

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

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APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture



Steve Chard

The ISBA Annual Fall Meeting is rapidly approaching. The event will be held on Saturday, November 7 and the Illinois Department of Agriculture is pleased again to host the conference. To locate the Department's building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, enter Gate 11, which is directly west of the State Fairgrounds Main Gate on Sangamon Avenue. As you travel through Gate 11, you will see the Department's red brick building just ahead and to your right. Please park in the large parking lot just west of and across the street from our building. Parking spaces directly in front of the building are limited to handicapped and 1-hour parking. Access to the building is through the main entrance on the west side. Once you enter our building, you will be guided to the auditorium and the respective registration table.

The ISBA has an excellent agenda in store for you. Please attend and actively participate in this important meeting.

During the annual fall meeting, I will report on the findings of our apiary inspections this year. I will also cover issues such as Colony Collapse Disorder, Small Hive Beetle, Varroa Mites, Africanized honeybees (IL has none!), etc. This meeting is always a good venue for information exchange, so I look forward to learning a lot from all of you.

The Department has received USEPA approval for the use of "Hivastan" in Illinois for varroa mite control. This product can now be purchased from honeybee equipment suppliers such as Dadant and Sons, Inc. Hivastan is one of the newest tools available to combat varroa mites.

On the topic of varroa mite control, the Department has received preliminary information that NOD Apiary Products, Canada has developed **The "Mite Away™ Quick Strip"/MAQS™**. Nod Apiary Products claims that this new product represents a new generation of varroa control that works by not only killing varroa on the bees, but also targets the next generation of mites before they emerge. They also claim that the product is highly effective, killing over 95% of varroa under the cap. Trials of the product have been conducted in Canada and Hawaii and are now under way in Europe. General distribution is being targeted for January 2010 for North America. The Department will closely follow the scientific work being performed on this product and will request USEPA approval for use of the product in Illinois if proven to be safe and effective.

Annual registrations are coming in at a rapid pace. Thanks to those of you who have already submitted completed registrations and for also providing legal description information and the GPS coordinates for your apiaries. We apologize for two errors associated with the registration information. First, my correct telephone number is 217/782-6297 and the correct address for obtaining the GPS coordinates is www.gpsvisualizer.com/geocode. We hope these errors have not created an inconvenience for you. For those of you who have not submitted their completed registration form, please provide it to the Department no later than **Monday, November 16**. Many thanks also to those of you who have signed up to be on the Department's Swarm List. Property owners and beekeepers will benefit alike from having this system in place.

See you at the November 7th Fall Meeting!

Springfield—November 7, 2009



The beekeepers of Illinois have been adversely affected by moves made by the Illinois Department of Public Health to reclassify the bottling of extracted honey as a *process* rather than *harvesting*. Honey then enters the realm of bottling milk and processing meat. This has placed a great regulatory burden on the hobby and sideline beekeeper who would be required to make significant investments in equipment to meet the newly applied regulations. Hundreds of small-time beekeepers could be driven out of business. Beekeepers point at the excellent and long safety record of the production and use of honey as reason to question this move—a bureaucratic move not based on any scientific or historic health concern. In response to this, the following resolution will be presented to the membership at the November 7th meeting. This document will be the basis for a request to the IDPH and the Illinois State Legislature to reassess the situation and provide relief for the beekeepers of Illinois. Editor

A Resolution Concerning the Sale of Honey in the State of Illinois

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Beekeepers Association (ISBA), an organization, first established in 1891 to promote interest in honey bees and beekeeping by encouraging good beekeeping in Illinois, the utilization of honey bees for pollination of agricultural crops, and the dissemination of information about bees and beekeeping; and

WHEREAS, the ISBA has found the present articulation and enforcement of the Illinois food preparation and facility regulations has caused, and continues to cause, harm to Illinois Beekeepers, Illinois Farmers and to the Illinois Public. The present regulatory language causing numerous hobbyist and sideline Beekeepers, the backbone of Illinois pollination services, to leave their craft, as they are no longer allowed to reasonably sell honey in local markets; and

