

# ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## *BULLETIN*

May/June 2009 • Volume 91 Number 3

### APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

*Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture*

Spring has finally sprung and everything starts fresh again. What a great time of the year for honeybees and beekeepers!

In my last article, I provided an update on the joint ISBA-IDOA project to reduce potential honeybee exposure to pesticides. The project is going quite well. Licensed pesticide applicators are actively obtaining beekeeper contact information from the Department's website. Our hope is that this project will facilitate timely communication between pesticide

**Apiary Inspectors  
have been approved  
again for 2009**

applicators and beekeepers and will ultimately prevent as many expo-

sure incidents as possible. This project is also resulting in some good media exposure. I have been contacted by numerous newspapers about the project and will be interviewed on RFD radio shortly. Certainly, the more good news all of us can share on bees and beekeeping, the better.

Also on the good news front, the Department is again up to full speed with our Apiary Inspector Team. All of the Apiary Inspec-

tors have been approved again for 2009, so please feel free to contact your inspector for any needed assistance. The full list of inspectors is provided in this newsletter and on the Department's/ISBA websites for your convenience. The state map showing the inspectors' districts is also provided for your reference and can also be viewed on the websites. The Apiary Inspection Team is anxious to serve you as always.

The Department is also beginning to receive moving permit requests from beekeepers around the state. The Department will always act on these requests as quickly as possible; however, advanced notice to inspectors about moving bees is always helpful and appreciated. Please remember to submit a moving permit request to your inspector whenever you plan to move bees across county or state lines.

Another bit of good news to share is that 50 new beekeepers have registered with the Department since January 1, 2009. In addition, we understand that many new beekeepers classes are overflowing with attendance. Interest in beekeeping continues to grow around Illinois!

Finally, as a reminder, please be sure to report any CCD-like symptoms to your Apiary Inspector or me. All of us want to stay on top of this issue. Thanks. β

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**- Put it on your Calendar -  
ISBA Summer Meeting—July 18, 2009  
Edwardsville, IL**

# Spring, honey and bees

## Editorial thoughts

Larry Kregel

Spring is an exciting time for those with a honeybee passion. Hopes are up. Packages of bees are in. Yet, there are mounting dangers to the welfare of our honeybee efforts. More now than ever in my time with bees there are dangers. Mites continue to demand our attention. The newly discovered nosema cerenae seems more lethal than its predecessor. Many find concern with the widening use of high-tech herbicides and insecticides that our bees have to deal with. Even as the dust seems to be settling, there is the ominous CCD hanging over our apiaries. Beekeeping in the modern day seems so different than in the day of the bee gum.

Illinois has a new situation to deal with - the demand for a certified kitchen for "processing" of honey. In 2006 ISBA invited the Illinois Department of Public Health to speak at the November meeting in Springfield. We asked about their view on selling products of the hive. It seems that an angry giant was awakened. Illinois beekeepers looked like the proverbial deer in the headlights not understanding the logic of what was said. It seemed as though honey had never been on their radar, and now it was. As if we were not sure if we had heard right, IDPH was invited back the next year. It was emphasized that all honey bottled in Illinois required a certified kitchen. "Even the guy who sells his 400 pound crop at the farmers' market?" Most certainly. "Can't I bottle it in my home kitchen." Absolutely not. It does not meet the IDPH standards. (You do need a floor drain.) Reports continue to come from beekeepers excluded from farmers' markets because the IDPH has now sent out the directive that all Illinois honey has to come with a license. Interestingly, this does not apply to Chinese honey.

Of the 1300+ beekeepers in Illinois only a handful are equipped to legally sell honey under this recent interpretation of the regulations. The Illinois consumer must rely on imported honey, a large portion of which originates in China where there exist many purity concerns.

Ken Haller, former ISBA president, and I presented a proposal to Elizabeth M. Watkins, who spoke at our meeting. It suggested that Illinois follow the lead of other states such as Wisconsin, Ohio and Iowa who recognize the special case of honey. Honey in its long history in Illinois has never presented a health problem. Professionals in food processing do not consider it a potential hazard to health. Its high pH and antibacterial qualities make it stable and safe. It has no shelf life.

Beyond this we pointed out to Ms. Watkins that encouraging the husbandry of honeybees was important at this time when bees are disappearing and many crops are in need of pollination. Her response -

"The solution you suggest, to exempt honey from sanitation requirements set forth for all processed goods, may increase the number of beekeepers in the industry. It is however, the quality of the honey that I would expect to decline. I am sure removing honey processors from inspection is not something that would be in anyone's best interest."

Has the quality of Illinois honey improved in the last three years as this regulation has been implemented? Are we better off with the imported honey? Is there reason to think that if Ms. Watkins' program will prevent a decline in the quality of honey bottled in Illinois? This is a situation important to citizens of Illinois as well as Illinois beekeepers.

