

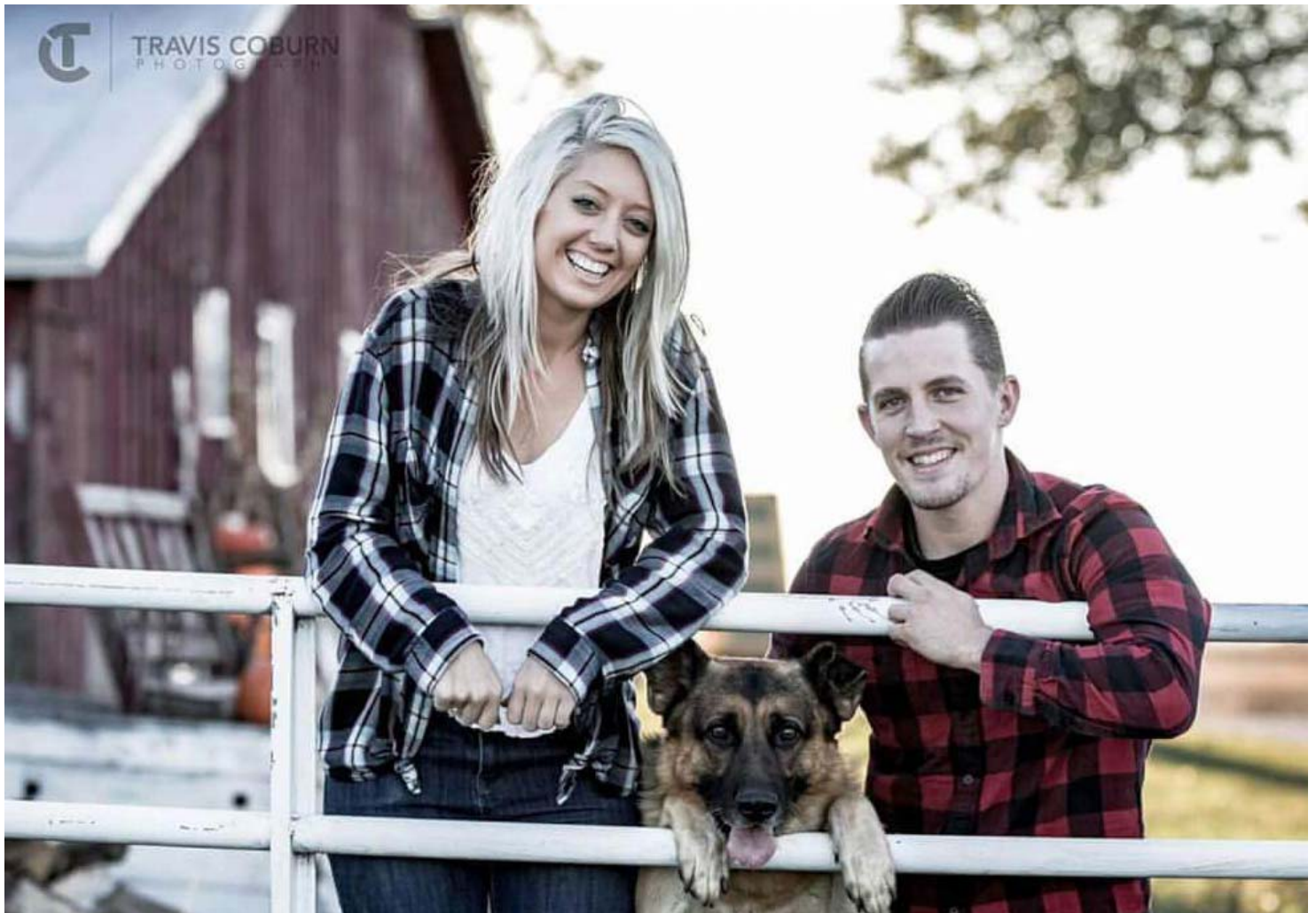


The Buzz



Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

March 2020



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Iowa beekeepers:

March is here, so what now--nice weather or a blizzard? Mother nature can give us a bit of everything. I like to think the worst is over, or at least it will be a short duration. Maybe some bees will start returning from Texas, California and maybe other far-away places.

Scholarship students, do you have your hives assembled? I hope so. If not, I hope you're very close and ready for a nice day to paint. The bees will come soon, and the beekeeping begins. I'm sure you all have a good mentor to assist and answer questions as they arise. I really like talking with students and new families coming into beekeeping. This program changes families and gives them all a great learning experience and togetherness for a family. It's my reason for why I do what I do.

I want to introduce our new event coordinator, Cheri Van Sickle, to the membership. Cheri has been hard at work and has a lot done and a lot to do still, but I'm confident things will turn out ok. Cheri is a retired nurse and a sideline beekeeper. You may have seen her creamed honey at the state fair.

The board meeting had its challenges as yours truly was stuck in Wisconsin in an ice storm and I had to cancel Saturday 1/25. We were able to get it done on Sunday 1/26. A great big **Thank You** going out to Spring Valley Honey Farm in Perry for letting us be in their honey house at a moment's notice. With a change like this, I was very surprised we were only short one board member. I applaud all who were present. I believe we have a great board and I

feel 2020 will be a great year.

The state fair committee has had the planning and rule meeting already done and in the books. We have made some good changes and hopefully we'll make it better and easier for people to bring your product to the Iowa State Fair IHPA booth. Read the new rules through and if you find something you have a question about, my phone is always on. One of the changes is that if you really want to bring a product to the fair you can guarantee it will be there now. For example, if the 24-ounce bear is something you really want to bring but want to take up to four cases of 12-ounce bears, you can mark both. What will happen is we will draw, and if you're the winner of the class of the 24-ounce bear, you get it. If not, you will be able to bring up to four cases of 12-ounce bears. **BOTH MUST BE MARKED.** If you win the 24-ounce class, you will **NOT** be able to bring the 12-ounce bears. You may mark multiple sole classes but if you win one or more you will not be eligible for case lot classes. You may also mark multiple case lot classes. We still give room for a small beekeeper to bring honey to the fair booth. We also added a class to the case lots. We now have 8-ounce bears. The maximum amount is four cases of 24. The sole class people must make sure they give this class some consideration (clean up) as the committee feels this may be a big-number seller at the fair. You may want the clean up on this one!

I'm sure Cheri will announce summer field day. Be sure to mark the calendar for that. I need to wrap this up and a very cold snap had come upon us. I must go.

More next month...good night!—Roy Kraft, IHPA President



Harlan Joseph, C Joseph, Andy Joseph, Jason Foley, Abigail Kelly, Governor Kim Reynolds, Bethany Kelly, Doyle Kincy, Callen Stumo, Tim Stumo, Andrea Stumo, Jamie Beyer all witness the signing of the proclamation of Honey Bee Day 2020 on February 13, 2020.



Proclamation of Honey Bee Day
Gov. Reynolds with Queen Abigail

Spring is Coming!

Happy March! Spring is only a few short weeks away. Keep an eye out for the wonderful dandelions that will hopefully start popping up in the near future. I am excited to be able to start inspecting my bees again and I am sure all of you are too. My family and I are planning on growing our apiary this year.

I am excited to share with you some of my January and February programs. On January 18th, I attended the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association's Winter Seminar. During the morning session, I was presented with the John Johnson Queen Scholarship and three bee-utiful honey queen themed bags made by Ann Wilbur. Thank you, CIBA! On January 21st, Governor Kim Reynolds signed the proclamation declaring February 13th Iowa Honey Bee Day. I was able to attend the signing and share about honeybees with Governor Reynolds. What an amazing opportunity to educate about the importance of honey bees. On January 23rd, I taught the first Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa beginning beekeeping class. This was extra special for me as I took the FBI beginning beekeeping class when I first started beekeeping. I enjoyed teaching about the basics of honeybees. I was even able to incorporate my 6-5-4-3-2-1 Honey Bee Anatomy (I often do this activity at my children's programs.) into the lesson. On January 27th, I spoke to a Girl Scouts Group about honeybees and beekeeping. This Girl Scouts Group learned about Colony Collapse Disorder and how anyone can help honeybees on their own. I encouraged them to continue to learn about honeybees and to apply for the IHPA Youth Scholarship Program. I was also able to show the group how to make beeswax lip balm and each girl was able to make a rolled beeswax candle. Iowa Honey Bee Day was on February 13th. I attended the IHPA reception that morning. I greeted legislators and other government officials along with the Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa Honey Queen Emma Jakes and the Northern Iowa Honey Queen Veronica Vonderohe. Many state representatives and senators attended the event. I was able to meet my state representative Heather Matson. I was introduced to the Senate by my state senator Jack Whitver. It was a great opportunity to share the importance of honeybees with law makers. A big thank you to those who helped make Iowa Honey Bee Day possible.

