



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Beekeepers,

The honey harvest is now in full swing and some hives have really produced while others have been very disappointing. Don't know the reason, but we need to find what it is. Colonies in the same location vary greatly with both colonies being strong. Beware, the ugly Hive Beetle is in Illinois. Please watch for it and treat if in doubt. The varroa mite population seems to be very light this year. Don't know where they are hiding, but I'm pretty sure they didn't go away. The State Fair is starting as I'm writing this and I wish everyone showing the best of luck.

Have a great harvest.

Richard E. Ramsey

REPORT FROM CHIEF APIARY INSPECTOR

Hopefully, you received a package of information from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) in June regarding the emergence of the small hive beetle in Illinois. If you didn't receive the information, please contact me at 217/785-4233 and a packet will be sent to you. The small hive beetle was initially found in Will and Kankakee Counties in the spring of 2001. We now have one confirmed case of small hive beetle in McLean County.

The IDA encourages beekeepers throughout Illinois to inspect their hives on a regular basis to determine if the small hive beetle is present. If you find beetles, we recommend that you collect a sample and send it to Mr. Mark F. Feldlaufer, Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Building 476, BARC-East, Beltsville, Maryland, 20705 for testing. If the test results reveal that your hives have small hive beetle, we urge you to treat your colonies with Checkmite+ and Gardstar immediately to control the beetle. Be sure to follow label directions. We also request that you notify the IDA of confirmed cases of small hive beetle. This information is important to our tracking of small hive beetle movement in Illinois.

While only isolated cases of small hive beetle currently exist, all beekeepers should be on the alert for this pest. It can spread rapidly and have serious consequences for Illinois' beekeeping industry. Your diligence in monitoring your colonies for the beetle and treating as appropriate is essential. This action will not only benefit your operation, but apiaries around Illinois as well.

American foulbrood has been found by the IDA's Apiary Inspectors in a few hives this year. This is a reminder to burn the frames, honey, bees and comb when American foulbrood disease exists in your hives as required by the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act. Burning those colonies and the associated equipment should



2001 HIBA Honey Princess Rebecca Wenning with Open Class Sweepstakes Winner Valerie Wright

be done in the time frame specified by the official disease notice provided by the Apiary Inspector to the respective beekeeper.

Further, the colonies and the equipment should be destroyed at the site where the diseased colonies are located. Moving the diseased colonies elsewhere could inadvertently spread the disease to unaffected colonies.

The IDA is in the process of expanding its apiary inspection team. Presently, there are no apiary inspectors covering the southernmost and northwestern districts of Illinois. If you would like to apply for one of the open positions or know of someone who is interested, please contact me at the above telephone number. We hope your honey crop is abundant this year!

Steve Chard, Apiary Inspection Supervisor

HONEY TAKES BIG PRIZE AT STATE FAIR

Grand Champion Honey, three 2.5-pound containers of chunk honey produced by Miss Valerie Wright of Kansas, IL, was sold at the 2001 State Fair Commodities Auction for \$800 on August 14th. The honey was purchased by George Obernagle. Half of the proceeds from the auction will go to support a scholarship program at the University of Illinois Department of Agriculture; Valerie will receive the other half.

Valerie was among the big winners in the Open Class Division of the ISBA Honey Show. Valerie took first place in the display of white cut-comb honey in plastic boxes (3), white comb honey (3 sections), comb honey in round sections (3), chunk honey in glass (3 2.5-lb. jars), and creamed honey (3 1-lb. jars). Valerie took third place in three additional divisions. Fourteen beekeepers took part in the Open Class honey show. In the Professional Class honey show, Lincolnland took first place, St. Clair second place, Illiana third place, and Cook-DuPage fourth place. Congratulations to all our winners! Complete information about all award winners can be found as an insert in this edition of the *ISBA Bulletin*.

UPDATE ON UPCOMING ISBA MEETINGS

Plans are being made now for the autumn meeting of the ISBA. This year's meeting will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2001, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be hosted by the Illinois Department of Agriculture in the State Fairgrounds at Springfield. This meeting is sponsored by the Executive Council of the Illinois State Beekeepers Association. The speakers for this event will be announced as the time draws near. The complete tentative agenda will be available on the ISBA web site (www.isba.ws) as soon as it becomes available.

