It's known as the Integrated Virus Detection System. This machine will be available at UC-Davis during almond pollination for beekeepers who want to get their bees checked. Sixty bees are needed for a virus sample. After the bees are collected, they are placed in a zip-lock bag and refrigerated. At the testing location, the bees are chopped up in a blender. The big pieces are filtered out with cheesecloth or something similar. The machine converts the liquid sample to aerosol and charges the particles. Individual viruses have a specific size. The size of the virus determines the charge they can hold. The machine can measure the extent of the charge and print a profile of the different charges. Currently there are two viruses that are unidentified.

Whether or not they are related to CCD is unknown. The Israeli Bee Virus was in 10% of the CCD samples; Nosema Cerana was in 90%. Another question that remains to be answered is, "What kind of virus loads do queens carry?"

When Dave Hackenberg got up to speak, he noted that CCD was the third most popular new word in 2007. The big question still remains. Where have all the bees gone and why? There are a lot of questions around systemic insecticides and insecticides in general. There may be interaction between insecticides and viruses; also between fungicides and insecticides. This interaction greatly increases toxicity. Maryann Frazier tested 91 pollen samples. She found 43 pesticides, 13 fungicides and 6 herbicides. There were up to 17 pesticides/sample. The average was five. Imadicloprid, which has been a big worry, was only found in five samples. Pesticides most commonly found were fluvalinate and coumaphous. This could be the result of beekeeper application. 100% of 18 wax samples had fluvalinate and coumaphous. Five brood samples had fluvalinate near the lethal level for bees. It's possible insecticides may be migrating from the wax into the brood. Warning labels on insecticides are based on the lethal level for bees. The sub-lethal effects are unknown.

It is unknown if the cause of CCD is retained in the boxes. A test was done where 1/3 of the boxes were irradiated, 1/3 were aired out, and 1/3 were restocked with bees immediately. 1/2 of the colonies were moved for pollination and 1/2 were moved to honey locations. The bees moved for honey were moved fewer times. Both groups lost 5% to 10% of the colonies each move. The colonies in the irradiated boxes fared the best. The boxes that were restocked immediately fared the poorest.

Three migratory outfits on the east coast and seven on the west coast were examined for Nosema. None were found to have a problem with Nosema but two had a Varroa problem. The Ba-

ton Rouge lab has a load of bees on the ground in Louisiana that they are going to follow through a migration season.

FAT BEES

There was a lot of discussion about protein supplements. Bees need protein. It provides key amino acids. Protein stimulates brood rearing and helps regulate the immune system of the bee. It has been proven that some pollen sources are not high in protein. Spring pollen is thought to be better than summer pollen. Bees coming off a honey flow are often low in protein. Bees need diverse protein sources but modern agriculture is a monoculture for the most part. Bees may add bacteria and yeast to pollen that improve it over time. In southern locations, protein patties may attract small hive beetles. It is possible to give a liquid supplement in this case.

The advent of modern pesticides changed the beekeeping dynamic. We have smaller colonies because the bees aren't living as long. We need some nutritional monitoring tools to cope with this. The Tucson Diet was developed to improve bee nutrition. Bees fed this diet produced three times as much brood as colonies on other diets. Feed-Bee produced the poorest results among the supplements tested.

Bees expend their body reserves to make up for a protein shortfall. Generally speaking, foraging bees have a much lower protein content. The protein content of the body of a bee varies from 20% to 67%. Healthy bees have at least 40%. It would take 6# of Mann Lake patties to raise the protein content by 10%. It may be necessary to add lipids to patties to make them more nutritious. Some oils are being tested at the Tucson lab.

SMALL HIVE BEETLES

Small hive beetle larva is tapered on both ends. It has two probes on the back end that look like little pieces of thread sticking out. Beetles can lay huge masses of eggs in a short time. The eggs hatch in 24 hours. They will

spend 5-14 days in the larva stage. Pupae can go up to 6' deep into the soil to find proper conditions. The larvae can crawl up to 75' to get to ground they can burrow into. They will pupate for 5-45 days. Heat and humidity control the speed of the life cycle. Adult beetles may live for 1 1/2 years. They are often referred to as walking rice. They are about the same size and they pop when you step on them. Brood and pollen are the preferred food sources. Young adult beetles are reddish in color. As they age, they become black.