Throughout February, I worked with the Science Center of Iowa to develop their honeybee exhibit. If you go to the Science Center, be sure to check out this evolving exhibit.

On March 2nd, I have a Crafting with Beeswax program at the East Side branch of the Des Moines Public Library. On March 9th, I will be leading Honey Bee Story Time at the Urbandale Public Library. On March 12th, I have another Crafting with Beeswax Program at the Polk City Public Library. (Can you tell that Crafting with Beeswax is a popular program?) On March 21st, I will be leading a program at the Newton Arboretum and Botanical Garden. I will also attend the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association's March meeting on March 21st. I will be leading family story time at the South Side branch of the Des Moines Public Library on March 30th. I hope to see some of you at my upcoming programs. Please share these events with those you know who may be interested.

For more updates about my activities, be sure to follow the Iowa Honey Queen Program Facebook page. If you would like to schedule a program or event with me, please contact Connie Bronnenburg, the IHPA Queen Chair, at (515)-480-6076 or cbronny823@aol.com.

Abigail Kelly, 2020 Iowa Honey Queen

Our Veep Reports:

Well happy March everyone. I am so excited to get into my hives this spring. We have checked and all the girls are doing well, and we added some food on the really nice day we had in February. I have been reading some great books that I got at the CIBA seminar, but not the same as being out in the field with them. Gregg and I have met our student that we will be mentoring this spring and he is so excited to get started it has really reignited some excitement to learn more for myself. It is so great to look at beekeeping through the eyes of a young adult excited to get started. I have enjoyed participating in the beginning bee keeping classes and there is always something new I learn from each class. This week I will be attending Iowa Honey Bee Day at the capital and am excited to talk bees with all of our representatives. (Who am I kidding? I enjoy talking to bees to anyone!)

Hope all your hives are wintering well.

Kris Silvers the IHPA VEEP



Here's the Girl Scout group that Abigail spoke to on January 27. The queen is in the back.

Insecticides Becoming More Toxic to Honey Bees

by Sara Lajeunesse, Pennsylvania State University

During the past 20 years, insecticides applied to U.S. agricultural landscapes have become significantly more toxic—over 120-fold in some midwestern states—to honey bees when ingested, according to a team of researchers, who identified rising neonicotinoid seed treatments in corn and soy as the primary driver of this change. The study is the first to characterize the geographic patterns of insecticide toxicity to bees and reveal specific areas of the country where mitigation and conservation efforts could be focused.

According to Christina Grozinger, distinguished professor of entomology and director of the Center for Pollinator Research, Penn State, this toxicity has increased during the same period in which widespread decline in populations of pollinators and other insects have been documented.

"Insecticides are important for managing insects that damage crops, but they can also affect other insect species, such as bees and other pollinators, in the surrounding landscape," she said. "It is problematic that there is such a dramatic increase in the total [insecticide](#) toxicity at a time when there is also so much concern about declines in populations of pollinating insects, which also play a very critical role in agricultural production."

The researchers, led by Maggie Douglas, assistant professor of environmental studies, Dickinson College, and former postdoctoral fellow, Penn State, integrated several public databases—including insecticide use data from the U.S. Geological Survey, toxicity data from the Environmental Protection Agency, and crop acreage data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture—to generate county-level annual estimates of honey bee "toxic load" for insecticides applied between 1997 and 2012. The team defined toxic load as the number of lethal doses to bees from all insecticides applied to cropland in each county.

The researchers generated separate estimates for contact-based toxic loads, such as when a bee is sprayed directly, and oral-based toxic loads, such as when a bee ingests the pollen or nectar of a plant that has recently been treated. They generated a map of predicted insecticide toxic load at the county level. Their results appear today (Jan. 21) in *Scientific Reports*.

The team found that the pounds of insecticides applied decreased in most counties from 1997 to 2012, while contact-based bee toxic load remained relatively steady. In contrast, oral-based bee toxic load increased by ninefold, on average, across the U.S. This

pattern varied by region, with the greatest increase—121-fold—seen in the Heartland, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture defines as all of Iowa, Illinois and Indiana; most of Missouri; and part of Minnesota, Ohio, Kentucky, Nebraska and South Dakota. The Northern Great Plains had the second highest increase at 53-fold. This region includes all of North Dakota and part of South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Minnesota.

"This dramatic increase in oral-based toxic load is connected to a shift toward widespread use of neonicotinoid insecticides, which are unusually toxic to bees when they are ingested," said Douglas. The most widely used family of insecticides in the world, neonicotinoids are commonly used as seed coatings in crops, such as corn and soybean. Some of the insecticide is taken up by the growing plants and distributed throughout their tissues, while the rest is lost to the environment.

"Several studies have shown that these seed treatments have negligible benefits for most crops in most regions," said Grozinger. "Unfortunately, growers often don't have the option to

purchase seeds without these treatments; they don't have choices in how to manage their crops."

The researchers suggest that the common method of evaluating insecticide-use trends in terms of pounds of insecticides applied does not give an accurate picture of environmental impact. "The indicator we use—bee toxic load—can be considered as an alternative indicator in cases

where impacts to bees and other non-target insects is a concern," said Douglas. "This is particularly relevant given that many states have recently developed 'Pollinator Protection Plans' to monitor and address pollinator declines. Ultimately, our work helps to identify geographic areas where in-depth risk assessment and insecticide mitigation and conservation efforts could be focused."

"It is important to note that the calculation of bee toxic load provides information about the total toxicity of insecticides applied to a landscape," said Grozinger. "It does not calculate how much of that insecticide actually comes in contact with bees, or how long the insecticide lasts before it is broken down. Future studies are needed to determine how toxic load associates with changes in populations of bees and other insects."

This research is part of a larger project to investigate the various stressors impacting pollinator populations across the United States. One tool created within this research project is [Beescape](#), which allows users to explore the stressors affecting bees in their own communities.



News from the Beeyard, by Phil Ebert

The start of the new year is well past but I tend to reflect on things during this time of year. When the boys were young, I had them sit down and have each one write down one thing they wanted to improve on. I did it, too. We put them away and then would review at the end of the year and assess how we did. I can't remember any of the things we wrote down. I do remember that some of them happened and some didn't. The point here is that we often need guidelines if we want to change anything—behavior wise or otherwise. If you have no goals, you will probably be an underachiever. One thing I have always remembered is that success is often determined by how we respond to failure. It is a rare person who does not experience some failure in life.

We have been rebuilding pallets and loading cut comb supers with foundation. We do more comb honey every year. We don't do Ross Rounds. Those have too much up front expense plus the bees mess up some of the rounds. Some colonies won't draw wax. They will swarm before that happens. The first requirement for comb honey is a good yard. We have tried several methods of manipulating the bees before putting supers on. None of them worked to my satisfaction. I read Gene Killion's book years ago. I tried emulating his method. I failed to take into account that there was a lot more forage in the early 50's which is the time frame the book referred to. Now, we find the big colonies and put cut comb supers on them with no excluders. We put out about 2/3 of them as fast as we can. When we have determined which colonies are going to do it, we shift boxes to those colonies from the non-performing ones. The ones we took the cc supers off of will get extracting supers. We used to do the square boxes. It was hard to get the corner boxes filled. Quite often, we would wind up with supers that were half full. There was no way we could sell those. Years ago, I had around 1000 of the basswood boxes. They were taking up space. I gave them to a lady to sell on e-Bay. I don't know whatever happened to them. I never got any money. Either she sold them, or they are still in her basement. At least I don't have to deal with them.

