



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



June 2015



IHPA Cookbook Form pg4

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IHPA Booth Sign Up Sheet pg13



Dates to be Remembered

July 11th—IHPA Summer Field Day;
Lynnville, IA



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).

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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

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Bees will be available April 15th 2015

(depending on weather)

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(Place order early before we're sold out)

Curtis Barnhart

PO Box 70

Monticello, Iowa 52310

319 480-4209

autum49@yahoo.com

To all readers of the Buzz Newsletter:

We need your input!!!

Our editor, Alex, fills our Buzz Newsletter with your articles, pictures, recipes, and upcoming beekeeping events. Thank you to all who submit an article each month or periodically, your contributions is very much appreciated. I was attending an Iowa Honey Producers board meeting with Pat and the subject of the Buzz Newsletter came up and how to keep it coming in a timely manner to the membership. Computer crashing and sometimes articles coming in late affects the timing, but a bigger issue is that some months, Alex just does not have enough articles to fill the pages of the Buzz. That's where we have to rely on re-print information from other sources to fill up the pages. We are grateful for the information, but would like to see articles and information from you!!

~Do you have a great recipe you like to use and are willing to share it with the Buzz readers?

~Maybe a funny happening in the bee yard or a bit of advice you wish to share with us?

~ A great beekeeping related picture caught on your smart phone or camera?

~Or perhaps you would be willing to submit a small monthly bit from a beginning beekeeper perspective, a beekeepers wife perspective, a youth's perspective, or even a season veteran's advice!! Even a bi-monthly or tri-monthly article would be welcomed!!

We have many beekeeping clubs in Iowa and Alex has received articles from some, thank you!! Please keep sending them to Alex. I as a reader, I enjoy reading what you have to say, and have gleaned beekeeping ideas and hopefully others have also. Hearing from our local clubs also encourage others, maybe

your club had an interesting speaker, event, an upcoming field day or a bit of advice for our many newer beekeepers to use. We have a great number of new beekeepers in our state; please let them know what is happening in your area. Local beekeeping clubs are a rich source of beekeeping information.

In closing, please help Alex fill up the Buzz by sending Alex your articles. He would like to have your articles by the 10th of the month. You can send them to:

thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

I look forward to reading what you have to say,

Best regards,
Peggy Ennis



New IHPA Cookbook

It's time for a new cookbook!

Please submit your new Honey recipes, the Iowa Honey Producers Association is doing a new cookbook that will be available at the 2016 Iowa State Fair.

We would like to have as many NEW recipes in this new cookbook as possible, so bring on your newest tried and true delights. Submit all the categories you can think of including soap and honey mead.

We have the form available online through the Buzz, in the hard copy of the Buzz newsletter or available for pick-up at the 2015 Summer Field Day in July and at the 2015 Annual Meeting in November. Our cut-off date for the cookbooks to get prepared will be March 1, 2016.

We do have some incentives for you, the more recipes you submit, the better for you, stay tuned for those incentives in a later Buzz article.

Please submit recipes to:

Jodi Kraft
IHPA Cookbook Chairperson
P.O. Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542-0001

or my committee members: Becky Elsbernd, Connie Bronnenberg, Rhonda Heston and Heidi Love.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing your new recipes for the 2016 Iowa Honey Producers Association Cookbook.



Honey Green Tea Lemonade

Yields 4 quarts

-In a large sauce pan (5 quarts), combine 4 quarts of water with 6 green tea bags. Let simmer, over medium heat, for 10 minutes. Stir.

-Add honey (any brand, any type) 1 cup at a time. If you like tea sweeter, you will have to add more.

-Add the zest and juice of 2 medium-sized lemons. Stir.

-Pour into a glass pitcher and chill in the fridge for 3 hours, or overnight.

-When serving, garnish with fresh strawberries. Enjoy!

This recipe is super easy to modify and add your own creative ingredients, such as using orange zest and juice instead of lemon, "half-ing" the recipe for a smaller crowd, adding fresh mint, adding fresh lemon and lime wedges.