Mark your calendars, too, for Saturday, March 9, 2002, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The ISBA Summer Meeting will be held at Hamilton/Keokuk, and hosted by Dadant & Sons, Inc. This meeting will be a joint gathering of the state associations of



Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. The speakers and workshops for this event will be announced as the time draws near. The complete tentative agenda will be available on the ISBA web site soon.

SUMMER ISBA MEETING IN REVIEW

The ISBA summer meeting was held jointly with the Indiana Beekeepers Association in West Lafayette, IN, on Saturday, June 30. There were approximately 30 Illinois beekeepers in attendance who made up approximately one-half of the total number of registrants. Last minute changes in the agenda allowed Saturday participants to hear keynote addresses from Ms. Sue Cobey, Dr. John Skinner, and Dr. James Tew.

In addition, participants had an opportunity to attend two of six breakout sessions during late morning and early afternoon. ISBA President and Lincolnland Beekeepers Association member Rich Ramsey presented a talk about revitalizing beekeeping associations. Carl Wenning from the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association presented another of the sessions dealing with the economics and basic procedures of autumn hive depopulation.

NHB DISPLAY KIT AVAILABLE

During late June the National Honey Board announced the availability of a display kit for beekeepers. "Whether you are setting up a honey display at a local farmers market or an educational bee display at your county fair, the National Honey Board's new 'Naturally It's Better With Honey' display kit can help." The display kit contains a variety of items to enhance your display including the following:

- a 48" wide by 36" tall foam core display board
- graphics and signs with Velcro adhesives
- posters
- recipe cards
- honey bee trading cards
- reproducible honey tip sheet
- reproducible kid's honey bee coloring pages
- reproducible kid's activity sheets
- pencils
- specialty item catalog

The kit also includes a display tip booklet with ideas about how beekeepers can customize and expand the display. The NHB display kit "Naturally It's Better With Honey" can be ordered by sending \$50 to the National Honey Board at 390 Lashley Street, Longmont, CO 80501-6045. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

NHB SCHOOL CURRICULUM AVAILABLE

The National Honey Board has announced the availability of a school curriculum that can help students in 4th through 6th grades learn about honey production. The curriculum, *The Honey Files: A Bee's Life*, makes learning about bees and honey fun and easy. A accurate and detailed teacher's guide contains 96 pages full of worksheets, classroom activities, games, fun facts, and more. A 20-minute video comes with the curriculum and has a comical host

who lightheartedly explores bees and the honey production process. Some of the other topics included in the curriculum are honey bee biology, the bee society, and pollination.

Though the curriculum will be actively promoted to teachers through Ag in the Classroom, 4-H, and press releases to news organizations, beekeepers are encouraged to do what they can to get this material into the hands of teachers in their districts. The educational program, including teacher guidebook and video, is available for an amazingly low \$15 (which include shipping and handling). *The Honey Files: A Bee's Life* can be ordered from the NHB at (800) 553-7162. Additionally, an ordering form is available at www.honey.com/kids/video/ and also in the NHB's August newsletter.

EXTENSION IMPLEMENTS DISTANCE DIAGNOSTICS

Help in diagnosing tricky plant disease and insect problems is now only a mouse click away for Illinois farmers, homeowners and landscapers. University of Illinois Extension has placed specialized Distance Diagnostics equipment in its offices around the state. The equipment allows images of stressed plants or insect samples to be instantly transmitted to U of I Extension specialists around the state or experts on the U of I campus. A timely diagnosis means remedies can be put in place much more quickly, limiting potential damage.

Distance Diagnostics consists of a digital camera that can be attached to a microscope. A digital image of the plant or insect is then taken and transmitted via computer and the Internet to Extension educators who can assess the problem and recommend a course of action. Last year, 20% of the samples were diagnosed the day they were submitted, and 60% were diagnosed within 48 hours. Previously, plant tissue samples or insect remains were mailed to the Plant Clinic or other offices and labs on the University of Illinois campus for diagnosis. The shipping process would take several days, during which time the sample would deteriorate and the problem could become much worse.