I am often amazed at how well our business had progressed. We were running 300 colonies in 2000. I had lost my day job. It was Anthony's last summer at home. I didn't seriously think I could make beekeeping work financially, but I thought, "Why not give it a shot." I don't remember how we did but it was enough to keep going. Eric got out of the Marines in 2004 so he was here for that summer. We bought our first flatbed that sprung off a lot in Kansas City—a 1995 F-350. I had been watching it on the internet. The price kept going down. It was time to go look at it. It had bald tires and bad thump in the engine. They wanted \$8000. It seemed like a lot of money but after some haggling, we bought it. We had to put a flywheel in it before we could drive it home. It was early spring, and it snowed on the way. Anthony was driving the flatbed with me following. I remember hoping that it wouldn't slide off the

road before we got home. We still have that truck in operation today.

By 2005 we had 600 colonies. We made a 150# average that year and followed up with 120# in 2006. I had some boys from town help extract. I can't remember if Adam was around. I think he must have been. Alex wasn't in the picture very much yet. The big crops gave us access to capital and we were able to expand our marketing area. I used to leave on the delivery route at 5:00AM and get home around 7:00PM. We didn't have another decent production year until 2012. The intervening years produced 50# to 60# crops. Most of those years had 20" of rain in the month of June. Sometimes people tell me dry weather is bad for bees, but we have made our best crops in drought years. Does anyone remember 1988?

The rest of the years are just a blur. We made a steady progression in spite of poor crop years. I know I have told many of you that I considered us as sitting on a three-legged financial stool: honey, beeswax and package bees. Now, we have added almond pollination and nucs. The wax business has become significant. That was something I had not planned on. It just developed over time. The delivery route is the core of our business, but it is the residual revenue streams that put us over the top. None of this is easy. We have a fleet of junk trucks that are a constant challenge. I would caution anyone to be careful of debt. My one cardinal rule thru all of this has been, "DO NOT borrow money to buy bees." The bank still wants to get paid even if you have a bad crop and/or the bees die.

We sent 2 ½ loads to California this year. The goal for next year is to get up to 3 loads. Think Spring!! The days are getting longer. It will be here before you know it.

District Six Reports

Hi Beekeepers, We are at the time of year to be working on preparing our boxes and frames for spring. Soon we will be able to take a peek under the lid to check feed and see how they are doing. Be sure its a nice day so not to chill them. If they need feed, you need do that as well as clean out the entrance. Be sure the upper entrance is open to ensure proper ventilation preventing condensation. A strong hive can take cold but not moisture. Many times, bees are doing fine in January but by March they are dead. Some of this can be prevented by taking these steps.

Have fun beekeeping,

Jim Kraninger, District 6 Director



HONEY BEE DAY

Iowa Honey Bee Day was a huge success!! A lot of bee keepers from across the state attended despite slick roads, high winds and bitter cold. What luck, as they say, but it is Iowa.

Iowa Agriculture Secretary Mike Naig and the First Gentleman, Kevin Reynolds (Iowa Governor Kim Reynold's husband) attended along with approximately 30 to 40 Representatives and Senators. They were able to talk and ask us all kinds of questions and a lot of them raised concerns about what is killing the bees. It was a good day for bees and in the process we had a blast.

We ended up with 30 Cities and 11 Counties along with Governor Reynolds signing Proclamations designating February 13th as IHBD. That was a huge effort for a lot the Directors and other volunteers. This gave HBD a lot of publicity. We gave away, in a free raffle, a Honey "Basket" with Honey Bee Products from all over the state. The very lucky winner was Lynn Hammel from Des Moines. He was very grateful and was overwhelmed by the beauty of the basket. The basket was actually a shallow super that Linn and Ann Wilbur made and decorated.

I want to Thank everyone that helped!! There were a lot of people that volunteered to put this event on. Looking forward to Honey Bee Day next year. Jamie Beyer



Abigail shows us the Honey Basket



Basket winner Lynn Hammel with IHPA Queen Abigail Kelly and sister Elianna



L-R: Melody Reeves, Katie Jakes, Emma Jakes (FBI queen), Veronica Vanderohé (NI queen), Abigail and Elianna.



Elianna Kelly (new bee), Abigail Kelly IHPA Queen, Olivia Kelly (busy bee), Emma Jakes (FBI Queen, Veronica Vonderohé (NI

Editor: You gotta love a letter! Here's one I got recently, hand-written on the back of a Certificate of Nomination that accepts Floyd Otdoerfer into the American Legion. A veteran who recycles. I like him already. Let's all share his wisdom:

Hello Ron. I always enjoy reading the Buzz—keep up the good work. I'm elderly and do charity work, but I like my bees. This is my 18th year with bees and haven't bought a lot of bees in 16 years. I've always raised my own and sold off my excess. Having extra nucs on hand reboots the hive and saves the honey production. I don't smoke my bees—if they are upset, I close them up and move to the next hive. Always work a mean hive last.

My theory on late swarming is I feel these wax-laden bees contribute to the swarming instinct. If these bees have no place to put their wax, they want to leave. The simple solution is to place 2-3 frames with foundation before they pull swarm cells. A strong nectar flow late in the year probably contributes.

Multiplying the bees (nuc production)

1. Feed protein patty first week of March (no liquid)
2. Give 3rd hive body first week of April
3. Last week of April/first week of May—pull old queen with three frames of capped brood only this is done only with very strong colonies.
4. Make up nucs 10-11 days after old queen is removed. It helps to leave extra space where eggs and larva frames are for queen cell production.
5. Transfer queen cells to nuc box plus food and bees. Inspect three weeks later for laying queen.

Keep insulation on top so brood doesn't freeze out.

Thanks, Floyd Otdoerfer. Coralville.

SAVE THE DATE

IHPA 2020 FIELD DAY

"Keep The Knowledge Flowing"

June 27, 2020

8:30 - 4:30pm

Dordt College Campus

Sioux Center, Iowa

More exciting information to follow in next few months.

Editor: I got email from a person with an interesting passion—photographing pollinators at work. I'll quote him a bit and include his website for your enjoyment.

His name is Steve Robertson. He lives in the foothills of



the Rockies in Ogden, Utah. His girlfriend is a "rabid gardener", as you will learn as you check his website and see how detailed the descriptions of the photos are. He plans to promote his work at several art

shows this coming summer, selling prints on metal, acrylic and canvas as well as paper. He refers to what all beekeepers know—there's a calm connection when viewing pollinators at work, almost

metaphysical. He finds bees "stunning and remarkable and beautiful". He finds joy in capturing photos and then sharing what he sees through his



lens. He's been shooting since 1985, so he knows his craft. He gives me permission to use some of his shots, including his watermark. He does not work bees himself, but a friend has three hives in their considerable garden, and he writes of a special time: "And the swarm. We had



one last year. Was the most amazing thing. When it started, I called our friend (Jody) and she asked me to keep an eye out to see where they finally settled. The hives are on the east side of our property.

And I followed them as they moved west. I was in the middle of the pillar of the swarm the entire time. It was so amazing to be there. One of the neatest experiences of my life. All that life just...well...Incredible! They finally settled in a cherry tree on the left side of the property. We were able to cut the branch that they'd selected and put them in a new hive. So memorable. Almost spiritual to be in that swarm like that."

Steve's website is <https://bees.photo> There you will find a new bee pic every day. His work is obviously for sale, so you can purchase what you please at this site as well.

RULES FOR 2020 STATE FAIR PRODUCTS BEING SOLD AT THE IHPA BOOTH

There will be a four-person committee including the booth manager.

Applications must be sent by email to all four committee members: Kris Silvers Kristin.silvers@gmail.com, Ed St. John esj178@gmail.com, Heidi Love bhlove5@aol.com, and Doyle Kincy dwkincy@msn.com

A copy of the Application shall be sent by USPS (United States Postal Service) to Doyle Kincy, 7304 Monroe Ct. Urbandale, IA 50322.

Firm cutoff date is June 15, 2020 (must be postmarked by this date).

