



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



June 2012



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August 9th-19th—Iowa State Fair
September 9th—IHPA Board Meeting, 2pm.
November 15th—IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm.
November 16-17th—IHPA Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA



FOR SALE: Approx 170 Shallow-5 3/4, and 20 Medium-6 5/8"-Honey Supers located in Vinton, IA. All have 9 Frames of drawn comb. They are stored in my garage and have moth cystrals on them. There is no moth damage. I would like to sell them to a honey producer. I can be reached by phone at 319-472-3810 or by E-Mail --m.duncan@q.com

For Sale: Heavy-duty plastic pallets for sale. Several varieties are available, including stackable and nestable pallets.

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 Address: 11395 N.E. Hubbell Way, Maxwell, IA 50161. Pallets are located 10 miles NE of Des Moines.

For Sale: Pamphlet on Successful Management available:

Ten Pages \$12 including postage.

Contact:
 Glen L. Stanley
 2615 Aspen Road #1
 Ames, Iowa 50014
 TELE> 515 292 3243

For Sale: Package Bees

The package will consist of bottom board, 9 5/8 - 10 frame hive body with bees and 9 frames, entrance reducer, insulated inner lid and metal outer lid. New Italian queen. This is new equipment. The total for this hive package will be \$195.00 This same package with used equipment will be \$160.00 It is painted used equipment in good condition. I will need a \$45.00 deposit when you order and the package will be ready for you to pick up mid May at Monticello, Iowa barring weather conditions.

We also have 5 frame nucs with new queen for \$98.00. Deposit of \$30.00 required. (No frame exchange) Our bee yards are inspected by Iowa Bee inspectors. I will only be selling 30 package hives this year. I have 40+ years experience in beekeeping.

Send deposit to Curtis Barnhart, P. O. Box 70 , Monticello , IA 52310 with your name, address and phone number that you can be reached at. I am out of town until March 24.

You can call and leave a message at my office (American Supply) Or autum49@yahoo.com

Thank you.
 Curtis Barnhart
 319 465-6655

6/12

2012 Membership Renewal

The first membership for 2012 is still \$10.00 and \$5.00 for each additional family member that would like a membership and is living at the same address.

Membership dues for 2013 will be \$20.00 for the first membership and \$5.00 for each additional family member that would like a membership and is living at the same address.

Melanie Bower, Treasurer

For Sale: Local built, complete bee hives, with screened bottom boards w/ entrance reducer, 2 brood chambers, 20 deep frames, 1 honey super, 10 medium frames, 1 inner cover, 1 outer cover with metal covering, \$160.00. Individual components or custom parts available. We build queen rearing components to your specs, or we can build what we use for you. Also, weather depending, we will be offering local raised queens around the beginning of June.

More information and orders can be made @ 319-400-4228, ask for Paul Gardner or
 PreciousBeesFarm@aol.com

Paul Gardner
 1828 Y Ave.
 Homestead, Iowa 52236. 6/12

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

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

Greetings from the President

Hello Beekeepers, hope your bees are thriving this year. It has turned out to be a very interesting season so far. Many overwintered colonies built up quickly and could have produced surplus honey off dandelions and other early spring plants. Many of us used the good fortune of extra strong colonies to make splits and increase our colony numbers. The practice of making splits is sometimes necessary even if you don't want to increase your numbers because it slows or stops the swarming urge. Most all of the plants and trees that provide the main flow have bloomed a month early, so the splits and the parent colonies need time to build up to reach full strength to take full advantage of collecting a good honey crop. So far, as of the end of May, a strong flow hasn't seemed to materialize, even the stronger parent colonies don't seem to be on a good honey flow yet. I have talked to quite a few other beekeepers that say the same thing but I am hopeful that by the time you are reading this we will be on a good strong honey flow. Normally, the main honey flow should not have started yet but all of the good nectar producers are in bloom and we are supposed to be getting some hot days in the near future. Some of you who have used different management techniques may have had a completely different outcome so far but that's what keeps beekeeping interesting.

The Field Day will probably be history by the time you are reading this so I won't make a big pitch to get you to attend. Hopefully you did attend. I'm sure it was or is going to be very informative, interesting and hopefully entertaining.

The Iowa State Fair is our next big event to look forward to. The sales booth is the main IHPA income for the year and your help is much needed and greatly appreciated. I am confident that with a great bunch of people the make up the membership of the IHPA as well as their family and friends we will have adequate staffing this year.