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IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION COOKBOOK

This recipe is being submitted for: Iowa Honey Producers Association (2016 cookbook)

Name of Recipe: _____

Submitted by: _____

INGREDIENTS: (List **all** ingredients in their **proper** order: 1, 2, etc. **Please type or print neatly.**)

#1	_____	_____
#2	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

METHOD: (Be sure to include: *Size & type of container *Time *Temperature *Yield)

COMMENTS:

Please send form to: Jodi Kraft, IHPA Cookbook Chair

P.O. Box 1, Goldfield, IA 50542-0001

These cookbooks will be available at the 2016 Iowa State Fair, please submit by March 1, 2016.

If necessary, continue on back of sheet. (Please mark the bottom of this sheet "over".)



WHY ARE WE LOSING BEES?

Glen L. Stanley,
Iowa State Apiarist, emeritus
Huxley, Iowa 50124

Our scientists have concluded there is some virus that may have been a factor. Many believe it is the Insecticides used recklessly by Gardeners and Farmers. Those chemicals are used in the Summer and there are virtually few colonies damaged or killed in Summer. Some orchardists carelessly spray the fruit trees when the bees are still present. That destroys colonies in a hurry.

We do know that the bees gather some pollen that test as having traces of those chemicals. This certainly puts some limits on the numbers of bees produced to create extremely large, populous colonies.

Some Beekeepers believe that bees produced in California, or any other warm climate do not adapt themselves to Midwest Winters, NOT SO. Honey Bees acclimate to weather conditions wherever they are.

This problem has kept building just over the last 25 years. Up until that beekeeping was quite normal. No exceptionally big amounts of surplus honey since 1988.

It all goes back to the fact that the bees are existing on an inadequate and a diet of little nutritional value.

Why is this happening? Because the bees have so little choice in the few plants that do produce. So colonies fall far short of producing their potential crop.

The people that hold the key to this problem is the Farmers. They need to conserve on the use of the chemicals and grow border crops of clovers and alfalfa for the benefit of the wild life and the Butterflies and bees. This will provide the bees with the nutritional food necessary.

Even under present conditions a few Iowa beekeepers winter their colonies successfully with minimal loss. Their secret (leave the bees plenty of honey) and do all other necessary preparations for winter. It is paying off.



Buzz Quilt

The quilt has gone to the quilter. Thank you to all the quilters that made blocks for the 2015 Buzz Quilt. There are very nice blocks. I do want to apologize for making the challenge so difficult this year. When I ordered the fabric, it looked really great online. But, when I got it, the fabrics did not go together at all! I was planning on providing more of the three fabrics when I cut the fabric, but forgot.

If you would like to have the quilt visit an event you are involved in, please let me know. Please allow plenty of time for travel time. I will also need you to provide when you will be returning to me.

The quilt raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Remember all the proceeds of the raffle go towards the Iowa Honey Producer Association Queen Program. To purchase raffle tickets, please contact Rhonda Heston, 515-724-2124 or r.heston@yahoo.com.



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Thank You

Dear Iowa Honey Producers,

I appreciate being given the opportunity to be part of your special organization as the 2014 Iowa Honey Princess to promote beekeeping and honey. Beekeeping with its positive im-



Jeralyn Westercamp (2014 Iowa Honey Princess) and Bob Wolff at the Indian Creek Nature Center during Honey Fest.

pact is a critical part of agriculture. Bees are the foundation of Iowa's agriculture.

I'm honored to have promoted Iowa honey at high profile events and parades in Iowa, Disney World, and internationally in France. As a member of the prestigious University of Iowa Marketing Institute and an honors graduate in Marketing and Management at the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business, I was able to put knowledge into practice with Iowa honey promotions to thousands of people with three television appearances, numerous events, parades, special experiences, and being featured in publications and Facebook. It is a privilege to be a part of your organization which does so much for Iowa's agriculture. I would like to continue to

promote beekeeping and Iowa honey.

I share stories about beekeeping and honey with preschool students as a volunteer literacy coach. Last week after my literacy lesson, one student gave me a hug and proudly stated, "Bees make things sweeter." Yes, life is sweeter with Iowa honey.