Beetles normally attack weakened colonies but like to winter in strong colonies where it's warmer. Beekeepers have to keep things cleaned up-both in the yards and the honey house. Put yards in open, full sun locations. Permanent locations seem to build up beetles over time. Why do bees let beetles in? (1)We have manageable bees. They aren't aggressive. (2)Beetles can mimic bee pheromones. (3)Colonies become weakened over time making them susceptible to beetles. Bee pheromones attract beetles. Swarms have been observed with very few beetles. After hanging for a couple of days, they become loaded with beetles. Sometimes the adult beetles don't need to go into the hive. They lay their eggs in the cracks between the boxes.

Beetle larvae will go to the light. You can kill them with bleach on the floor. Another method is to have a low hanging light with a pan of water below it. On the hive itself, you can put an empty bucket on top of the hive over the hole in the inner cover. Beetles will hide in the space under the bucket. A piece of a Checkmite strip will kill them. Beetles are not active at 68 degrees. Humidity below 50% also slows them down.

It is possible to test for beetle presence in an area. Get a small bucket. Take a small piece of brood and about 50 bees. Suspend the brood in the bucket. Check for beetles after two days.

(continued on next page)

BITS AND PIECES

I just got in on the end of a presentation by Jennifer Berry. She said she doesn't think small cell works. On the other hand, there is as commercial operator in Florida that is going to small cell. It cuts both ways.Oxalic acid is most effective at temps from 32 to 50 degrees when the bees are lightly clustered....We have had Nosema Cerana since at least the mid 90's....The gene pool for our bees has been greatly diminished. Martin Braunstein has been getting queens from Steve Sheppard. He is mating the offspring to his Argentine drones.... The Weslaco lab is recruiting a toxicologist...

The good thing that has happened is that we have gained the attention of the public and the larger research community. We need to take advantage of this.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



IOWA HONEY PRODUCES SUMMER FIELD DAY

I know it's only February, but I 'm thinking about the summer field day. The date is June 14th, and the place is to be announced!

Are you tired of buying queens only to have them superseded?

Are you tired of paying \$12 to \$18 for a queen?

If you are, then mark your calendar for the summer field day.

Many beekeepers are seeking alternative sources for queens. The primary goal of this course is to teach beekeepers methods of rearing their own queens and to be able to tell a good queen from a bad queen.

Hope to see you there. More information to come in a future "buzz".

BEE HAPPY!! PAT

CHOCOLATE FONDUE (FRUIT DIP)

1 1/3 cups evaporated milk

1/2 cup honey

12 oz. semi-sweet morsels (can use milk chocolate)

Combine milk and honey in pan; bring to boil, stirring continuously. Remove from heat. Add chocolate chips and stir until smooth. Serve with apples, bananas, nuts, strawberries or cherries for dipping. Can also use pieces of angel food cake to dip into fondue.

Microwave cooking directions:

Combine milk and honey in a 4 cup class measure. Cook on full power 2-4 minutes until boiling. Stir in chocolate chips.

Submitted by Donna Brahms

BEEKEEPING in NORTHERN CLIMATE SHORT COURSE

University of Minnesota

March 8-9, 2008

The University of Minnesota Beekeeping short course teaches how to keep bees in cold climates. The method of colony management taught in the course is based on Dr. Basil Furgala's system, which ensures high honey production and wintering success. Other topics covered are equipment needs, disease and mite control, hygienic behavior, and extracting, bottling, and marketing honey. The cost for the two-day course is \$120.00 if you register before February 9 and \$140.00 after that date. Registration includes two manuals (Beekeeping in Northern Climates and Honey Bee Diseases and Pests), Saturday lunch, and refreshments, and honey tasting. A discount on an accompanying video is available to those who attend the course. The course will be held Saturday (all day) and Sunday (all day), March 8-9.

