

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

March/April 2008 • Volume 90 Number 2

APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Greetings. I have a number of items I wish to share with you.

On the good news front, it's no longer necessary for Illinois to file a Section 18 request with USEPA to gain approval for beekeepers to purchase Checkmite Bee Hive Pest Control Strips for varroa mite and small hive beetle control. USEPA has recently granted Section 3 status to Bayer, manufacturer of the product, concerning national sales of Checkmite. This basically means that the USEPA has found the safety of the product to be sufficient for general sales. If you call a supplier such as Dadant and they say they can't sell the product because Illinois does not have a Section 18, they are incorrect. The product can now be sold without Section 18 authorization.

The IDOA hopes to be able to file a Section 18 request with USEPA soon for the use of "Hivastan" in Illinois. If you recall, there were bee mortality problems with the product last year and it was taken off the market. In speaking with Wellmark (manufacturer of the product) early in 2008, they indicated the toxicity problem is being corrected and they hope to be in a position for the product to be sold this coming spring. We are currently waiting for word from Wellmark as to when we should file the Section 18 application for the product.

Colony Collapse Disorder is certainly on everyone's mind, particularly with the significant problems across the nation last year. Illinois continues to have no confirmed cases of the disorder and as usual, are closely monitoring this situation. Research is underway at the national level to find the possible cause(s) of this ailment. If you believe your colonies may have CCD-like symptoms, please contact me at 217/782-6297 or your Department Apiary Inspector so arrangements can be made for an inspection. We will provide CCD updates as they become available. Updates are also provided on ISBA's website.

Don't let the CCD issue overshadow the need to monitor for other pests/diseases. For example, the small hive beetle (SHB) spread to many new counties in 2006-2007. The total number of Illinois counties affected by the SHB is now up to 17. It's suspected that this intruder is tagging along in package bees, causing part of the problem. Please contact me or one of your Department Apiary Inspectors if you believe your colonies may contain the SHB.

Before we know it, the spring inspection season will be upon us. If you have recently looked at the map on the IDOA's website, you have noted that we again have some vacancies in our Apiary Inspector Team. In addition, Udell Meyer may be unable to perform apiary inspections this year. We need your help in recruiting potential apiary inspectors for the vacant positions, other than the far southern district. We already have a number of good candidates for that area. Please pass this information along to folks who may be interested in being part of our inspector team and encourage them to contact me for more information.

Within the next few months, many beekeepers will move their bees to a different location for various reasons. For those times when colonies will be moved across county or state lines, please be sure to contact me or your Apiary Inspector. The appropriate Apiary Inspector will do an inspection and submit the needed paperwork to our office for the issuance of a moving permit. Please give us a 10-day advance notice before you intend to move the colonies. We will quickly do an inspection and provide the moving permit to you, unless major problems are found. Thanks for your cooperation! β

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Beekeepers and ISBA Members,

Please allow me to once again to wish each of you a happy new year! Now that we are into 2008, I hope your year is thus far a great one! The ISBA is once again very busy preparing for this coming year. As you will see in this issue of our newsletter, we have a very busy year in store.

The two big headlines, thus far this year continue to be CCD and Honey Processing Guidelines. As most of you have seen in the media, our website and this newsletter, we continue to be in a “wait and see” mode. The big question right now, how are colonies looking in early 2008 as Spring build-up begins. All eyes are on the West and South as Spring approaches these regions. The media has still showed interest. Most notable is the repeat broadcast of the recent 60 Minutes story on CCD. It has now run twice in national prime time. You may view this episode from our website, under the CCD Special Report section. Additionally, the March/April edition of Chicagoland Gardening Magazine has an excellent article on CCD. Finally, this Spring I will once again be on WGN radio’s Let’s Talk Gardening. Spreading the news on Beekeeping and educating the public on the benefits of Honey Bees, continues to be a top priority. Past radio broadcasts can also be heard on our website www.isba.us.

The buzz continues in Illinois on educating our membership and state health inspectors on the properties of Honey and its harvesting and bottling procedures. Elizabeth Watkins and I will be speaking to the Department of Public Health this coming May on Honey processing procedures. This will be a fruitful and interesting collaboration. I will report to you my findings and any next steps that result. Be sure to visit the new Illinois Honey Processing Guidelines section on our website!

Congratulations and Welcome the ISBA 2008 Board of Directors

- Ken Haller, President
- Bill Buckley, Vice President
- Erik Whalen-Pedersen, Northern Region Director
- Nathan Sasse, Central Region Director
- Ray Chapman, Southern Region Director
- Rita Taylor, Secretary
- Udell Myer, Treasurer



Save the Date – ISBA Annual Spring Meeting – Hosted by the ISBA Central Region

The Central Region recently announced it has made arrangements for our Spring meeting on June 14, 2008 in Peoria! Please mark your calendars and see the detailed announcement within this edition of the newsletter! A special thanks to Janet Hart for all of her tireless, hard work on this great effort!