The Apiary entries, display windows, observation hives, and great honey bee information from our Bee "Experts" posted at the observation hives is what draws people to our area and makes it a "Must See" stop on many people's state fair trips. Oh Yeah! The honey lemonade might be a big reason for those return visitors!!

Hopefully you are all at least kicking around the idea of preparing at least a few entries for the Apiary division this year. Time is running out for me to come up with good ideas to persuade more people to provide entries, so if you've got any good ideas let me know. I have committed to supplying a nuc or a replacement queen, whichever you choose to all observation hive entries.

Gotta Go, Work Hard.
Curt Bronnenberg



A Challenge to ALL Iowa Bee Clubs

The East Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (ECIBA) challenges ALL Iowa Beekeeping Clubs to submit the most entries to the Iowa State Fair. ECIBA anticipates bringing home the pie with a cherry on top after the State Fair class held at the Indian Creek Nature Center. This class will encourage members to participate in the fair.

ECIBA challenges Iowa Beekeeping clubs to see which club can submit the most entries. This allows the best opportunity to bring home the most blue ribbons, prize money, and bragging rights from the Iowa State Fair. All state fair categories apply. Good Luck! ECIBA is going to KICK BUTT!!

Submitted by Bob Wolff

IHPA Website Update

www.abuzzaboutbees.com

The IHPA website has been updated! Come take a look at the new design and features. There are now several pages setup just for IHPA programs like Youth Program, Queen Program, the Annual Meeting, and even an IHPA Merchandise page. There is also an IHPA Blog that will be used to post upcoming News & Events. For events taking place later in the year, the IHPA Calendar will give you more time to make your plans. This new design will allow the IHPA to better promote beekeeping and the programs we sponsor.

The Buzz Newsletter is also moving to include a digital copy (Adobe pdf) being available online for those folks who prefer to download a copy. The webpage version will still be available, and the mailings still go out. In the future we will be offering an Opt-Out if you do not wish to receive a printed copy in the mail. This will help reduce costs and save some money.

I encourage you to take a look at the new site and feel free to send any comments/suggestions/questions/etc to

Alex Ebert
thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

This is your website, if there is some way that you think the IHPA can enhance the promotion of beekeeping send in your suggestions.

The IHPA is also on Facebook! Thanks goes out to Julie Swett for making that a reality. If you are on Facebook be sure to Like us to help share and promote the IHPA and our goals.

The IHPA Facebook page can be found at the following web address
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Iowa-Honey-Producers/340314446004310>

Submitted by Alex Ebert

Iowa Honey Queen

Greetings, Beekeepers! It's MAY!

Between getting ready for graduation, baccalaureate, senior awards nights, continuing soccer games, party planning, and traveling Iowa – I'm not sure how I got to this point! I still can't believe I'm graduating, but with finals over and graduation a mere 72 hours away, the realization is starting to set in.

This past month has shown me various parts of Iowa, from Mason City in the north, to Hopeville in the south, and a couple of events in between. My first adventure took place on April 21 when Mom and I traveled up north to the 19th Annual Mason City Earth Day. Mom and I had fun staying overnight in a small Nora Springs hotel where we had the chance to meet up with a family friend for breakfast before heading into Mason City. At the celebration I enjoyed speaking with the public and passing out honey sticks to little kids that thought I was a Disney princess! The community enjoyed touring though the different booths, which included many kid-friendly hands-on activities. Additionally, the community collected thousands of pounds of trash in the quest to keep Mason City litter free.

There was also a historic steam engine and radio station broadcasting. I had

the thrilling opportunity of participating in my first live broadcasted media event as the 2012 Iowa Honey Queen! The radio conducted an interview with me at the event in Mason City's East Park!

The next week, Dad and I decided we could squeeze in four hours before prom to head up to the Iowa Arboretum for their April 28 Arbor Day Celebration. We spent the morning with Curt and Connie Bronnenberg and an observation hive. The public delighted in viewing local Iowa honey products and asking questions about the hive, which was a huge attention-grabber. There was also a paper making demonstration, crafts, hiking, and free seedlings for all the attendants. Another very special part of the morning occurred when I had the honor of meeting and presenting Governor Terry Branstad with a honey product gift basket. After having the opportunity to speak with him for a while, the governor planted a tree in honor of Arbor Day.

The following weekend, May 5, Mom and I ventured over to Hopeville, where



Renaë at the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting in Hopeville, Iowa.