Sweet regards,
Jeralyn Westercamp
2014 Iowa Honey Princess

Getting Radical with the Bees!

I have been raising bees for 12 years and have not bought bees for 10 years. I have always raised my own bees without chemicals. I try to keep between 35-40 colonies to overwinter, and try to sell 25-30 nucs every spring. This year I was forced to get radical with the bees. The last two winters I lost nearly half of my bees. It was exceptionally bad this last winter because I only wrapped 33 colonies due to awful robbing of the younger colonies in the fall. It was like the bees went crazy attacking the young hives after reducers were in place.

Only 17 colonies survived the winter, two of which were queenless.

The following is an outline I used to solve this dilemma. It solved the problem of queenlessness, swarming, deadouts, starvation, requeening colonies, poor queen performance and sets Varroa way back. I should get a decent honey crop besides. After doing fall feeding and wrapping the bees, they are good until mid-March. The survivors all get pollen patties at this time and this will continue until mid-May. The first week of April a third hive body is given. The last week of April the old queen is found (usually in the top box) and moved to a deadout colony in another yard with 3-4 frames of capped brood and bees, plus food. The original colonies are still in three hive bodies with lots of brood and bees. Be sure to leave eggs and larva with the original hive for queen production. It's also good to add a half inch spacer between hive bodies to preserve queen cells. Any colony that survives the winter and is strong deserves to pass on its genetics.

These colonies are real strong and removal of the old queen seems to trigger swarm cells. Ten days after queen removal make up your nucs using their own cells, I usually get 2-3 nucs per hive. Be sure to leave one cell for the original hive to requeen itself. The old queen will most likely get superceded during the summer and these hives will have two queens.

By mid-May I made up 40 nucs, replaced my deadouts, requeened my queenless colonies, set Varroa back. Swarming should be done and I have added supers.

Timing is critical. After 10 days past queen removal one can expect to see bees hanging in trees. This should give every hive a young queen ready for winter. It is always better to sell bees than to buy them. Enjoy the bees and have a good year!

Sincerely,
Floyd Otdoefer
Coralville, IA



The following short articles were shared from WAS in their monthly email. They also publish a quarterly newsletter online. You can visit them at the website below.

<http://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/>

HELP FINAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT IN-HIVE INNOVATION

Crowdfunding has come to beekeeping R&D, and why not let all the public get in on making things better?

John Banta sent this information about his efforts to produce a run of CombForms by injection molding. This otherwise expensive product will then be priced affordably - and beekeepers can get some to try as perks for contributing to the fund.

The way crowdfunding works is that John has 55 days to raise the funding he needs, and those 55 days run out on August 14th. If there is not enough raised by that date, he gets nothing from the campaign (contributions would be returned). If he makes it, a new product comes onto the market to improve beekeeping. Here's the rest of the story.

The Journey Behind the Invention:

About four years ago I was reading an old copy of Gleanings in Bee Culture from the late 1800's when I came across a mention of using separators or fences between the frames in a beehive to help guide honeybees to build straight evenly built comb. These beekeepers were using canvas with holes cut in it and dipped in beeswax, wooden follower boards with multiple drilled holes, or wire mesh to hand-make the comb guides to use in their hives between the frames.

I raise my bees without foundation and found myself having to destroy a lot of wax comb that was over-built or misshapen. Separators seemed like a great way to communicate my desires for straight even comb with the bees. I started making my own separators out of wire mesh or perforated plastic from the hardware store. I also modified plastic queen excluders by cutting them in half, mounting them in a top bar and cutting out every other strut to increase the opening size so the queen could freely pass. These homemade comb guides sort of worked but they weren't resulting in the same degree of con-

struction enthusiasm I got from my bees when I just let them build on their own.