The committee will meet on June 27, 2020 after the board meeting at Summer Field Day. The meeting will be held in a predetermined neutral place. The general IHPA membership will be invited to witness.

All liquid and comb honey is to be from the 2020 harvest all from Iowa origins. (Except honey for lemonade)

All glass honey containers and creamed honey containers must have a protection seal.

All plastic honey containers must have a pressure seal. (This includes all large containers).

All products must show proper labeling (supplier, name, city, phone #).

Any item **not listed** on the application sheet or any specialty items you wish to market at the IHPA State Fair Booth needs to be approved by the booth manager before the committee deadline (June 15,2020).

ALL CONTAINERS NEED TO BE CLEAN, NOT STICKY, AND SUBJECT TO REJECTION BY BOOTH MANAGER.

Honey for the Honey Lemonade (50-pound buckets) will be a sealed bid only. Low bid takes it all.

Pollen must have a "US Pollen" label.

Due to the time frame of honey styx production, there will be a one-year commitment, starting 2021.

These rules will be reviewed by the board annually.

SOLE CLASSES:

There will be one person who will have a sole class of honey or item based on price list. For example: one person will have ALL 24-oz. bears for the state fair based on price list. If two or more producers apply for that item, it will be decided by a draw; the winner will take the whole class.

You will only be allowed to win every other draw. However if you are the only one that entered that class you will get the class and be eligible for the next draw.

Draw order is per list on application sheet.

If you win any sole class, you ARE NOT eligible for case lots. However, if you are not chosen in the draw for any of the sole classes, you will be eligible for case lots, but you must have it on your application sheet if you want to supply those.

OPEN CLASSES:

All beeswax products (candles, ornaments, blocks, soaps, lotions, lip balms etc.) must be packaged to maintain cleanliness and for presentation. (This will be the booth managers' discretion.)

Please submit a list of what you would like to market at the Iowa State Fair for 2020. Please provide a phone number where you may be reached if committee has questions.

You are only allowed to supply a maximum of four scents of each product.

CREAMED AND FLAVORED HONEY RULES: (MUST BE IOWA HONEY)

Flavored honey and creamed honey must come from a certified kitchen.

A copy of the license must be on file with the booth manager and booth manager must have them with them at the state fair.

(License must be attached or mailed with application package.)

If more than one person is wanting to bring a flavor, a draw will decide who brings the flavor.

You are required to provide a one-ounce sample, by committee deadline, if you wish to bring pure creamed honey. (MUST HAVE SAMPLE TO DOYLE KINCY BY NOON ON JUNE 27, 2020.)

CASE LOTS:

The purpose of the case lots is a way for the small beekeeper to provide honey to the fair.

Case lot classes are one-pound glass, one-pound plastic and the 12-ounce bear.

Case lots will be in case quantities of 24 bottles.

You may bring no more than four cases of each class.

Minimum is one case of 24 for a class.

If you do not win any of the 'Sole Class' categories then you will be eligible for case lot. (This must be marked on your application to be considered.)

Clean up rule: In the event the required quantity cannot be fulfilled through the case lot system, those participating in the 'sole class' will be encouraged to help supply the additional quantity needed of each class through a draw. (One person per class decided by draw if needed.) These items will not be placed out until after Day 5.

CUT COMB, ROSS ROUNDS and CHUNK HONEY:

Must be in a sealed container.

Must be well-drained without liquid honey. (Chunk honey excluded)

Quality standards will be used. (Clean capping with all the cells capped.)

Needs to weigh at least 14 ounces. (Chunk honey excluded)

MUST be frozen for a minimum of 48 hours prior to arriving at the Iowa State Fair, subject to rejection at booth manager's discretion. (Chunk honey will need to be frozen as well.)

DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS:

All products must be delivered to IHPA booth at the Iowa State Fair.

Product must be delivered between Sunday to Wednesday. Hours are as follows: Sunday--Noon-6 PM, Monday—10 AM-6 PM, Tuesday—10 AM-6 PM, Wednesday—10 AM-6 PM (unless other arrangements are made with the booth manager).

YOU MUST PROVIDE AN INVOICE WHEN PRODUCT IS DELIVERED AND EVERYONE MUST COMPLETE A W-9. (W-9 will be provided on site.)

Please make plans to pick up unsold product on Sunday evening 9 PM-10 PM or Monday between 8 AM-NOON (unless other arrangements are made with booth manager).

LARRY GENE SPINA

9/12/1940 – 1/20/2020

Our beekeeping community is mourning the loss yet celebrating life of veteran beekeeper Larry Spina. Anyone who has visited the IHPA booth at the State Fair either met Larry or enjoyed viewing his beekeeper mannequin made from plumbing fittings. Larry also promoted honeybee activities through his activities as a Master Gardener with Linn County. Larry is survived by his wife Arlene and their combined family of six children and by four siblings.

Larry was retired from the Cedar Rapids Water Works. He was an avid mushroom hunter and a regular participant in the Czech Village Houby Days celebrations. Larry and Arlene preserved their Czech heritage through costume and dance. They were crowned Prince and Princess by the Cedar Valley Polka Club and the Wisconsin Polka Association. Larry was also a director with the Metco Credit Union and was known to impress annual meeting attendees with his Kazotsky Squat kick dancing demonstrations.

Larry enjoyed good health up until the last few years. Before his final surrender to cancer and heart disease, he and Arlene enjoyed a Cruise around the Gulf of Mexico as well as two trips to Las Vegas. He will be missed by his fellow beekeepers at Indian Creek Nature Center and the Heartland Beekeepers Club. Arlene intends to offer Larry's bee supplies for sale with an announcement in the near future. Well-wishes can be forwarded to her at 5425 Vermont St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.



March Beekeeper of the Month, Sara Todd

Sara, now 28, grew up in the town of Elkhart, Iowa and attended Ankeny High School. She later went on to continue her education by getting a degree in marketing that now greatly aids her with her home business, The Holton Homestead. Sara is a 3rd generation beekeeper and is the reason The Holton Homestead has colonies. As a child Sara never got to see her father and grandfather working the hives as they had changed career paths by the time she was born, but she often recalls many tales of their bee related antics. Her grandfather, Al Todd, and father, Doug Todd, took care of more than 100 colonies in the 80's. Her father actually made it his summer job when he was home on college break and tells stories of selling honey out of the back of his truck at the Ankeny Farmer's Market. "I think it's really cool that we are at the same farmers' market selling our honey now," remarks Sara. Her grandfather passed away when she was only 7, but she knows beekeeping was a very special thing for him. Sara explains, "I chose beekeeping as a hobby because I wanted to feel closer to my grandpa, and I knew dad would approve of the new hobby. Not to mention bees are so fascinating, amazing for our gardens, and fit right in with everything we do at the homestead."



How did The Holton Homestead start? The Holton Homestead did not start because of bees (they came later), but because of 6 outlaw chickens. When they lived in Ankeny, she and Tyler (Sara's significant other and business partner) were very into fitness and worked out regularly at a Crossfit gym that was next to Tractor Supply. It was "chick days," and one day after the gym they decided on a whim to buy 6 chicks. They had a large fenced in backyard, but lived in town. They also had a pretty terrible neighbor, who made it her job to "be in their business". She basically forced them out of town because she found out about the chickens in town, which was against Ankeny code. It forced them to find a little slice of paradise. Six chickens turned into 10, turned into a flock of 100 with ducks, turkeys, chickens, geese, rabbits, 75 beehives, barn cats, a pig named Carl, and a full time business. So I guess she actually owes the old neighbor a bit of a "thank you"!