2012 Iowa Honey Queen Renae Beard presents Gov. Branstad with gift basket full of honey products.

we took part in our first Ladies Auxiliary Meeting. In an adorable country church centered in the remains of the old town of Hopeville, we enjoyed listening to honeybee poems, meeting the ladies, and eating brunch, complete with complimentary

packets of flower seeds. After socializing, I presented my power point and program and was pleasantly surprised at their interest level and questions that followed. Everyone seemed genuinely pleased to learn more about the honeybees and I was extremely happy to have such an interactive group to speak with.

A week later brought another exciting bee event in Goodell at Pat and Peggy Ennis's Field Day. We were able to eat lunch with their class and walk through some of the steps of the beekeeping process, such as tools, lighting a smoker, opening the hive, finding the queen, and many others. Mom and I were very glad we attended, as we learned new methods ourselves and gained a deeper understanding of a few aspects of beekeeping. As fifth year beekeepers, we continue to look for ways to further our knowledge and the hands-on learning we received at the



Renaë attends a field day held by Pat and Peggy Ennis in Goodell, Iowa.

field day was very beneficial to us, as well. Additionally, I had the chance to open up a hive of bees on a commercial beekeeping pallet for the very first time!

The last four weekends have been filled with exciting new experiences and I have been very thankful for all of them. They have not only been fun, but also very educational. I look forward to attending my upcoming events and meeting other passionate beekeepers and future honeybee enthusiasts! Future plans for June include a Marshalltown Field Day at the Grimes Farm and the Spring Valley Honey Farm's Field Day. Should be a great first month of summer activities!

Please think of me when preparing events – I would love to come and “bee” helpful in any way possible! Again - please do not hesitate to contact the Queen Chair, Connie Bronnenberg to schedule me in.

Have a fantastic month! I hope to see you all very soon!

Renaë Michelle Beard
2012 Iowa Honey Queen

THE BEEYARD REPORT

Deadline is past and time is short. This is going to be another stream of consciousness report. I can only hope it will make sense. The light winter and early spring have created their own set of problems. They are good ones, for the most part, but still things we have

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to deal with. We are going to have almost 1000 colonies of bees and could have had more. We didn't split our bees down as much as we usually do. We sent 100 frames of brood over to Adam to load his mating nucs and also sold 70 nucs.

For all practical purposes, the stage we are at right now is the middle of June instead of the middle of May. All of our splits will be run as singles. The flow is now and we don't have time to

allow them to expand into doubles. I will be ecstatic if we get 40# from our splits. They may not be big enough to make anything before the flow ends. Queen acceptance has been great--the exact opposite of last year. The only place I had trouble was with the nucs I sold. That set back the schedule on delivery time for those. The other problem we had with queens was getting them on time. Mating weather in California was horrible. I think we got their spring weather by mistake. We wound up getting the early queens from the Stahlman brothers in Texas.

Nectar started coming in here around May 8. Prior to that, we had a few colonies starve to death. This forced us to fill our syrup tanks. I wanted to hold off because that is a big bill. As soon as the tanks were filled, nectar started coming in. With the increased numbers, we are short on equipment. I have had two neighbor boys and a retired friend from Montezuma coming in during the afternoons to put boxes and lids together. Extracting will have to start early because we are still going to be short about 500 supers. Next year, we may be wondering what to do with all this stuff.

We have had some strange acting honey this year. The initial barrels last fall were very wet. As we have been moving through the winter, several of the barrels I thought were dry enough to keep have been working in the barrels. The honey expands in the barrel and leaks out around the gasket. When I run it through the hot box, the moisture content is around 18%. It acts wet but doesn't test wet. I have had this happen in barrels I have bought, also. This has happened in the past but never as much as this year. It makes quite a mess on the floor. If it is a barrel that has been stacked, it's even worse. That's all I have time for. Have a great summer!!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Beekeeping by the Calendar!

It is obvious that beekeeping can't always be scheduled by the date on the calendar. Some beekeepers seemed surprised that there were swarms cast this year in April. That often happens when the weather is quite mild during the month of March, and this past March was noted as the warmest March on record. The fact that it was warmer than the month of April again is quite unusual.

Even though the entire Winter was very mild there was still more colonies lost than had been anticipated. Many beekeepers were faced with having to feed colonies that were near starvation, right in the middle of Winter. That sort of shortage of honey shows that there was neglect in the preparation in the Fall for the long period of dearth that includes the winter months.

There would be little more honey consumed by the bees during a mild winter BUT brood rearing would begin earlier and the honey stores vanish rapidly as soon as there is rapid expansion of brood. Keep in mind "for every comb of brood it takes a comb of honey." So if you expect to produce colonies with populations plentiful enough to produce a crop of honey it takes honey to supply and grow the bees.