Bees build their comb with hexagonal cells for a reason. Simply put it is all about the "bee space". Not only does the hexagon conserve valuable beeswax but it is also the shape that conforms best to "bee space". Squares, rectangles and circles are prone to having the bees start building comb on the separator to fill the holes; whereas, hexagons when sized to allow the larger drones to squeeze through the openings seem to present exactly the right shape to encourage the workers to keep the perforations open. The queen being smaller than the drones but larger than the workers is also able to freely pass through and work unrestricted. The top bar of the CombForm™ has spacers that are sized to maintain the appropriate "bee space" between the CombForm™ and the brood or honeycomb. It takes 7 to 8 pounds of honey to make 1 pound of beeswax. This much energy shouldn't be wasted and Combforms can help.

What you can do:

My initial methods to produce CombForms™ with a 3D printer have been expensive. To move forward with additional field testing I need a production run of CombForms™ made by injection molding. This will bring the price down to an affordable per piece price. By offering CombForms™ as perks for anyone contributing to our crowd funding project I hope to get feedback regarding their use from beekeepers.

There are several ways you can help our family with this project.

- Check out our crowd funding campaign at www.Indiegogo.com , project search term Combforms™.
- Watch our video on Indiegogo to see some results from our prototype testing of Combforms™.
- Contribute to this project if you can
- After the campaign, provide us with feedback by testing the Combforms™ perk with one of your hives.
- Tell your beekeeping friends and associates about our project.

Help the "CombForms" campaign reach its goal today! Thank you for your consideration.

John Banta, Founder of CombForms
Vacaville CA
www.combforms.com
www.Indiegogo.com/projects/combforms



GLORYBEE FUNDS TO OSU RESEARCH

On April 10, at GloryBee's Annual Bee Weekend, Alan Turanski, GloryBee President, and RaeJean Wilson, Senior Executive Vice President, presented a \$44,538 check to the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab. The funds will be used towards its research on bee health, nutrition, and pollination from 2014 funds raised as part of GloryBee's Save the Bee Program. Save the Bee retail and bulk revenue of GloryBee® Honey, retail beekeeping supplies, customer donations, and community fundraisers benefit OSU research and the Oregon State Beekeeping Association's Master Beekeeping Program.

For honey bee labs like Oregon State's, funding is invaluable to continue to expand its work on bee nutrition, health and pollination. According to Dr. Sagili, funds need to reach \$300,000 annually in order for his team to be successful each year, working with commercial and backyard beekeepers, producers, farmers and local communities. GloryBee is dedicated to increasing its contributions each year with continued Pacific Northwest partnerships.

To learn more about GloryBee's Save the Bee Program, go to: www.GloryBee.com/Save. If you want to know how you can partner with us, call our Sales Department at: 1-800-456-7923.

LAYING WORKERS

When a colony becomes queenless, the ovaries of some workers develop and these workers begin to lay unfertilized eggs which are destined to become drones. Development of the workers' ovaries is believed to be inhibited by the presence of brood, the queen and her pheromones. The presence of laying workers in a colony usually means the colony has been queenless for one or more weeks. However, laying workers also may be found in normal "queenright" colonies during the swarming season and when the colony is headed by a poor queen. Colonies with laying workers are recognized easily; there may be anywhere from five to fifteen eggs per cell and small-bodied drones are reared in worker-sized cells. In addition, laying workers scatter their eggs more randomly over the brood combs, and eggs can be found on the sides of the cell. An egg laid by a queen is always placed on the bottom of the cell near the center. Some of these worker produced eggs do not hatch, and many of the drone larvae that do hatch do not survive to maturity in the smaller cells.

What do you, the beekeeper, do when this situation develops?

The simplest solution if you have several hives is just shake all the bees in front of the various other hives and place all the combs in the other hives. This method doesn't waste your time and money trying to re-queen a hive that may reject the queen. This is the method of least time spent on interventions and most predictable outcome.

If you only have one hive, purchase a new queen. Take the hive and move it about 100 feet or as far as you can from its current location. Shake all the bees out onto the ground and put the hive back in its original location with the new queen inserted.

In theory, all the non-laying workers can find the hive and the laying workers are too heavy to fly back.