How has the business

grown in products and public presence? Since they started in 2016 it has grown by leaps and bounds. They started out with just a simple egg delivery route in Ankeny and selling a little produce at the farmers market, to all kinds of products and produce like beeswax candles, eggs, garden produce, lip balm, lotions, soaps, salves, beeswrap, elderberry tonic, honey, creamed honey, and the latest- flavored creamed honey. They have a website (www.holtonhomestead.com) with an online store, and she has been busy nonstop all winter with orders. Sara does regular deliveries in Ankeny, Altoona, Waukee, Urbandale, DSM, WDSM, and Newton, and participates in many vendor shows in her area, not to mention highly followed social media pages. Sara also dabbles in public speaking about bees to local elementary schools, colleges, gardeners, and more. She also wanted to give fellow bee lovers the opportunity to get involved with beekeeping without all the responsibility and have a very successful "Adopt-a-hive" program. Tyler expanded their



Years ago, in a former life, I taught English. Most often it was to junior high students just learning to reach out and express themselves in writing. I confess, I liked to teach grammar and the details of written communication a lot. But more interesting was freeing a youngster up to be able to say things, contribute to beauty and thought, and to do it effectively and in a helpful way. Josia speaks to our love of beekeeping, and it's fun to imagine her learning and shedding her fears. But more than that, she draws us into ourselves, inviting us to examine our own fears and make application of what we've observed "out there" to help develop our "in there". This is her last segment. Go back and find your Jan. and Feb. issues and re-read all three in one sitting. Thanks so much for unfolding us, Josia! (Let's see other beeks contribute to our good little paper!)--Editor.

It became a theme with each season that at night I would close my eyes and see something imprinted like light on a dark canvas-- in the summer it was queens. Spotting queens became a big part of our days while selling starter hives. The queen bee is not as hard to find as I had first suspected, for she is indeed slightly bigger and longer than her female workers. But more than that, she carries herself differently. The nurse bees and workers beside her seem to be diligently wrapped up in the moment, flitting to and fro, focused on the current task, whether it's caring for the brood, attending the queen, or making wax, etc. But the queen seems to be looking forward. She moves and sways across the frame, blind to the common tasks and instead sees the thousands and thousands that lie before her, always pressing onward with determination in her duty to the hive.

Why a queen bee gives her whole life to laying eggs inside the hive is an unanswerable question still worth pondering if you also ask why the beekeeper gives their life to the bees. It has been fascinating to meet beekeepers in all walks of life that each hold similar reasoning as to why they have persisted in keeping bees. The answer is usually simple: "I just love bees." I remember riding with my boss and coworker to get to a bee yard one of those first weeks, and he excitedly jumped in the truck and exclaimed, "I can't wait to see m' bees!" At first, I laughed to hear him say that. We were going out to lift a bunch of heavy boxes of bees in the cold,

but then I thought to myself, "Man, I want to be that happy!" I realized that being excited to go do simple and necessary tasks is one of the greatest gifts of character. And it is attainable through simple daily choices. I decided that I too could enjoy the littlest of moments, whether it was hanging out with bees, or tuning the banjo.

The bees really made this easy for me, because they also gave me new hope and excitement for the future. I have found that I am most hopeful when the world feels big and undiscovered. The more I learned about bees, the less I realized I knew in general. Our dependence on these little creatures and the great service of pollination that they provide us, made me see those little moments as important and meaningful. Even though I knew I was in a hayfield in Mount Vernon, Iowa, simple and even mundane acts of feeding, caring, and watching over these fuzzy insects were not just servicing the bees here, but affecting the plants and crops around them, the farmers and the consumers, the society and economy. It made me feel like I was not isolated to a small town, or a career, or even a level of education. It made me feel that whatever I did both on the job and off mattered to the world around me.

There were also things I learned about myself just from spending time with the bees. We spent hours with the hives, checking to see if they were queenless, or had any disease, or if they needed more space, or less. In a way we were simply studying the bees, watching their behavior and intervening when necessary. I realized in some of those quiet hours, that often I interact with people in much the same way that a beekeeper does their bees. I too am fascinated by people, I watch them, study their ways, but I do so with gloves up to my elbow and peering through a veil. I crack open the frames of society and peer between walls of propolis and wax, at those around me. I watch and appreciate, but from afar. I try to see what they need or want from me, but I often feel disconnected, and isolated. Once again, I began to see it was the fear. For a beekeeper knows their beloved bees can harm them. I have now witnessed, not all beekeepers wear veils. For with a little extra care and courage I am learning we too can approach our friends and family in a more vulnerable and honest way.

Josia Eden Vandersall (with thanks from us all)



Getting to Know Our Veep

I am Kris Silvers. Been attempting to keep bees for 10 years. I am married to the love of my life Gregg Silvers. We have been married for 15 years. We live south and east of Osceola Iowa. I am a member of the Southern Iowa Hive Handlers and the FBI club. We currently have 4 hives. I have two step daughters and 6 step grand kids. I graduated from Iowa state University in landscape horticulture. I have worked hard to push to get pollinators as an accepted CRP practice on our farm. I currently am a beauty consultant with Mary Kay cosmetics and drive school bus for Clarke Community Schools. I decided to run as your vice president so I could be more involved in the Iowa Honey Producers and hopefully get to meet more of the membership and find out their concerns. I have made some life-long friends as part of the IHPA and am excited to get started in helping out wherever I can.

(Beek of the Month Continued from Page 6)

business by taking the leap a year ago and went out to California to work bees in the almonds for the 2019 bloom. Since then he has worked for Spring Valley, and this fall he brokered his own semi of hives from local beekeepers here in Iowa. He's currently out West with them wrangling bees in and out of the different crops while Sara holds down the fort back here.

A typical day for Sara: First thing in the morning she gets up and starts chores. This includes opening the chicken coop, feeding all the animals, and in the winter months changing all the heated water buckets' water. Then she goes inside to print off all of the day's online orders and make sure everything is filled and ready for pick up or delivery. Sara devotes several hours in the week to making products, including 3 to 4 hours a week in their commercial kitchen making flavored creamed honey. From time to time she fits in a run to WineStyles in Ankeny and the Olive Tap to restock products that they carry there. Sara notes, "Some days are much busier than others." Monday is a big day for her, as she does product deliveries to the DSM, WDSM, Urbandale, Waukee, and Ankeny area. Thursdays she delivers to Altoona. Sara is also responsible for everything else there while Tyler is away. She makes, packages, and labels all of their own products. Luckily she has help from her "Farmhand Brooke". About 4pm every day it is time for outdoor chores again, and then she is off to her part time job as a waitress at Wasabi in Ankeny. She waitresses typically four nights a week.

Sara pictures that the business will keep growing quite a bit in the next few years. They have plans for increasing their hive counts, expanding the bee brokering, and this spring they are doing their first nuc sales to the public. There is no telling what new products they will come up with as well. Just proof that one can still make a living off beekeeping these days as the future looks bright for Sara and The Holton Homestead.

Honey Bee Day is going to be celebrated!

Various counties and many cities across our state have agreed to proclaim March 14 as Honey Bee Day. District 2 Director Tom Hart shares this list with us, so that we all know where the active promoters are. More of us might make plans now to approach our locales next winter, asking to have them add their city to the list. Counties: Bremer, Buena Vista, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Dickenson, Hardin, Humboldt, Jasper, Johnson, Mitchell, Worth. Cities: Adel, Ames, Cedar Rapids, Charles City, Cherokee, Coralville, Creston, Dallas Center, Des Moines, Eagle Grove, Eldora, Estherville, Forest City, Fort Dodge, Iowa City, Le Mars, Marion, Marshalltown, Mason City, Milford, Nevada, North Liberty, Rock Rapids, Sibley, Sioux Center, Sioux City, Storm Lake, Waterloo, Webster City, West Des Moines.

Each of these places are on the list because someone took a few minutes and contacted leaders and asked them to participate. Thanks for your efforts to spread the good word about our dear pollinators.