WHEREAS, fewer Beekeepers are managing fewer honey bee colonies leaving reduced numbers of honey bees to pollinate the 130 crops that rely upon Honey Bee pollination. The number of Beekeepers in Illinois has declined precipitously from 2,966 in 1988 to 1,329 in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Honey naturally has highly unique characteristics and requires minimal processing/handling and therefore does not require the broad, all-inclusive and excessive regulations, currently in place; and

WHEREAS, Illinois' vegetable and fruit producers depend upon Illinois' 1,300 Beekeepers to keep and maintain 19,000 colonies; and

WHEREAS, a vast majority of Illinois Beekeepers are hobbyists and sideliners who rely upon honey sales, including those at local farmer's markets and other local retail outlets, to maintain these colonies; and

WHEREAS, locally produced honey has historically been the safest, most healthful and beneficial honey source for consumers. The vast majority of honey sold in the U.S. is imported from China. This Chinese honey has repeatedly tested positive for chemical contamination and adulteration;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ISBA shall petition, on behalf of Illinois beekeepers, the Illinois Department of Public Health and insist on the revision of its documentation to responsibly differentiate honey from other food products and their processing requirements, so that their guidelines account for, and embrace Honey's unique characteristics while protecting public health in Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ISBA shall work with the Illinois State Legislature to amend the Illinois Sanitary Food Preparation Act to exempt Beekeepers who jars honey when a minimum of seventy-five per cent of the honey is from the individual's own hives, and/or who maintains twenty or fewer active colonies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the ISBA shall work with the Illinois State Legislature to expand the definition of "raw agricultural commodity" in the Illinois Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Illinois Criminal Code, to include honey within the comb, or honey that has been removed from the comb and bottled. β

NOTES ON LEGISLATION

excerpted from R. Whyte, writing in BEE WORLD

Our editor has asked me to state broadly my objections to bee legislation in general and in particular my objections to the Bill introduced to Parliament last session. I look with loathing and abhorrence on this ever increasing army of officials, who are empowered to interfere and curtail personal liberty and who put endless obstacles in the way of production and exchange-trade. Remember, once start on this policy of Government regulation and you will find that with every failure to accomplish the ideal aimed at, more and still more power will be put into the hands of officials till ultimate disaster results.

Take the United States of America. Some States have passed their third Bill, each one more drastic than the previous and each enacted on the expressed failure of the earlier one; and now we have the considered confession of a former State Inspector, Mr. Frank C. Pellet, now Associate Editor of The American Bee Journal, backed by the opinion of Mr. E. R. Root, Associate Editor of Gleanings, that these punitive and intimidatory methods will not minimize disease incidence, and that education of the beekeeper in how to treat diseases is the course to be relied upon. Mr. Pellet has even asked his State to repeal its diseases Bill.

What about Europe? There is no special law existing in Holland. I have consulted Mr. Hans Matthes and he informs me that they have no inspectors there. They have a government official, whose sphere of action is principally educational, and who works in connection with the powerful Dutch Association of Beekeepers. The clean bill of health enjoyed by Holland is certainly not the result of any horde of interfering inspectors. Take the Belgian example. Legislative action was one time proposed there, but on the advice of their bacteriologist, M. Lambotte, this was dropped. The beekeepers of Belgium then adopted an insurance scheme for the stamping out of disease. This scheme worked quite smoothly and in a few years, I am informed, successfully accomplished its object. They have neither a Foul Brood nor Acarine disease situation in Holland or Belgium.

I am at one with the Editor of BEE WORLD when he says, "So far as we are concerned, we shall certainly never uphold any legislation for bee diseases which in practice is not fundamentally educational, which can punish but cannot teach, and which does not heed scientific research." Modern beekeeping is a fairly elaborate scientific business that needs special training in what to do and more especially what to avoid doing.