This item appeared under President Wayne Pitts' "President's Message" in the Gilroy (CA) Buzzz -

And these three items from the California Bee Times -

ENTOMBED POLLEN

At the April 7th Delta Bee Club meeting, we heard a report on recent research into entombed pollen. You've probably already heard that this is a problem, but this research not only confirmed that the entombed pollen studied contained a cocktail of IGRs, organophosphate pesticides, and fungicides. It was also reported that the bees will use entombed pollen during periods of severe pollen dearth. Translation - in January, when your colony is at its natural weakest point and trying to start the first brood cycle of the year, the bees will break into the entombed pollen, feed it to the brood, and probably kill that entire cycle!

Bottom line - don't just put your dead-out equipment back on active hives! Check it first for entombed pollen, and remove any you find! A rule of thumb is that, while honey is routinely capped with wax, pollen should not be capped with anything. If it is, there's something wrong with it and you need to remove it, because as far as we know, the only way the bees will remove it is by using it (disastrously!) during pollen-dearth periods.

WHAT THE BEE INDUSTRY NEEDS

At the request of Senators Gillibrand, Boxer and Feinstein, the Government Accountability Office requested Project Apis m.'s input on USDA and EPA efforts in promoting bee health. PAM stressed that federal agencies should:

- 1) solve the Varroa mite problem,
- 2) continue work on the importance of good nutrition,
- 3) conduct a thorough evaluation of the lethal and sublethal impacts of pesticides, tank mixes and adjuvants on all life stages of the honey bee,
- 4) conduct better training programs among crop pest advisors on the impact of pesticides on honey bees,
- 5) resolve the neo-nicotinoid controversy, and

6) promote cost-effective honey bee-attractive seed mixes on government and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands.

And from the Pollinator Stewardship Council. Don't forget to check their newsletters. Find them at

<http://pollinatorstewardship.org/>

HOW TO REPORT A BEE KILL

The Pollinator Stewardship Council is a member of the Honey Bee Health Coalition. As a member of two of the four workgroups, we collaborated with members and defined the process of reporting a bee kill. The article was published in the May 2015 issue of Bee Culture magazine. Additionally, the Coalition created a Guide to Reporting a Pesticide-related Bee Kill, also available in the May issue of Bee Culture magazine.

Bee Culture graciously created 1000 laminated copies of the Guide, which are available from the Pollinator Stewardship Council. Order your Guide to Reporting a Pesticide-related Bee Kill by requesting a copy here. One Guide per person, per address. Copies are limited!

http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51103/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=8591

GOOD NEWS ON OVERWINTER BEE HEALTH TRENDS

By Dick Rogers, Principal Scientist / Entomologist for Bee Health & Integrated Apiculture Research, Bayer Bee Care Center

There are still questions about how best to measure colony

losses over winter months, during the spring through fall period, and on an annual basis. The USDA survey for over winter has only been conducted since 2006 and it is based on self-reporting by Beekeepers. Over the period 2006-present, over winter losses average approximately 30 percent. Losses in cold northern states prior to the introduction of Varroa and other disorders in the mid-1980s typically were in the 0-15% range. Since then colony losses over winter have been much higher. In warm southern states, honey bees seldom need to cluster, and so they can continue brood rearing and foraging for most of the year. Therefore, it is important to define what is meant by winter and this further complicates winter loss determination and calculation.

The latest report from the USDA is good news for all who care about the health of honey bee colonies. For the second year in a row, winter losses of U.S. honey bee colonies were well below the historic average seen since these annual surveys began. More importantly, the long-term trend of overwintering losses continues to show improvement. The reasons for success are greater awareness of factors affecting honey bee health, particularly Varroa mite, and better management, including extensive use of the highly effective Varroacide, Apivar.

This report comes shortly after the USDA released its annual Honey Report, which showed that the number of U.S. honey bee colonies grew to 2.74 million in 2014, the highest level in many years, continuing a 10-year trend of steady growth.

Summer losses are expected and common, however, because of Varroa, other disorders, queen issues, and pesticide residues in hives, especially extremely high residues of bee pro-



WHITE HOUSE POLLINATOR STRATEGY ANNOUNCED

The White House just released its pollinator strategy that includes:

- Reducing honey bee colony loss to no more than 15% in 10 years.
- Increasing monarch butterfly populations to 225 million by 2020.
- Restoring or enhancing 7 million acres of land for pollinators in the next 5 years.