Hello, fellow beekeepers! My name is **Ellen Bell** of Bell Farm in Runnells, and at this year's Annual Meeting, I will be hosting a breakout session on queen rearing. I started raising bees about five years ago. What began as two backyard hives quickly blossomed into 100+ colonies. During my second year of beekeeping, my mentor suggested I learn how to raise my own queens. This topic has always fascinated me, from the very moment Andy Joseph first mentioned it in my beginning beekeeping class at DMACC. Over a few short months at the end of the winter, I devoured every book, article, and video I could find on queen rearing and grafting, and in the spring of



2016, I took the plunge and did my first graft. I had surprisingly good results! In the few years since, I have experimented and continued to learn. This summer, I had my first perfect take on a graft of 30 cells! So why have I been successful in such a short period of time? Am I a queen

rearing expert? Ha! Of course not! I'm just an average joe, like everybody else. But I do attribute my queen rearing successes to one important factor: preparation! I spend a huge amount of time preparing for raising queens. When people think about queen rearing, so often their minds go straight to the actual grafting process itself, and they completely gloss over the important preparation, which must begin weeks in advance! I compare this to showing up on the first morning of RAGBRAI, all excited about dipping the back wheel of your bicycle in the Missouri River, but having completely forgotten to do any training prior to the event. You would be doomed for failure! The same is true of queen rearing. I hope you will consider joining me in Ames at our Annual Meeting this coming November and attending my breakout session on queen rearing. We will discuss all the important preparations needed to make your queen rearing adventures a success!

Ellen Bell

Hello Beekeepers

I have gotten to see a lot of growth with my bee business this year pryor sooner than I expected. But when the opportunity arrives sometimes you got to take the bull by the horns. I got to purchase a bigger honey storage tank to make extracting honey easier. I also purchased a skid steer to get my bees on migratory pallets to someday be able to ship them to California. Well this year I got the opportunity to ship bees to California and I also got the opportunity to travel in January to work honeybees in California. I have never been to California or very far west. I flew from Des Moines to Denver to Sacramento. The flight went great except for a few hiccups as normal. As I drove up I-5 I got to see five semis hauling bees heading south and I also got to see several staging areas where bees are placed before they are placed into the almond orchards. I arrived at my destination and met up with the beekeeper that I would be working for during that week.

Being my first time working bees in California, I really did not know what to expect. The first day was a little rough for me as I learned how they want the bees to be worked and graded. As each day went by working bees it got easier. I learned how to grade the bees and combine hives to make stronger hives. We would work through several hundred hives a day. It was really awesome to be working bees in California in the first week of January in 50- to 60-degree temperature. I could not have asked for nicer weather to be in. We finished up working bees toward the end of the week. During that week I got to talk to some other beekeepers that raise queens. They told me that they raise around 50,000 queens and sell a whole bunch of packages across the United States. I also got to watch them build new beds for their new fleet trucks and also got to watch them build the cages to ship 3-lb packages across the US. On Saturday I got to work honeybees with another beekeeper. There I learned another way to work bees to get them ready for the almond pollination. I got to work bees on stands that the pallets of bees are placed on so that if it does flood they would be safe

I am very grateful that I got the opportunity to work honeybees with two great beekeepers. I am looking forward to bees arriving back this spring and splitting hives. With a new year there is still lots to do before the bees arrive home. I enjoy reading about bees and building equipment for this upcoming bee season. Have fun while learning about bees! District 1 Director Chris Jackson

2 For sale: (Picked up prices) 4-frame nucs \$140. 5-frame nucs --\$160 . \$5 to mark the queen. 3# packages--\$130 +tax. New woodenware. 20-frame extractor (used 1 season) \$1000. Perforating uncapper with roller table \$1000.
Sioux River Bees Call or text
Marlene 712-320-1907 or Jim 712-330-6329

1 FOR SALE: Package bees, nucs and single-story colonies. See pricing for nucs and singles on our full-page ad. 3# pkgs will be \$128+\$7 cage deposit + 7%sales tax. 2# pkgs will be \$107+\$7 cage deposit + sales tax. There is a \$4 discount per pkg for orders of 50+. There will be a 3% surcharge if you use a card. The cage deposit is not taxable. All packages will be shaken in Iowa. There will be no travel stress on these bees. Use the order form on our full-page ad or contact Adam at 319-430-3514 or adam.ebert@eberthoney.com. Contact Phil at 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net. Queens and syrup will also be available.

3 FOR SALE: 2- or 3-pound **packages** of Italian bees with queen.
Picked up in Aurora or Cedar Rapids mid-April.
Hill-Ward Apiary bees from California. All orders by March 1st. Douglas Child 319-634-3682 / childbees@gmail.com.

2 Foley's Russian Bees

For Sale:

Russian Nucs \$165, and Russian Queens \$38 each with discounts on larger orders.
Carniolan packages with carniolan mated queen \$126 for 3lbs, \$103 for 2lbs with discounts on larger orders
Complete hive kits just \$220 (2 deeps, 2 mediums, 40 frames with foundation, division board feeder, reducer, inner cover, top cover, and bottom board)
To place an order, please visit us on the web at www.russianbee.com

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You'll find Ellen Bell's ad on Page 15 this month, and when it came, I asked her to describe a nuc for the newbie. I'll insert this first: "nuc" rhymes with "puke" and not with "truck". Just sayin'. Short for nucleus hive. Here's Ellen:

What's in a nuc?

The standard in nucs is five frames, of which three are frames of brood and two are frames of resources. If you are price shopping, make sure you are comparing apples to apples. Ask the seller how many frames come in their nucs and what type. Also very important... make sure the nucs have been state inspected prior to sale. This is state law!

The challenge with a five-frame nuc is that it grows very quickly and may need to be split mid season to prevent swarming. This shouldn't present a problem for an experienced beekeeper. However, the signs of colony congestion can be difficult for a novice beekeeper to recognize.

For this reason, I am also offering a four-frame nuc option this year, which will consist of two frames of brood and two frames of resources. It will be full of a healthy population of bees that should grow enough to produce a honey crop in the first year, but hopefully won't be as likely to swarm later in the season. Of course, as we all know, nothing is guaranteed in beekeeping, and there are many other factors at play here like weather, forage availability, and beekeeper management. However, all other things being equal, I think the four-frame nuc might be a better option for beginning beekeepers than the standard five-frame nuc.



Thanks, Ellen. I have noticed some beeks sell nucs that have four frames and then an inside feeder. Usually they include this feeder in the sale. Helpful. Also--Keep That Nuc Box, even if it's plastic. Great for capturing swarms or splitting hives. (Ed.)

3 For Sale: Complete starter hive kit includes everything but the bees: Telescoping cover, Inner cover, 2 deep brood boxes w/frames, 2 Illinois boxes w/frames, Queen excluder and solid bottom board. Also includes bee jacket, gloves (in your size), bee brush, hive tool and smoker. Assembled and painted - \$379.00. Unassembled - \$319.00.

Or just a Hive Kit includes:

Telescoping cover, inner cover, 2 deep brood boxes w/frames, 2 Illinois boxes w/frames, Queen excluder and solid bottom board. Painted and assembled \$258.00. Unassembled \$ 198.00.

P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc, Goodell, IA 50439.

Call, text at 641-444-4767 or 515-293-2601

or email us @: pphonevandbeesupply@gmail.com

3 Help wanted: Full-Time Beekeeper

This is a year-round, full-time position. Must be prompt, on time, lifting heavy equip involved, willing to work outside. Pay based on experience, but will train if motivated to learn. **P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc.** Pat and Peggy Ennis, 2105 110th ST. Goodell, IA. Call, text or email us at 641-444-4767 or 515-293-2601.

3 For sale:

Packages, nucs, singles and equipment for 2020:

Packages - 3 pounds w/laying Italian queen.

1-15 = \$135.00

Nucs - 5-frame w/laying Italian queen.

1-49 = \$180, 50-up = \$170,

plus \$30 nuc box deposit.

Singles - \$225.00 w/laying Italian queen.

8 frames w/feeder, cover, inner cover & solid bb.

We also sell **syrup, pollen patties, mite treatments and beekeeping equipment.**

P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc.

Pat and Peggy Ennis

2105 110th ST, Goodell, IA .

641-444-4767 or 515-293-2601.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

IHPA membership year runs from January 1st and ends on December 31st. Still only \$20 for the first Beekeeper and \$5 for each additional Beekeeper in the house. Only one Buzz Newsletter will be mailed per membership address. By sending one Buzz Newsletter to one address, we reduce the cost of the Buzz. Which in turn provides more funds for more scholarships, more programs, etc. If you would rather read the Buzz online, please indicate that when you renew your membership. We have the ability to take debit and credit cards now.