Dr. Marla Spivak and Mr. Gary S. Reuter teach the course on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. For further information and on-line registration, please visit our web site.

www.extension.umn.edu/honeybees/components/shortcourse.htm

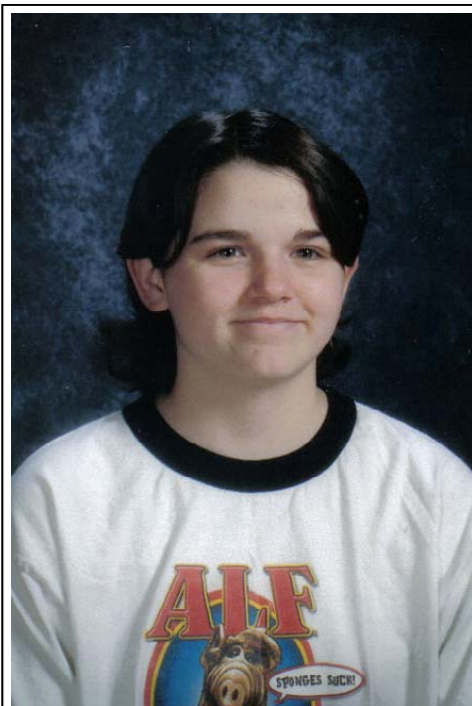
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(612) 624-3636

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Amber Connett. Amber is the daughter of Donald and Jennie Connett and lives at 627 Main Street, Reasnor, Iowa 50232. She and her family live on a small hobby farm where they raise goats and all kinds of fowl. She has an older sister, Jessica. Amber is a senior at Prairie City Monroe High School. Her activities are: Key Club, FFA, Thespians, Speech, Soccer, Academic Decathlon, Manufacturing Club, Cheer-leading/Mascot, Livestock Judging and Art. Her hobbies are fishing, farming, drawing, reading, and beekeeping. Amber is the chapter reporter for her FFA club and wrote the state runner up essay on biofuels. She is a member of the livestock judging team and shows poultry at the county and state fairs. She is currently taking these Ag classes: Advanced Metal Technology, Ag Business and Management and Ag Biotechnology. Amber is planning to go to college, preferably ISU and major in Agriculture or Science.

Dave Clark of Monroe, Iowa is her mentor. Amber says, "I learned that beekeeping isn't as easy as it looks and the hive bodies are super heavy. I learned that bees are extremely gentle and easy going. I really wanted to learn because bees have always intrigued me. I've always found them interesting. I took my training to my community. I often have kids from school ask me questions and I will explain to them what I know about it. I sometimes have kids stop by to look at them. A log of



Amber says, "I learned that beekeeping isn't as easy as it looks and the hive bodies are super heavy."

the kids will get within 50ft. of the hive but they won't stay long, however my boyfriend has to pull his truck up and stay in it with the windows up."

The answer to do you have any interesting or funny stories about your beekeeping experiences is, "I got stung one morning before school while taking off a sheet because of the mosquito spraying. It was on my butt so I was taking off my pants in the driveway to look at it. I swear everyone in Reasnor drove by at that moment and saw me in my underwear, pants at my ankles clutching my butt jumping up and down. It hurt worse than expected. I thought my Dad had shot me with a BB gun trying to be funny. The sting was a learning experience for me though."

Amber plans to expand her beekeeping operation to 5 more hives and produce honey to sell at local farmers markets as an FFA project.

Thanks for your story.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

"BEE SWEET" & "BEE MINE" SPECIAL VALENTINE'S SWEETS

Elegant Dipped Cherries

1 jar (10 oz) maraschino cherries, well drained
3 tablespoons butter, melted
2 tablespoons honey
1 square (1 oz.) unsweetened chocolate
2 teaspoons half-and-half cream
2 cups confectioner's sugar
white almond bark
chocolate almond bark

Pat cherries dry with paper towels and set aside. In a large bowl, combine the butter, honey, unsweetened chocolate (melted in microwave) and cream.

Stir in the confectioner's sugar. Knead until smooth. Roll into 18 balls, flatten each into a 2-in. circle. Wrap each circle around a cherry and lightly roll in hands.

Place cherries in a shallow paper-lined container. Cover and freeze for at least two hours.

The day before serving, remove the cherries from freezer. In a microwave-safe container, melt white almond bark according to package instructions.

When smooth, hold onto the stem of each cherry and dip into vanilla mixture; set on waxed paper to set.