BEE WORLD. June, 1921β

Beekeeping Class Near Champaign



David, a Director of ISBA, here with his associate beekeeper Sheri.

David & Sheri Burns operate Long Lane Honey Bee Farms and regularly hold beekeeping classes for those interested in becoming beekeepers and for those who have kept bees for several year but wish to sharpen their skills.

The next beekeeping course will be on Saturday November 14th from 9am – 4pm at the Homer Lake Park Forest Preserve near Champaign, Illinois. The cost is \$79 which includes lunch, lecture outlines and a hive tool. This class is for those interested in keeping bees and for those who have kept bees a few years. Also, there will be a session on queen rearing as well.

Register for this upcoming course by calling 217-427-2678 or online at: www.honeybeesonline.com.β



Bees for the Developing World

The Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association, based in Woodstock, is continuing its support of the Heifer International honeybee program. A thirty dollar donations to this program provides a third-world farmer with a colony of honeybee. It is then the farmers' responsibility to pass on not only the knowledge they gain from keeping the bees, but bees themselves when the hive is split.

Recently members of NIBA worked with employees from Abbott Laboratories in a "team building" activity. Each team of eight employees constructed a complete hive using a Dadant kit. These completed hives will be raffled off at NIBA meetings. The first two, of six complete hives, were raffled off recently fetching \$350 destined to be contributed to the Heifer program.

At the team building meeting NIBA members talked with the Abbott scientists and technicians about keeping bees and the continuing challenges to the bees. Thanks Abbott!β



When is Honey not Really Honey?

With the continuing challenges to beekeepers many states are attempting to step into the area by defining and regulating honey. Although many beekeepers resist regulation of beekeeping itself, acts such as California's attempt to define honey are generally welcome. Have you seen "real imitation honey?" Have you seen honey with HFCS listed as an ingredient? Here is how one state is dealing with these products that not only deceive the consumer, but also hurt American beekeepers.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 29413 of the Food and Agricultural Code is amended to read:

29413. (a) "Honey" means the natural sweet substance produced by honeybees from the nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants or excretions of plant sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store, and leave in the honeycomb to ripen and mature.

(b) "Blossom honey" or "nectar honey" means the honey that comes from nectars of plants.

(c) "Honeydew honey" means the honey that comes mainly from excretions of plant sucking insects (Hemiptera) on living parts of plants or secretions of living parts of plants.

(d) Honey consists essentially of different sugars, predominantly fructose and glucose as well as other substances such as organic acids, enzymes, and solid particles derived from honey collection. The color of honey can vary from nearly colorless to dark brown. The consistency can be fluid, viscous, or partially to completely crystallized. The flavor and aroma vary, but are derived from plant origin.

(e) Honey sold as described in subdivision (d) shall not have added to it any food ingredient, including food additives, nor shall any other additions be made other than honey. Honey shall not have any objectionable matter, flavor, aroma, or taint absorbed from foreign matter during its processing and storage. Honey shall not have begun to ferment or effervesce and no pollen or constituent particular to honey may be removed except where unavoidable in the removal of foreign inorganic or organic matter.

(f) Honey shall meet the following standards:

(1) Honey shall not be heated or processed to such an extent that its essential composition is changed or its quality is impaired.

(2) Chemical or biochemical treatments shall not be used to influence honey crystallization.

(3) Honey shall not contain more than 20 percent moisture content and for heather honey not more than 23 percent.

(4) Honey shall contain not less than 60 percent fructose and glucose, combined.

(5) Honeydew honey and blends of honeydew honey with blossom honey shall not contain less than 45 percent fructose and glucose, combined.

(6) Blossom honey shall not contain more than 5 percent sucrose, except for the following:

(A) Alfalfa (*Medicago saliva*), citrus spp., false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), French honeysuckle (*Hedysarum*), Menzies banksias (*Banksia menziesii*), red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), leatherwood (*Eucryphia lucida*), and *Eucryphia milligani* may contain up to 10 percent sucrose.