It is time to prepare a new 2020 Membership Directory (the last one was printed in 2018). Please check your information for accuracy so we can have an accurate directory in 2020.

IHPA is a 501(c)5 organization. This means that your membership could be tax deductible, as your magazine subscriptions and conferences could be as well. Consult your tax professional for more information.

Also, if you donated bees, products, services or items for the auctions, a letter of donation can be provided for these as well.

If you would like a letter of donation, please let Rhonda Heston know. She can be reached at IHPATreasurer@gmail.com or 515-724-2124 (call or text). Address: 53735 187th Ave, Chariton, IA 50049.

Thanks, Rhonda

Non-traditional Marketing of Honey

For a number of years, our honey was sold in a Knoxville hardware store; however, like so many small town businesses, the hardware store closed in the fall of 2018.

In 2019 we had a bumper honey of crop, so Jerry regularly went to Knoxville and Pella Farmers' Markets. At the end of the season, we still had 2019 honey left and figured we would sell it at the early 2020 Farmers' Markets before we had any fresh honey. We date our honey to include the month and year it's harvested.

Last fall, the new owner of a local hair salon asked if she could sell our honey. We went with it and sure enough it has been a win-win for both of us. When Jerry restocks her salon, he always comes home with mason jars that some customers have returned to her for recycling. We're virtually out of 2019 honey and will not be able to restock her business until our early summer harvest. We never thought about this non-traditional point of sale for honey. Apparently, she had heard some good things about our honey.

We do not produce enough to stock grocery stores, etc. and don't plan to produce more. There're many Iowa beekeepers producing honey, but maybe not enough to get big accounts and maybe a non-traditional point of sale just might help them move some product and help a local business. I think it'd be nice if Iowans consumed Iowa Honey and perhaps it could be a step toward more sustainability in Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weldon

1 Now offering IOWA bees for sale!

We have been raising and grafting our own queens for 4 years, with good success in overwintering. We select strongly for gentleness, honey production, low mite counts, and winter hardiness. Because we graft our own queens and they are open mated, all our bees are considered an **Iowa Hybrid breed**. They do exceptionally well in our Iowa climate!

5-Frame Nuc - \$170 (\$100 deposit, with balance due upon pickup at farm in Runnels) 3 deep frames of brood and 2 deep frames of resources. May.

4-Frame Nuc - \$145 (\$75 deposit, with balance due upon pickup at farm in Runnels) 2 deep frames of brood and 2 deep frames of resources. May.

Deep Frame of Brood and Bees - \$25 A single, deep frame of brood/bees. April.

Deep Frame of Resources - \$20 April.

Overwintered **2019 Queens - \$35** Marked, caged, 2019 queens that have overwintered either in Iowa or in California (feel free to request your preference). Or buy queen and frame of bees - **\$60**. April.

2020 Queens - \$45 Marked, caged, mated and laying 2020 queens grafted from our own Iowa overwintered stock! Or buy queen and frame of her bees - **\$70**. May.

Queen Cells - \$8 Ready-to-emerge queen cells grafted from our own Iowa overwintered stock! Runnels pickup on certain dates. Late May/early June.

To place an order, please contact: **Ellen Bell**
ellen@bellfarmiowa.com

10458 SE Vandalia Dr, Runnels IA 50237

Tel:515-966-9348, Cell: 515-707-9951

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Emma's Recipes

Welcome to March. If you have a club meeting or just need something warm and tasty to bake, these cookies may be just the thing for you! I have been planning to try out the three chocolate chip cookie recipes in the cook book for a little while now and I have finally done it! All of the chocolate chip cookies were a little different from each other but still quite tasty.

Honey Chocolate Chip Cookies (Pg. 74)

Mix together: 1/3 cup shortening

1/3 cup sugar

1 tablespoon vanilla

Add: 1 ¼ cup flour

½ teaspoon salt

Stir in: 6 ounces of chocolate chips

Bake at 375 for 8-10 minutes. If doubling the recipe, use 1/3 cup shortening and 1/3 cup margarine. Makes five dozen.

1/3 cup brown sugar

1/3 cup honey

1 egg

½ teaspoon baking soda

Nuts (optional)

Honey-Chocolate Chip Cookies (Pg. 74)

1 cup butter-flavored Crisco

2 eggs

2 ¼ cups whole wheat flour

½ teaspoon salt

1 cup milk chocolate chips

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Combine butter-flavored Crisco and honey in a large bowl. Beat at medium speed of electric mixer until well blended. Beat in eggs and vanilla.

Combine flour, baking soda, and salt. Mix at low speed until just blended. Stir in all chocolate chips. Drop rounded teaspoonfuls of dough two inches apart onto ungreased baking sheet. Remove to cooling rack. [Bake for 8-10 minutes.] Remove to cooling rack. – Do not use a Silpat (non-stick liner).

[Note, I did not have a cook time for this recipe, so I tried different cook times to see what worked.]

1 cup mild honey

2 teaspoons vanilla

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Honey Chocolate Chip Pan Cookies (Pg. 74)

1 cup flour

½ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup butter

¾ cup honey

Cream together honey and butter. Add egg and vanilla and mix well. Stir in dry ingredients and again mix well. Add nuts and chocolate chips. Spread in jelly roll pan and bake 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until golden brown.

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 egg

1 cup chocolate chips

½ cup chopped pecans, toasted

Emma's Notes: All three of these chocolate chip cookie recipes were quite tasty and each had some pros and cons. The first recipe was the most like cookies you would buy in the store. They were soft and chewy and did not get as dark as more traditional honey cookies (honey makes most food darken more quickly). They did however contain about ½ tablespoon of sugar per cookie and were not exclusively sweetened with honey. The second recipe was healthier. It made twice the cookies with the same amount of sweetener. These cookies contained whole wheat flour which tends to make cookies a little more crispy, but instead, turned out very fluffy. The down side of this recipe is a lot of people do not have whole wheat flour and they are not your typical store cookie. The third recipe also has honey as its only sweetener and is very moist and chewy like we are familiar with. These cookies, however, are made in a jelly roll pan (baking sheet with sides – usually 11"x17") and instead of making individual cookies all of the batter is poured onto the pan and they become bars. **WARNING:** The batter did not fill the jelly roll pan; this did not affect the cook time but if you are planning to take them to an event, the presentation would be a little funny.

The Buzz Newsletter Article/Ad Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrihpa@gmail.com or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250 Cell 712-449-5010. Complimentary (small) ads run for two months. Paid (larger) ads payment handled by Treasurer Rhonda Heston. (Small ads run for 3 issues.) **The deadline for submissions is the 10th 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.



Annual Auction Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

What: CIBA Annual Auction
When: Saturday April 18, 2020
Auction starts at 10:00 AM
Where: 18930 210th St.
Minburn, IA 50167



Auction Consignment

It's time to consign! Committing to consign does not require a list of the items you are consigning, but the sooner we know the items you have to sell, the better we can advertise, and the better your opportunity to sell your beekeeping equipment.

CIBA members that commit to consign by **March 1st** will be awarded a 10% consignment fee, which is a reduction from the standard consignment fee of 15%. After March 1st —15% fee for all.

Inspection!

All combs and certain equipment will be inspected by the State Apiarist or designees starting at 8 AM the day of the auction. (Rejected equipment/comb must be removed from the premises immediately.)

Concession Stand

Calling all cooks and bakers! As in the past there will be a concession stand at the auction. The stand funds our Honey Queen/ Ambassador program. Please let us know if you would like to help with food items, and what you are interested in assisting with!

Questions? Please contact Steve J Hanlin at letterbuck@mchsi.com

1 Nucs for sale: \$170.00. 5-frame 9 5/8 nuc in disposable box. 1 marked queen (Carniolan/Russian cross) specifically selected for mite resistance. Our breeders are VSH (varroa sensitive hygienic) and daughters are tested for hygienics and Iowa winter hardiness and honey production. Mentoring available, with 49 years of experience. We also have available Saskatraz

5-frame nucs as above, **\$185.00.** These are winter hardy but have not been checked for mite resistance.