Melt chocolate almond bark and drizzle over the candies. Store in airtight container.

Submitted by Donna Brahms



Honeybees vanishing from the Earth at an Alarming Rate

The Hilltop

Student voice of Howard University
www.thehilltoponline.com

By: Jada Smith

Posted: 1/24/08

Over the past year, vast supplies of the nation's honeybees have been mysteriously disappearing at an alarming rate, and a 50-year-old prediction says that mankind will disappear soon thereafter.

Honeybee colonies, the only viable means of pollination for many crops cultivated in the U.S., have suddenly been collapsing, which could mean higher food prices in the economy and trouble for animals that depend on pollinated plants for food.

So far, over 25 percent of the nation's bee population have disappeared, the cause of which, scientists have yet to discover.

Many are worried that without the bees, the price of food will skyrocket.

"I just wish we knew more about something like this," said J'Naia Madden-Spells, a sophomore marketing major.

"It'll be like, next thing you know, we're paying all these crazy high prices for simple things like food, and then it will be too late to even do anything about it," she said. "It's almost like too little, too late."

Cucumbers, squash, melons and strawberries are among the crops depending on pollination brought forth by bees. Native insect pollination saves the United States' agricultural economy nearly \$3.1 billion annually due to natural crop production.

Before his death in 1955, Albert Einstein made a number of theories and speculations in science and mathematics that are still used today. One statement he made predicted what would happen if and when bees disappear.

Einstein once said, "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years of life left."

"Colonies are going down. The bees aren't dead in the box or aren't out front. They've just disappeared. Just vanished," Jerry Bromenshenk, a bee research expert at the University of

enough bees to pollinate them for harvest."

Hive collapses have happened before but never at such a massive and mysterious rate. Diseases, such as Colony Collapse Disorder and others caused by calamities and parasites, have been known to strike hives and kill off entire colonies, but researchers found no traces of either.

Daniel Weaver, president of the American Beekeeping Foundation, spoke before the House Natural Resources Committee saying, "The fragmentary information already available is alarm-

ing and suggests we must move quickly and act now to avoid serious and possibly irreversible damage to pollinator populations and ecosystems."



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Maryland, told CBS.

During the growing season, farmers pay professional beekeepers to put their hives in fields and orchards for the bees to pollinate. Without pollination from these bees, the American agricultural system would suffer drastically.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Ca.) chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and has proposed a bill that would authorize \$89 million in research and grants toward preserving the decline and finding a cause.

"California's almond crop alone is worth \$2 billion per year and requires nearly one-half of all the honeybees in the country," Boxer said in a statement while introducing the bill. "The future of that crop and other important crops such as avocados, apples, berries and soybeans is in jeopardy if there aren't

FRUIT SALAD DRESSING OR DIP

Make up your favorite salad and add any of the fruit flavored creamed honey as a dressing.

You can also dress it up by adding either yogurt, sour cream or cream cheese to the honey. Great to dip fruit in also.

Submitted by Donna Brahms





Vern Ramsey (third from left) with his beekeeping class at the MUM in Fairfield. The class is pictured with some newly finished frames and a hive body.



STRAWBERRY HONEY BUTTER



1/3 cup honey
1/2 cup butter
1/3 cup strawberries
3 tsp. strawberry gelatin powder
OR

replace strawberries and gelatin powder with strawberry creamed honey

Combine all ingredients and beat until smooth and creamy. Use as a topping, on crepes, pancakes or waffles.

Submitted by Donna Brahms

Detecting Foulbrood & Varroa Mites



**Detecting
Foulbrood & Varroa Mites**

Foulbrood Identification Card Included!

Beekeeping can be a wonderful experience. Whether you are a beginner with one or two hives, or a seasoned veteran managing one or two thousand, there is always something new to learn. For the beginner or intermediate beekeeper, just keeping the bees alive is often a lesson learned the hard way. Both Foulbrood and Varroa Mites will wreak havoc on a hive if left unchecked. In *Detecting Foulbrood & Varroa Mites* we follow beekeeper Phil Ebert as he examines beehives for Foulbrood and Varroa Mites. Learning to identify these two afflictions is a must for the health of the hive and an enjoyable beekeeping experience.