Here are related news sites:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/05/19/407955318/plan-bee-white-house-unveils-strategy-to-protect-pollinators>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/Pollinator%20Health%20Strategy%202015.pdf>

<http://www.xerces.org/2015/05/19/white-house-releases-pollinator-strategy>

testing Varroacides, beekeepers do face a challenge to keep these losses to a minimum. It is apparent that in recent years, beekeepers are doing a much better job of managing honey bees and the problems they face because colony numbers in the U.S. continue to grow. Some states, have seen substantial increases in colony numbers. Florida, for example has more than doubled the number of colonies since 2006.

Even with this good news about overwintering trends, we must continue to focus on the challenges facing bee health. Bayer CropScience is developing new solutions to the problems caused by the invasive Varroa mite and is working to tackle another major issue facing pollinators today – lack of forage – through our Feed a Bee initiative. And we recently announced our Healthy Hives 2020 research collaboration with honey bee experts to identify tangible actions to help improve the health of honey bee colonies over the next five years. Although there is much work yet to do, this report validates the efforts of many stakeholders who are working to protect bees and promote sustainable agriculture.

For more information on bee health, check out our infographic The Good News on Bee Health

<<https://www.bayercropscience.us/news/blog/2015/may/050615-good-news-on-bee-health>>

or visit beehealth.bayer.us.

PAM ON BEE LOSSES

Annual Bee Loss Survey - Down and Up!

Preliminary results from the ninth annual national survey of honey bee colony losses are in and good luck interpreting results! It will be interesting to keep up with the articles and explanations. Over-wintering losses are down a bit to 23.1% from last year's 23.7%. Summer colony losses, however, increased to 27.4% from the previous year's 19.8%. Commercial beekeepers lost more colonies over the summer, compared to winter. The survey was fairly robust, representing nearly 15% of the nation's 2.74 million colonies. The bottom line? Combined summer and winter losses are over 42%. There's no other way to say it - that's just terrible.

BEE UNDERSTANDING

By Michele Colopy, Pollinator Stewardship Council

Honey bee health and agriculture are intrinsically linked. Improving honey bee health and safeguarding the food supply will take intensive cooperation across the food value chain. That's why we're putting together Bee Understanding. Through Bee Understanding farmers and beekeepers, crop advisors and entomologists, pest control applicators and regulators will switch jobs for a day and walk a mile in the other guys' boots to see this problem from the ground level and develop solutions together. In addition to swapping jobs, we're capturing everything in a series of documentary

short films that we will make available to you, and work to embed the films in continuing education programs throughout the food chain.

Together we can accelerate cooperation, and improve the health of the honey bee. We want to give you a front row seat. Your contributions can earn you a "Thank you" credit, a "Producer's" credit, or an invitation to our special Honey Dinner, where our executive chef will work culinary magic, incorporating honey into each and every course.

Bee Understanding is a joint project of the Honey Bee Health Coalition and Pollinator Stewardship Council

Learn more about Bee Understanding at this link

(<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/bee-understanding>)

WHITE HOUSE POLLINATOR PLANS

Sent by Dr. Adrian Wenner, CA

The White House on Tuesday released a national strategy to address precipitous declines in the population of honeybees, which are crucial to pollinating food crops.

By Geoffrey Mohan

White House issues national plan to save bees that pollinate crops Habitat preservation, land management, pesticide studies part of White House bee plan

The federal government will boost research and preserve 7 million acres of habitat for bees, monarch butterflies and other insects as part of a wide-ranging strategy to bolster the population of pollinators that are vital to the nation's food crops. Bee colony collapse viruses spreading to bumblebees Bee colony collapse viruses spreading to bumblebees

The long-anticipated national strategy from a White House task force aims to bring annual bee losses to 15%, down from more than 40% last year. Managed honeybee colonies provide pollination services to the nation's crops that are valued at \$15 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

California almond growers pay upward of \$290 million a year to bring tens of thousands of managed honeybee colonies to their groves, according to the USDA. A recent survey of the nation's beekeepers estimated annual losses of 42%, up from 35.2% the year before, and well above the 15%-17% that is considered economically sustainable.