Even though most colonies that survived well, have developed into populous colonies the lower entrance should still have been left reduced so the bees make use of the combs to the fullest extent in the lower brood chamber.

The nights have also been exceptionally cool so retaining the heat was necessary.

Now that June has arrived the days and nights should finally become warmer with excellent conditions for the bees.

I contacted the Environmental Protection Agency about the insecticide that is used on seed corn (along with a powder). Now that powder becomes saturated and floats through the air killing our bees.

Their response was "they are investigating the use and misuse of many chemicals in the near future"

It appears that others, rather than beekeepers have become concerned.

Glen Stanley.
2615 Aspen Road #1
Ames, Iowa 50014

Iowa State Researchers Explore Possible Causes of Honeybee Disappearance

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State University is taking a team approach in studying what is behind the disappearance of honeybees known as "Colony Collapse Disorder."

Amy Toth, assistant professor in Iowa State's ecology, evolution and organismal biology department, was awarded an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to explore the importance of nutritional stress and viruses on honeybee health. She is working with researchers Allen Miller and Jimena Carillo-Tripp in the plant pathology and microbiology department and Bryony Bonning in the entomology department.

"We're taking a novel approach to studying the colony collapse phenomenon," Toth said. "A lot of scientists are looking at viruses or nutrition or pesticides; our approach is the interaction among many factors and evaluating how they all work together."

Colony Collapse Disorder was recognized in 2006, but Toth said honeybees have been in trouble for decades. Beekeepers commonly experienced annual colony losses of 15 to 20 percent. In

recent years however, there have been losses of 30 to 40 percent, and up to 70 percent in Iowa, forcing the beekeeping industry to take notice.

The effects of colony collapse are sudden. Adult worker bees, responsible for supplying food for the colony, vacate the hive and do not return leading to an "abandoned" hive containing a queen and young, but few workers to maintain the hive. This rapidly results in the colony's demise.

Fewer honeybees to pollinate food crops has led some farmers to import bees from Australia to ensure an adequate supply. The USDA reports that bee pollination is responsible for \$15 billion in added crop value, particularly for specialty crops such as almonds and other nuts, berries, fruits and vegetables.

"This is a food security issue that seeks to maintain competitiveness of U.S. agriculture," she says. "If pollinating insects disappeared from the food chain, the human diet would be much less diverse."

Scientists have so far been frustrated in pointing to one cause of the disorder. Some hypotheses include landscape changes, viral diseases, nutrition and human impacts, including pesticides.

Toth and postdoctoral associate Adam Dolezal are focusing on the combination of genetics, behavior and nutrition using an experimental approach that seeks to recreate colony collapse in a lab setting. She said most previous research has been observation-based surveys of affected hives.

"Like many human diseases, colony collapse is probably caused by multiple factors," Toth said.

They suggest that bee colonies are nutritionally stressed, and this leads foragers to leave for food to satisfy the nutritional needs of the colony. When combined with viral symptoms such as seizures and paralysis, these weakened

bees are unable to return to the hive.

To conduct the experiments, Iowa State researchers are working with the state apiarist, Andrew Joseph, who undertakes beekeeping inspections and outreach for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Joseph will travel Iowa collecting bees affected by Colony Collapse Disorder.

At Iowa State, researchers will establish small experimental colonies of 3,000 bees, derived from Toth's newly established Iowa State apiary of 20 colonies. Working in a contained greenhouse, researchers will infect the bees with viruses. Some colonies will receive poor diets, while others will receive nutritionally rich and diverse diets. Toth and colleagues will then study how the health of each colony is affected and will compare bees from the research trials to those gathered in the field.

The study has implications for other insects that are pollinators, Toth said.

"It's not just bees that are sick. There are similar declines in many types of pollinators, including butterflies and moths," Toth said.

##

On the Web: This and all other Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences news releases and related photos are available at <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/news/>.

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Our featured beekeeper of the month is Clarence Seale. Clarence is originally from South Carolina, where he met his wife, Cynthia, while in the Air Force. One of his main duties was weather forecasting. The couple was stationed all over the world in Europe, Asia, and the United States. After 20 years of the service, they decided to retire and settle



Clarence Seale of Glenwood, Iowa and owner of CS Honey.

down in the Loess Hills at Glenwood, Iowa.

As a teenager Clarence was introduced to beekeeping when he saw a beekeeper capture a swarm. In 2004 he geared up and started his own business. He now has 18 colonies with plans to expand to 30 this year. His colonies are in three locations and he markets honey and wax under the business name, CS Honey. Clarence enjoys watching his bees come and go and work in the hives. He says, "unlike chickens, stray dogs do not kill them."