Save the Date – ISBA Annual Meeting

The ISBA is proud to announce the date of our annual meeting! Please hold November 1, 2008 on your calendars. We will once again be hosting the meeting at the Illinois Department of Agriculture headquarters on the campus of the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. As details are finalized, updates will be posted on our website as well as in this newsletter.

ISBA Annual Reports

As you may know, each year the ISBA submits its annual report to the State of Illinois. Many years ago, this annual report was a very in-depth, bound book. Many of these books are still around and in the possession of the ISBA, but we are missing a number of years. If you have any copies of past ISBA annual report books and are interested in selling them or donating them to the ISBA, please contact ISBA President, Ken Haller. We are interested in having a full set of these very old, historical artifacts of ISBA history.

Cook-Dupage Beekeepers Association Announces New Website

The Cook-Dupage Beekeepers Association has recently launched a new club website. To view their site, go to: www.cookdupagebeekeepers.org

Finally, please review all of your club contact information located on www.isba.us. If you have any changed contact information, please notify Ken Haller so that we may update this information.

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Illinois State Beekeepers Spring Meeting

From Janet Hart

Heart of Illinois Beekeepers, along with other Central Division Associations, is planning to host the ISBA Spring Meeting: *Mark your calendars for Saturday, **June 14!!!*** The meeting is to be held at Wildlife Prairie State Park in Peoria, Illinois (See www.wildlifeprairiestatepark.org. "Discover the animals that called Illinois home during the pioneer days. This unique 2,000 acre zoological park is home to wolves, bison, waterfowl, black bear, elk, cougar, otter and much more.") Admission to the park will be included in the nominal meeting fee and you will have the opportunity to enjoy a bountiful buffet which will include fried chicken and BBQ ribs. The hosts are working hard to have an interesting and timely program. Look for more information that will be in the next ISBA newsletter.

For those of you traveling a great distance, an overnight stay at Wildlife Prairie State Park can be an option. A few accommodations (4 Prairie Stables and 2 Single Cabins) are still available but you need to hurry as these book fast. Check out the above website or call (309)676-0998 for more information.β

Update on The C. C. Miller Memorial Apicultural Library At UW Madison

Jill Rosenshield is the curator of the C. C. Miller Collection, a large and expanding collection of historically important books on beekeeping. The original books in the collections came from the library of Illinois' famous 19th century beekeeper, Dr. Charles C. Miller. Jill wrote recently to let the Illinois beekeeping community know of the progress being made in increasing the accessibility to these seminal works.

"We have nearly completed cataloging the books in the Charles C. Miller Memorial Apicultural Library. Users can go to www.library.wisc.edu and type in the author: Charles C. Miller Memorial Apicultural Library to see the 2361+ titles. Eventually the collection will be digitized by Google, although a rather large number of titles will not be able to be digitized because they are too fragile or because they are bound together (i.e. several distinct titles in one volume). I will send you further updates on the progress of this project."

Illinois owes the staff of the Miller Library a great thanks for their work on behalf of our apicultural forefather.β

Announcement of the 2008 Value Added Producer Grant Program

USDA published the Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) in the 1/29/08 Federal Register inviting VAPG applications. Over \$18 million is available for this nationally competitive program. The maximum individual grant amounts are the same as last fiscal year: \$100,000 for a planning grant or \$300,000 for a working capital grant.

You can download a copy of the NOSA from the following website:

<http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=6165464777+4+0+0&WAISaction=retrieve>.

The deadline for submitting VAPG applications is March 31, 2008. To assist you in meeting this timeframe, fillable application templates are available on the VAPG website. To access the application templates, please go to the VAPG webpage at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>. Please note that this website has not yet been updated with the 2008 application templates or NOSA links. We expect all of this information to be updated shortly. Once updated, click on the Applicants link on the right and then on the Application Requirements link toward the bottom of the screen. This web site also includes an eligibility self assessment tool, which is a good place to start. Links to the program regulations listed in the NOSA are contained on the website, as well.

A more reader friendly version of the program regulations can be downloaded at the following links:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/regs/doc/4284a.doc>

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/regs/doc/4284j.doc>

Please note that the information in the NOSA supersedes and supplements the program regulations. So, you should follow the requirements in the NOSA when developing your application.

We are available to provide a preliminary review of your draft VAPG application if we receive them in our office by February 15th. In the past, all applications were submitted to the National Office in Washington D.C. This year, your application should be submitted to the State Office. IL's State Office address is listed below beneath my name and title. It can also be found in the Federal Register VAPG publication. Applicants may also submit an electronic version through the Grants.gov website. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via phone or email.

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ISBA Executive Board 2006

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. Dues for 2006 are \$6 for the calendar year January 1 through December 31 only. Dues include a subscription to this newsletter, the ISBA Bulletin. 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 the association secretary.

Reduced Journal Rates for 2006 (*members only*)

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
American Bee Journal	18.70	35.40	49.80
Bee Culture	21.00	38.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

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- ⇒ *Spring meeting update*
- ⇒ *State Apiary Report*
- ⇒ *Value added grant program info*