Related Honey may hold the sticky solution to bee colony collapse

Much of the plan depends on public-private partnerships, education and research. But it also directs multiple agencies to take action, such as managing land in ways that promote pollinator habitats. The Environmental Protection Agency, mean-

while, is weighing the effects of pesticides on honeybees used to pollinate crops, and already is slowing the use of neonicotinoid compounds that have been associated with colony declines.

The USDA will use its Conservation Reserve Program and other tools to expand summer forage areas, according to the plan.

There are about 2,000-3,000 commercial U.S. beekeepers nationwide, managing about 2.7 million colonies, down from about 5.7 million in the 1950s, according to the report.

Pesticides, parasites and poor forage hurting bee pollinators
Pesticides, parasites and poor forage hurting bee pollinators

Declines in managed bee colonies have been noted for decades, but they increased in the late 1980s due to a parasitic mite infestation, and accelerated sharply about 10 years ago, when whole colonies began to collapse, a phenomenon dubbed colony collapse disorder. Annual losses have hovered in the 30% range since then.

The cause of the sharp declines has been attributed to multiple stressors, including beekeeper management practices, pesticide exposure, poor nutrition due to decreased diversity in their forage, and exposure to a host of pathogens, including mites and viruses.

A task force will try to advance scientific research into causes of the declines, and to better quantify those reported declines, which are based on self-reporting surveys of a small sample of beekeepers.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-white-house-bees-20150519-story.html>

DR. MALCOLM SANFORD ANALYZES REPORTS ON BEE SURVIVABILITY

In his latest APIS newsletter, Dr. Sanford provides an in-depth assessment of the Bee Informed Partnership analysis of 2013/14 honey bee losses.

Among his comments:

This fairly dry recounting was fodder for many over-the-top postings that are all too frequent in our hyper-sensationalized media environment. Just one of many examples concludes: "40% of US honeybee colonies were lost in the past 12 months, continuing a troubling spike in bee mortality over the past decade, according to the US Agricultural Research Service's annual bee survey. And scientists still aren't sure why."

Elsewhere it was noted that losses are in fact less than last year and there's actually what some call an "improvement" in survival: "Almost a quarter of U.S. honeybee colonies died over the past winter, according to new numbers released this morning—and that represents an improvement." Finally,

Bayer Health Care went even further, calling the current circumstances "good news." There is much more. See it on <http://beekeep.info>



Results for this and previous year's surveys can be found at this link:

<http://beeinformed.org/results-categories/winter-loss/>
Colony Loss 2014-2015: Preliminary Results

GLYPHOSATE IN HONEY

Sent by Alex Hudson

Researchers Discover Glyphosate Herbicide in Honey, Soy Sauce
by Mike Barrett

How ubiquitous is Monsanto's RoundUp herbicide, really? Researchers have discovered that a chemical in the world's most used herbicide – RoundUp – is tainting the world's food supply at large. It was recently found that this chemical, known as glyphosate, is present concerning amounts in honey and soy sauce.

For the study, researchers from Abraxis LLC and Boston University purchased sample sizes of various foods to analyze levels of glyphosate. Bought from the Philadelphia, US metropolitan area, the following foods were analyzed:

- 69 samples of honey
- 26 samples of pancake and corn syrup
- 28 samples of soy sauce
- 11 samples of soy milk
- 20 samples of tofu

The minimum limit of quantification (LOQ) of the method were determined for honey, pancake syrup, and corn syrup to be 15 ppb; soy sauce, soy milk, and tofu 75 ppb. What this means is that products could have contained minimal levels of glyphosate even though they turned up negative.