Potential uses of the system are not limited to agricultural horticultural, or animal production fields. During a test of the Distance Diagnostic project last year, a family in northern Illinois returning from a camping trip became alarmed when they discovered numerous tiny creatures attached to their skin. Their immediate concern was of ticks spreading Lyme disease. An examination with a magnifying glass revealed the pests had three pairs of legs when the encyclopedia said ticks have 4 pairs of legs. The family went to the local U of I Extension office, and while there were no tick experts there, the insects were digitally photographed and the images posted on the Distance Diagnostics web site. Extension Entomology Specialist Phil Nixon examined the photos and determined the insects to be "baby" larval ticks of a variety known not to carry Lyme disease. The program has been also been used to identify potentially poisonous plants and prevented ingestion by children and livestock.

University of Illinois Extension allocated approximately \$220,000 to equip ninety-two offices around the state to participate in the Distance Diagnostics program. Representatives from each of those offices were required to attend special training sessions before receiving the equipment.

SEPTEMBER STATE AND NATIONAL HONEY MONTH

September is State and National Honey Month. At the request of Miss Rebecca E. Wenning, 2001 HIBA Honey Princess, Governor George Ryan signed a proclamation on August 23 declaring September to be Honey Month in Illinois. This year's National Honey Board's promotions focus on honey varieties and the new online search engine – the Honey Locator. Using resources provided by the NHB, beekeepers, newspapers, and broadcast media can highlight local specialty honeys and beekeeping's importance to agriculture. The NHB has many promotional activities planned for September. Among them are the following:

- A two-part release to newspaper food editors promoting National Honey Month and Honey Locator.
- Honey Month and Locator information sent to 25-50 radio food programs, editors of food Web sites, and print publications.
- National Honey Month kits will be distributed to interested beekeepers. Kits will include photos, camera-ready art slicks and fact sheets as well as a reprint of the new full-color newspaper page "Honey Sweet and Simple" to be used as a poster or to be taken to local media. A public service announcement and a tips and techniques for contacting media will also be included.

National Honey Month promotional kits are available from the National Honey Board. Just call (888) 421-2977 and press #6 to order your free promotion kit. The Honey Locator is an online guide to honey suppliers in the United States. The Honey Locator will help families, chefs, manufacturers and others find local sources and specific floral varieties at the click of a mouse. If you'd like to see how Honey Locator works, visit the NHB Web site at www.nhb.org. If you have not received the Honey Locator Listing Request Form, just call (888) 421-2977 and press #5.

In addition to these promotional activities, the NHB has just announced the Show Me the Honey! contest. The NHB is asking industry members to provide them with a list of unique floral varieties of honey in their areas, a photograph of the blossoming plant (preferable with a bee on it), along with a description of the plant. Participants might win one of ten prizes valued at over \$100 each. Everyone submitting an entry will receive an appreciation gift. To participate, call the NHB office or visit the Web site for an entry form. E-mail any comments or questions you might have to locator@nhb.org.

ISBA DUES REMINDER

Local beekeepers associations affiliated with the ISBA are hereby reminded that ISBA dues for calendar year 2002 have been raised. Dues increase from \$2 per affiliated association member to \$6 per affiliated association member. The dues increase was approved by the ISBA Board of Directors earlier this year in an effort to offset increased operating costs in relation to the size of the membership. Dues are used to pay for the printing and postage associated with the *ISBA Bulletin* newsletter, to support beekeeping activities around the state, and to provide support for summer and autumn statewide meeting expenses. Local associations affiliated with the ISBA should make adjustments now in dues collected for next calendar year.

Membership in the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association is open to all persons interested in bees and beekeeping. Beekeepers are urged to join through their local associations. Beginning 2002, dues are \$6 per year, **good January 1 through December 31 only**, and include subscription to this newsletter. Beekeeping journals are available at about 25% discount to members as listed below; rates are subject to change without prior notice. **Make checks payable to:** Illinois State Beekeepers' Association and mail to: Rita Taylor, Secretary, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.

Please indicate new or renewal subscription when ordering journals.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send old and new address six weeks prior to date of change when practical to: Rita Taylor, Secretary, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.

Reduced Journal Rates (members only)

	1 Yr.	2 Yr.	3 Yr.
<i>American Bee Journal</i>	\$14.96	\$28.46	\$40.13
<i>Bee Culture</i>	\$16.00	\$31.00	N/A
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	\$13.25	\$25.25	\$34.00

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