Clarence has been involved in the IHPA for two years. He attended a basic beekeeping class in Cumberland, Iowa in 2006 sponsored by IHPA. In 2010 he attended a master beekeeping workshop sponsored by the University of Nebraska. Now he is planning to learn to raise queens and continue teaching and speaking about beekeeping. This winter Clarence taught three beginning beekeeping classes to 60 participants. They are planning to start a beekeeping club around Glenwood. To generate more interest Clarence is also giving presentations about honeybees to schools and garden clubs.

Thanks for your story. Let's hope you have less flooding and a more perfect year for honey production this summer.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



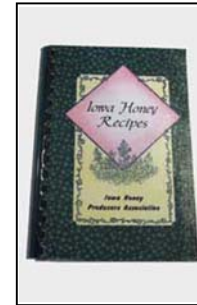
IHPA Merchandise

The IHPA 100th Anniversary merchandise is now available for purchase. Show your support for the IHPA in our 100th Anniversary year with one of these great items!

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Melanie Bower, Treasurer



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Support IHPA by Helping at Our Iowa State Fair Sales Booth!

Dear Honey Producers:

We hope you will be able to help the Iowa Honey Producers Association with honey and lemonade sales at the 2012 Iowa State Fair. Dates of this year's fair are August 9th through the 19th. Please bring any other helpers with you who may be interested in working. Children who are ten years of age and older enjoy assisting and are welcome. It would be so much easier if you would contact me to let me know whether you will be able to work or not this year. I don't know all 400 plus members of the IHPA and don't have time to go through the entire membership list to contact members to see if members can work.

We will send passes which provide free entry to the State Fair to all who assist with honey and lemonade sales.

Days, dates and times for which help is needed are listed at the bottom of this letter. We need at least 8 people for each shift (every day) which is 9 am until 1:30 pm or 1:30 pm until 6 pm or 6 pm until 9 pm. Those working the last shift will need to help put things away and help clean up and get ready for the morning shift the next day. It is helpful if workers could arrive a few minutes before the scheduled shift so current workers can train the new workers before leaving the booth.

Please return the work schedule, call or e-mail indicating the dates and times you can help. Also, if possible, please list a first or second choice of dates and times you can be available to help with sales. Please state the names of all those coming with you who will be helping with State Fair sales.

Contact me even if you have already asked for a specific date, just to be sure we are all on the same page. Remember that we need approximately 21 people per day to fill the necessary shifts. The building is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for each of the 11 days that the Iowa State Fair runs. This is the main money making project of the Iowa Honey Producers Association. Please help us maintain adequate money to provide the necessary programs of the association.

We had a fantastic sales year last year and hope to continue the large amount of sales this year. We were very short of workers last year and hope to have enough workers this year during the Iowa State Fair. We are showcasing the 100th Anniversary of the Iowa Honey Producers Association. Please consider helping your association.

Hope to see you at the Iowa State Fair!

Donna Brahms, IHPA Booth Manager
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(712) 778-4256-H or (402) 677-2460-C
E-mail: mbrahms@netins.net

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The Buzz Newsletter

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(712) 899-8117
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State Apiarist

Andrew Joseph (515) 725-1481
andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club

Contact: Eves Cadwallader
2420 285th St.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 673-3993
weic@kdsi.net

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

Contact: Arvin Foell
30930 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA 50134
Home phone 515/597-3060
Cell phone 515/450-9494
ajfoell@huxcomm.net

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

Contact: Julia McGuire
jcammcguire@yahoo.com

Contact: Vern Ramsey
22781 Route J16
Birmingham, IA 52535-8162
(319) 498-4355

IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

Iowa Honey Queen Program

Connie Bronnberg 515-480-6076
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Iowa Beekeeper Clubs

East Central Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Dave Irvin
2254 S. Riverside Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 351-6205

North Iowa Bee Club

Contact: Pat Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767
Flat_Lander@lycos.com

Northeast Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Louise Johnson
34147 310th St.
Guttenberg, IA 52052
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Northwest Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Larry J. Boernsen
6724 200th St.
Ocheyedan, Iowa 51354
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Southeast Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Vernie Ramsey
22781 Route J16
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Southwest Iowa Honey Producers

Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA 51535
(712) 778-4256

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa

Contact: Judy Spence
12839 Carpenter Trail
Carlisle, IA 50047
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Bee Emergency Information

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American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org



Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

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