Complete beehive and equipment available. Call for price quote. Bees will be available to pick up mid-May (depending on weather and dandelion bloom). Deposit of \$100.00 when you place order.

Curtis Barnhart, PO
Box 70, Monticello
IA 52310



Thanks to the efforts of people like Linn Wilbur and Jamie Beyer and Doyle Kincy, our IHPA gets support at the legislative end of things. Here's an update from Jamie:

These three bills are ones that the IHPA are following and encourage their passage.

SF 393 - Beekeeping Offenses - The bill rewrites the current Iowa law regarding beekeeping crimes from a single paragraph to a more orderly numbered system.

On Senate debate calendar.

HF 2265 - DNR Pollinator Study - The bill requires the state Department of Natural Resources to attract pollinators and keep pollinator species on land owned by the Department. Referred to Natural Resources Committee.

HF 742 - Ag Crime Surcharge - This bill creates a new agricultural crime surcharge. The surcharge would apply to those who commit the theft of agricultural property or criminal mischief for damaging, defacing, altering, or destroying agricultural property. In addition, the theft or damage must be classified as a first-degree offense (class "C" felony), second degree offense (class "D" felony), or third degree offense (aggravated misdemeanor). The agricultural property is limited to: (1) a crop, (2) livestock, or (3) honeybees or associated items. Approved by subcommittee - Ready for Senate Appropriations Committee consideration.

Any questions or comments please contact me or Doyle Kincy.



Spring Valley Honey Farms

14405 Hull Ave.
Perry, Iowa 50220
Curt and Connie Bronnenberg
515-480-6076

www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com

Our Honey bee colony numbers and strength has rebounded exceptionally well this year! We will again be shaking our own package bees! Package bees will be available the first week of April until June 15th. Our package bees will be supplied with California mated queens from CF Koehnen & Sons, Jackie Park Burriss & Olivarez Honey Bees! You will have a choice of Italian, Carniolan or Saskatraz.

We have found that shaking our own package bees gives our customers more flexibility on pick up dates.

2-pound package bees \$102.00 + \$7.00 cage deposit

3-pound package bee \$125.00 + \$7.00 cage deposit

We will be offering 5-Frame Nucs with Carniolan, Italian, or Saskatraz Queens. They will be healthy, well fed and have a laying queen with all stages of brood.

1-99 \$160.00

100 +\$150.00

Because we feel supplementing carbohydrates and protein is important, we offer a gallon of syrup and protein patty for \$7.00 with the purchase of package bees or nucs.

During package season we are very flexible and usually available but always best to call or text Connie at 515-480-6076 as we do not keep regular store hours. If you call or text me an order, we can get your order ready and you can pick it up at your convenience.

We offer a full line of beekeeping equipment. You can find the list and prices of our equipment on our website.



got bees?

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**Nucleus Hives (Nucs)
Single-Deep
Complete Hives**

Package Bees

We are shaking our own package bees in April 2020! These bees will be packaged in Iowa & not hauled across the country in a truck. The queens will be a hybrid Italian-Carniolan cross.



AVAILABILITY DATES

April 2020

Package bee pick up.

May 2020

Nuc & single pick up.



FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Pick Up Locations

We now offer two bee pick up locations in Iowa:

1090 Highway 1 North
Mount Vernon • Iowa 52314

14808 South 102nd Ave East
Lynnville • Iowa 50153

Honey Containers

Pick up your bees & honey containers in one convenient stop. Order both online & we'll have them ready to pick up at the same time!



CONTACT OUR TEAM TODAY

319.259.9377
info@eberthoney.com
www.eberthoney.com

@eberthoney

Item	1-25	26-50	51+	Italian or Carniolan?	Quantity	Subtotal
2 lb Package	\$107	\$107	\$104	Hybrid		
3 lb Package	\$128	\$128	\$125	Hybrid		
Nuc	\$165	\$160	\$155	Hybrid		
Single	\$205	Call	Call	Hybrid		

PLEASE PROVIDE NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL & PHONE NUMBER:

Subtotal ▶ _____

Live in Iowa?
Add 7% sales tax _____

\$7/pkg refundable
package cage
deposit required: _____

Total ▶ _____

Select a package bee pick up location (April):

- Mount Vernon • IA
- Lynnville • IA

Select a nuc & single pick up location (May):

- Mount Vernon • IA
- Lynnville • IA

Please make checks payable to Ebert Honey, LLC and mail to either address listed on the right of this page. Ensure your name, mailing address, phone & email are written on your check or this form so we can contact you when your bees are ready. For orders of 25+ units, we will accept a 50% deposit at this time. Please note that our online prices are 3% higher to account for credit card transaction fees.



**-preserving a legacy and love of beekeeping-
Tim Wilbanks – 5th Generation Beekeeper**

3-lb. Packages

**Italian, Carniolan, & Russian/Italian Hybrid Queens available
Loads arriving to the Iowa City area in late March, mid-April, & late April**

Qty 1-9=\$130/ea*, Qty 10-99=\$124/ea*, Qty 100+=\$119/ea*

***Plus IA Sales Tax**

5-frame Nucs with Italian or Carniolan Queens

Pick up in WI only—arriving weekly late April-early May

Qty 1-9=\$170/ea*, Qty 10-99=\$160/ea*, Qty 100+=\$148/ea*

***Plus IA Sales Tax**

Visit our website, email, postal mail or call to order.

www.heritagehoneybee.com

Phone: 319-321-2494

Email: timwilbanksbees@gmail.com

Heritage Honeybee, LLC

N6007 Hillside Drive, Sullivan, WI 53178

Mail: PO Box 117, Sullivan, WI 53178

3 Gateway Engineering Inc, is a proud manufacturer of high-quality specialty pieces of equipment and or "One Offs" specific to your size or need. No Request, Project or Idea too big or too small. We can assist you with USDA/FDA approved Engineered Plastics, Stainless Steel and Food Processing items. Bob Green, Project MGR: 712-560-6028 Text/Voice, email rgreen@gatewayengineeringinc.com. <http://gatewayengineeringinc.com/>. Sales & Support. Valued Customer Service. Proud member of the Iowa Honey Producers Association.

2 Help wanted The National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) is hiring part-time field interviewers in many areas of IA. Earn extra money working out of your home. For more information call 515-776-3400 and ask for Cindy.

(Note: When I got this ad, I followed up on it, took some training and am now interviewing farmers and collecting data. Turns out to be a good part time job for a person who resists the idea of retiring completely. Try it! Editor)

North Iowa Beekeepers' Club Auction

The North Iowa Beekeepers' Club is having an auction of
beekeeping equipment / poultry equipment.

Mark your calendar for the last Saturday in April 2020!

Location:

P & P Honey and Bee Supply Inc

Pat & Peggy Ennis

2105 110th St, Goodell, IA 50439

Date: Saturday, April 25th, 2020 / Starting @ 10:00 am / Auctioneer: Roy Kraft



We're looking for new / gently used beekeeping and or poultry items!

We all have some stuff in the shed or barn we don't use that would be of great benefit or value to someone else. So now is a great time to dust off, repair, paint and bring it to the auction!

All combs, to be sold, will be inspected before the auction.

To consign your items, and for a list of items being consigned, please call or email Pat @

515-293-2601 or pphoneandbeesupply@gmail.com.

Consignment rate: Before April 1st, - 10% / After April 1st, - 15%

All auction proceeds will benefit the North Iowa Beekeepers' Club and the youth with the purpose of educating and promoting the craft of beekeeping thru speakers and events to all the beekeepers throughout North Iowa.

Restrooms will be available (port a potties)

Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Bottled Water and Rolls, Baked Goods will be available for a donation/purchase.

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500# + .35/lb

Protein Patties: \$2 each, or case of 40 \$70.00

Honey: 50# \$127.00 (\$2.40/lb + \$7—bucket)

Honey Styx: 1-499 cost .15 each

500-1,999 cost .12 each

Box of 2,000 costs .09 each--\$180

Connie [515-480-6076](tel:515-480-6076). Curt [515-480-6075](tel:515-480-6075)

P&P

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Pat & Peggy Ennis

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www.RussianBee.com



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The Buzz Newsletter

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