Introductory DVD offer \$15.00

Make checks payable to: Iowa Honey Producers Assoc.
Send orders to:

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c/o Phil Ebert
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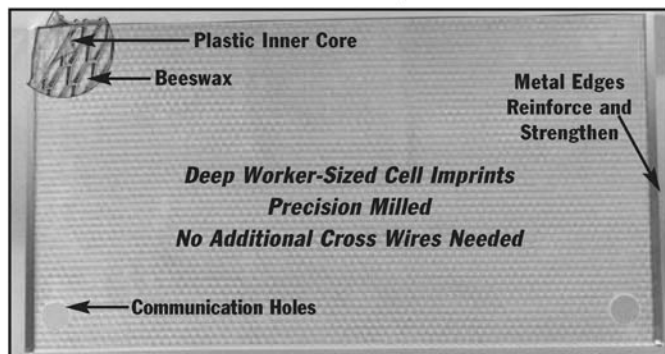
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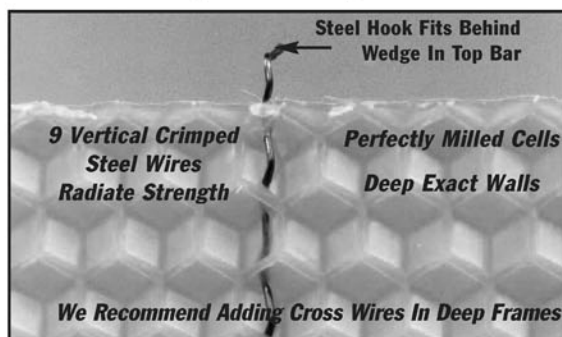
Saves Labor—Easy To Use



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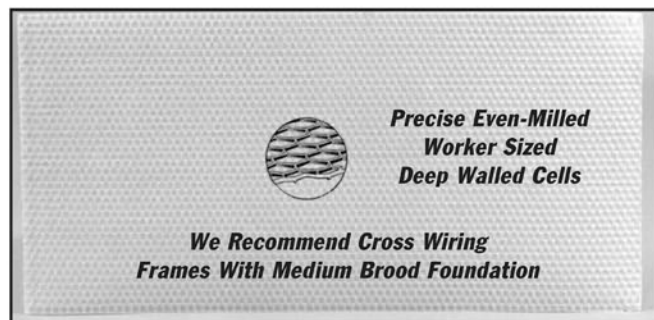


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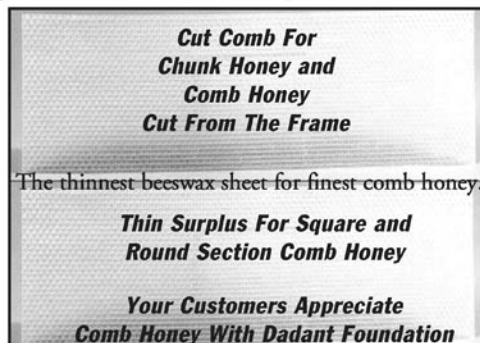


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Finest Comb Honey Foundation

100% Beeswax

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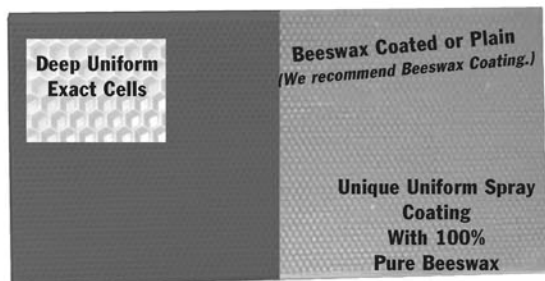
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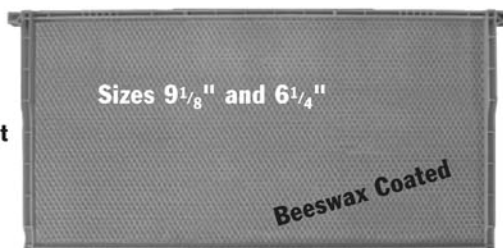
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American Beekeeping Federation website
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