While glyphosate residues above the limit weren't detected in the soy milk, pancake and corn syrup, and tofu, shocking residues were found in the honey. Of the 69 honey samples tested, 41 of them (59%) had glyphosate concentrations above the method LOQ (15 ppb), with a concentration range between 17 and 163 ppb and a mean of 64 ppb.

And it wasn't just commercial honey that was tainted; 5 of the 11 samples of organic honey contained high levels of glyphosate – with a range of 26 to 93 ppb and a mean of 50 ppb.

Read the entire article at <http://naturalsociety.com/researchers-discover-glyphosate-herbicide-honey-soy-sauce/>



2015 IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER FIELD DAY

Saturday, July 11th, 2015

at Lynnvile Bank (Lynnvile, Iowa) & Phil Ebert's residence (weather permitting)

Registration at 8:30 a.m., Field day 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Field day topics: Dr. Leo Sharashkin will speak on top-bar hives. Andy Joseph will give his summer bee report. 2015 American Honey Queen, Gabrielle Hemesath will speak and a few surprises. Field sessions: Weather permitting, field day afternoon activities will be at Phil Ebert's, bring your bee suit. Roy Kraft will be talking on finding and marking queens. Phil Ebert will be showing his bottling facility.

Please bring a potluck dish to share, IHPA will be providing the chicken, tableware, bottled water and coffee.

cut here-----cut here -----cut here----

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE:() _____ CELL:() _____

EMAIL: _____

Registration:

Amount

Single (member): \$25.00 before June 25, 2015

Number of people: _____ x \$25.00=

Walk-in on July 11, 2015 \$35.00

Number of people: _____ x \$35.00=

Single (non-member): \$35.00 before June 25, 2015

Number of people: _____ x \$35.00=

Walk-in on July 11, 2015 \$45.00

Number of people: _____ x \$45.00=

***No refunds after June 25, 2015**

TOTAL:

Return this completed form together with your payment to:

Make checks payable to: IHPA (Rhonda Heston)
52735 187th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049

Any questions about the Summer Field Day,
please contact Roy Kraft at 515-293-2458 or at kroyster.rk@gmail.com

We need your help at the Iowa State Fair booth!



Dear Beekeepers,

I know it may be hard to start thinking about the State Fair, however Spring is here and the Iowa State Fair is fast approaching; August 13 -23. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building 2nd floor; selling honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise, etc. This is our main fund raising event, which is needed to help support our various educational programs. We ask our members to help make this event a success, by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging product, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples, etc. Each volunteer will be provided with free honey lemonade if you get thirsty while working at the booth, also a FREE pass to get into the fair, plus you get to enjoy the great entertainment at the fair before/after your shift at the booth.

We had a successful 2014 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had some wonderful people volunteer their time and would love to see you again. We encourage new members, friends, families and bee clubs to participate in this event too, because we need everyone's support to make this event a success. We have three shifts daily, 9am-1.30pm, 1.30pm-6pm and 6pm-9pm (11-14 people needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 13-23, we would like to hear from you. All you need to do is mail the completed tear off slip below, or email the same details to bhlove5@aol.com, or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary) 18488 E Ave, Dawson, IA 50066. Cell: 515-729-1761

1st person: _____

2nd person: _____

3rd person: _____

Childs name & age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone no.: _____ Email address: _____

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you.
(Fair dates August 13-23.)

We appreciate any help you can provide!

Date: 9.00-1.30pm 1.30pm-6.00pm 6.00pm-9.00pm

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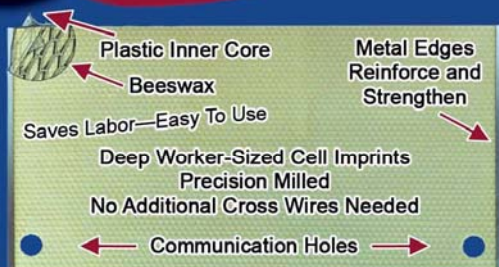
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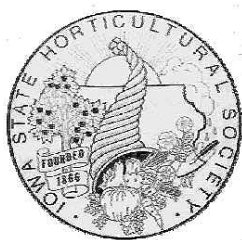
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The Buzz Newsletter

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