(B) Lavender (*Lavandula* spp.) and borage (*Borago officinalis*) may contain up to 15 percent sucrose.

(7) The water insoluble solids content for honey other than pressed honey shall not be more than 0.1g/100g. The content for pressed honey shall not be more than 0.5g/100g.β

Be a part of it

Ken Haller, operator of the ISBA website—ISBA.US—has many opportunities for ISBA members and local associations to take advantage of. For the individual members, Ken lists beekeepers who are willing to collect swarms (shouldn't we all be on that list!) and those who are willing to remove bees from structures. There is also a list of Illinois beekeepers who are willing to provide bees for pollination services.

Affiliate associations are encouraged to let Ken know when they are offering beekeeping classes or when there are special events planned.

The ISBA website is a tool for members to communicate with each other, but also a resource for citizens-at-large to access the expertise of ISBA beekeepers.

The ISBA website also provides links to many resources important to members—links to Illinois Department of Agriculture resources, affiliate associations, and listings of state fair winners. Visitors to ISBA.US can read about CCD, contact a state bee inspector, and read back issues of the Bulletin.

ISBA has a great resource in its website. Be a part of it.β



Ken Haller
Mr. ISBA website



ISBA Annual Fall Meeting Agenda

November 7, 2009

State Fair Grounds, Springfield, Illinois

- 8:00 am Registration and Coffee Sign up for lunch
- 8:45 Opening Remarks (President)
- 9:45 Steve Chard State Apiary Inspectors Report and updates
- 10:00 Break 15 minutes
- 10:15 Dr. Lawrence DuBose Comments on CCD and other Bee Problems
- 11:00 North Area will host Spring Meeting and more info to follow time location etc.
- 12:00 Lunch with Door prizes
- 1:00 pm Illinois Queen Rearing Report
David Burns, Larry Kregel
- 1:30 Farmers market proposal Bill Buckley
Question and answer period
- 2:00 Jim and Karen Belli Honey grading and showing
- 2:45 Beekeeper of the year award Ray Chapman
- 3:00 More door prizes
- 3:30 Nomination and election of officers
- 3:45 Local club reports
- 4:00 Adjournment—Board of Directors meeting

DeBose to Speak at November Meeting



Lawrence DuBose, a Kline Creek Farm volunteer for the past 29 years is a passionate beekeeper who manages the 10-person volunteer beekeeping staff. Currently this group of bee-loving volunteers tend the farm's 12 hives and harvest the honey. The sale of honey and other products made at the farm contributes about \$46,000 a year to its operating costs. B

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

Immediate Past President

Ken Haller
627 S. Saylor Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126
630 359 3991
kenhaller@comcast.net

President

William Buckley
6525 S. Western Avenue
Willowbrook, IL 60527
630 654 1867
dotbuckbee@att.net

Secretary

Rita Taylor
4274 Taylor Homestead Road
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024
217 626 1319
rtaylor39@hughes.net

Treasurer

Udell Meyer
8844 Trio Lane
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618 633 2429
udenor06@madisonelco.com

Directors

Northern Region

Erik Whalen-Pedersen
9810 N. Hunters Lane
Spring Grove, IL 60081
815 675 0426
NIBA@mchsi.com

Central Region

David Burns
14556 N. 1020 East Road
Fairmont, IL 61841
217-427-2678
david@honeybeesonline.com

Southern Region

Ray Chapman
R. R. 1 Box 215
Bunker Hill, IL 62014
618 585 4506
honey@bhil.com

ISBA Bulletin Editor

Larry Kregel
9409 Voss Road
Marengo, IL 60152
815 923 4449
lkregel@mc.net

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Rita Taylor, Secretary
4274 Taylor Homestead Road
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024

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- ⇒ *Honey Processing Resolution*