In a recent issue of the American Bee Journal, Jerry Hayes, a noted beekeeping authority, addressed this problem in Illinois. Jerry contends that bottling honey is not a process in the same way that we bake bread or make jelly. He suggests that it is a harvesting more akin to shucking corn or harvesting beans. Perhaps that is the tack we need to take.

On a more cheery note, ISBA and the Illinois Department of Agriculture have established a new program to address pesticide kills of honeybees in 2009. Now when you register with IDOA giving the location of your beeyard, it is entered in a database and provided to licensed pesticide applicators - those big guys with the huge tires on their tractors and airplanes. If you are not registered with IDOA, you are not on the list. Be smart, register your beeyards.

Don't miss the July summer meeting—July 18. Everybody who is anybody will be there! β

## Thoughts on New Chemicals on Our Crops That Come into Our Hives...

"Unfortunately, we all drink from the same cup on this planet, and all our bodies are testing grounds for the new combinations of novel chemicals that we spew into the environment. I am concerned about the insidious effects of this toxic stew upon the health and well being of living organisms."

From Randy Oliver of [scientificbeekeeping.com](http://scientificbeekeeping.com) in his article in the May issue of the American Bee Journal.β

# IQI Update

David Burns

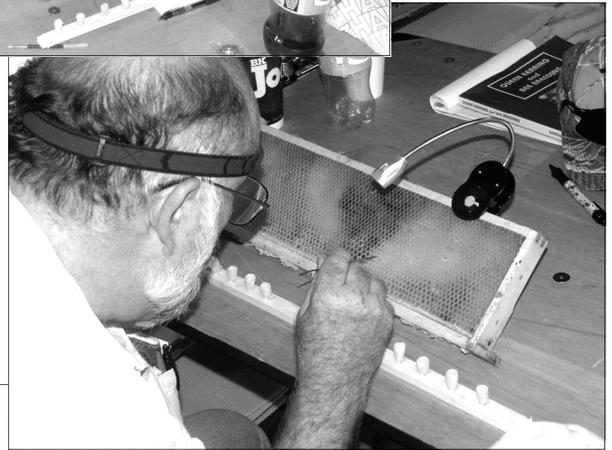


The Illinois Queen Initiative started the 2009 bee season with two classes that were designed to educate and equip interested beekeepers in the how-to's of raising queens. Dr. Joe Latshaw of the Ohio Queen Project led both workshops. One workshop was hosted by David Burns of Long Lane Honey Bee Farms for those in Central Illinois and the second workshop was hosted by Phillip Raines of Raines Honey Farm for those in Northern Illinois.

Each workshop had 17 participants who enjoyed several lectures and presentations by Dr. Latshaw. Participants then went out into the apiaries to learn hands on how to build a starter hive and a finishing hive. Finally, the participants were shown how to graft larva into queen cell cups.

The Illinois Queen Initiative hopes that several from each workshop will pursue raising queens to help expand the state initiative. The first goal for IQI is to breed and sell local queens. As the initiative continues over the years, a secondary goal is to develop a queen line specifically for the Illinois region.

If you'd like to purchase local queens from Illinois, please contact either Phillip at [raines@rainsridgefarm.com](mailto:raines@rainsridgefarm.com) or David at [david@honeybeesonline.com](mailto:david@honeybeesonline.com). β



# IQI

# ST. CLAIR BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

*Is pleased to announce that they will be hosting:*

## The Illinois State Beekeepers Association

### **SUMMER MEETING**

***Saturday July 18, 2009***

*(Registration begins at 8:30AM)*

*At the*

***Madison County Farm Bureau  
900 Hillsboro Ave. (Hwy. 157N), Edwardsville, IL  
(20 minutes NE of St. Louis, MO)***

*The keynote speaker will be, Chris McCary of McCary Honey Bee Farms (Commercial Honey, Package Bee, and Queen Producer) of Buckatunna, Mississippi.*

*Also speaking will be Ian Brown of Foristell, MO. Ian is a Missouri State Bee Inspector, operates the Femme Osage Apiaries, keeps approximately 200 hives of Russian Bees, sells nucs, and beekeeping supplies. Mr. Brown and his wife, Pam, traveled to Uzbekistan to assist local beekeepers dealing with a sacbrood outbreak and will be sharing their travel experiences with us. β*

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### State Fair Time Again!

ISBA will again be involved in the Illinois State Fair August 14-23. Rita Taylor is seeking volunteers to help with the ISBA booth. Are you willing to help? Give Rita a call at 217 626 1319. The fair offers many opportunities to compete with honey and other hive products. For more information check the Illinois State Fair website—

<http://www.agr.state.il.us/isf/premium/>

The entry fee is \$1.00 per entry with \$3568 in premiums being awarded.β

August 14-23, 2009

Springfield





## ISBA Executive Board 2009

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 2009 are \$10 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 2009 (*members only*)

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
American Bee Journal	19.10	36.15	50.95
Bee Culture	21.00	38.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

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## ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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- ⇒ IDOA apiary report
- ⇒ ISBA summer meeting
- ⇒ State regulation of honey
- ⇒ Take me to the Fair

