



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

November/December 2010 • Volume 92 Number 6

APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture



Steve Chard, "Mr. Bee" in the Illinois Department of Ag

Greetings! Hope your fall has been going well and you have harvested a great crop of honey!

The Department is pleased to again host the ISBA Annual Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 6 in our auditorium. 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.

Regarding the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Apiary Inspection Program, we welcomed Eleanor Balson as the Department's newest Apiary Inspector early this past summer. Eleanor hails from St. Louis, is a beekeeper and is a member of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association. Eleanor is very enthusiastic about beekeeping/inspections and has really hit the ground running. You will find Eleanor to be a pleasure to work with.

On a different note, Russ McClenning and Chuck Fugate resigned as Department Apiary Inspectors this past summer. In addition, Ron Abernathy is currently on a leave of absence. Russ and Chuck both did an excellent job as Apiary Inspectors and we wish them the best in their future pursuits. Eleanor is covering the district previously occupied by Chuck in the southwestern part of Illinois. That leaves a vacancy in the northwestern and central areas

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Don't miss the ISBA fall meeting
November 6, 2010
State Fair Grounds, Ag Building
Springfield, Illinois

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of the state. We plan on filling those vacancies yet this fall. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Department Apiary Inspector and they reside in one of those areas, please contact me at 217/785-2661.

The Department filed a Section 18 renewal request with USEPA to allow the continued use of Hivastan in Illinois for varroa mite control. The renewal process went smoothly and the USEPA approved our request effective October 1. The sales of Hivastan will continue for the apiary industry.

Also on the varroa mite control front, there continues to be no change with the USEPA's approval of **Mite-Away Quick Strips**. Their current position is that approval will not be given for a Section 18 emergency use exemption nationwide because there are other viable alternative products (Apistan, Apiguard, Hivastan, Checkmite, Mite-Away II, etc.) on the market to control varroa mites and there has not been a "non-routine" event involving varroa mite infestations. We understand that NOD Apiary Products, manufacturer of the new product, is currently pursuing a full Section 3 (permanent-use) registration with USEPA in an attempt to have the product approved for sale as soon as possible. The Department and ISBA will keep you posted as this process goes forward.

The pest Small Hive Beetle continues to spread across the state, fortunately at a slow rate. The beetle has now been found in 29 Illinois counties. The most recent find was in Kane County and it seems that the beetles were contained in package bees. Be on the lookout for this destructive pest to protect your colonies. We understand that there has been success with the SHB traps currently on the market.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Fall Meeting! β



Illinois State Fair Competition

Karen and Charles Lorence
Cook DuPage Beekeepers' Association

The 2010 Illinois State Fair is now history and it's a real possibility that commercial professional exhibits of honey and beekeeping may be history due to lack of interest of local beekeeping groups and their unwillingness to exhibit. For several years, dating back to about 2005, there were four state beekeepers' organizations exhibiting at the fair. They included Cook DuPage Beekeepers, Illiana Beekeepers, Lincolnland Beekeepers, and St. Clair Beekeepers' Association. With the loss of St. Clair Beekeepers several years ago and the loss of Illiana this year, there were only two of the state beekeeping clubs participating. More than any other time in history, it is imperative that we keep the public informed of the value of pollination and the importance of the honey bee and the honey that comes from our hives.

In addition, open class entries competing for prizes have greatly decreased in the past several years. It is feared at this time of tight budgets, that the Illinois Fair Association may take a look at this as a lack of interest and decide to discontinue the Illinois Honey Show altogether. The plea now goes out to other beekeeping organizations in the state to 'pick up the slack' and come forth to exhibit professionally at the state fair beginning next year. Time is of the essence! If we wait, we may lose one of the outstanding features that has so long been anticipated by state fair goers over the past years. Not only the show, but also the honey ice cream Dixie cups at the honey exhibit have become a favorite of the public in the Illinois building.

I would also like to urge you...the individual beekeeper who takes pride in your honey products...to step forward and show your honey in the open class. It is an extremely rewarding experience and we can guarantee that you will develop friendships with other beekeepers as you participate in planning and setting up your display. Beekeepers who already exhibit are usually more than happy to share some of their secrets of packing honey successfully.

We need you! Plan now to join us in 2011 at the Illinois State Fair! β

November In Springfield The ISBA Fall Meeting

Learning to Love Africanized Bees: Beekeeping in South America

Dr. Alex Wild will be the keynote speaker for the November meeting. Alex grew up with a few hives in the backyard. After earning his degree in entomology at UC Davis, he joined the Peace Corps spending three and a half years working with beekeepers in Paraguay in the company of Africanized bees. Alex will discuss life with the Africanized bees.



Smile! How to Take Better Bee Photographs

Later Dr. Wild - a professional insect photographer(!) - will talk about photographing honeybees... We all have tried. Now learn how a pro does it. β



Your Hive Smells - And That Is Good

David Burns has been a rising star in Illinois beekeeping. He is active in the Illinois Queen Initiative and operates Long Lane Honey Bee Farms in Fairmount, IL raising queens. He sells nucs and packages as well as beekeeping equipment. David recently earned certification as an EAS Master Beekeeper. His presentation will consider the many ways bees use pheromone communication in the hive. β

November Elections

Members attending the November meeting will be voting on the nomination of

President.....Jim Belli
Vice President—.....Rich Ramsey
Secretary.....Rita Taylor
Treasurer..... Udell Meyer
Northern Director.....Erik Whalen-Petersen

The Particulars

Date - November 6, 2010

Time - Meeting begins at 9:00 am

Place - Ag Building, State Fair Grounds

Lunch - Available on Site or on your own



Update On The Illinois Queen Initiative

The Illinois Queen Initiative continues to gain momentum and cohesiveness after the completion of another year. Around 1500 queens were raised in the 2010 beekeeping year. Queen rearing courses were offered to beekeepers by Phil Raines in northern Illinois and David Burns in central Illinois under the direction of Dr. Stu Jacobson.

On October 16 of this year, the IQI directors held a meeting at Grand Bear Lodge in Northern Illinois with special guest speaker, Dr. Jeff Harris of the Baton Rouge Bee Lab home of the VSH mite resistant honey bee stock. Around 40+ attended the meeting. Jeff spoke about his decades of work to enhance the genetic traits in honey bees to detect and remove pupae infected with mites. Jeff also spoke on honey bee genetics and various breeding programs that we should consider here in Illinois.

A panel of experienced queen producers answered various questions on queen rearing. Stu also introduced a new aspect of the IQI program and tiered involvement approach where those producing queens to be sold will contribute a yearly fee of \$100 to the IQI program. This will allow producer's names to be placed on a website helping local beekeepers to identify Illinois queen producers nearby. The second tier is for those wishing to be involved in the assistance of the program, raising queens for their own hives, but are not interested in producing and selling queens. This group can contribute a yearly fee of \$40 to help support the Illinois Queen Initiative. In return, they will receive a queen castle hive which can raise three queens at once.

The purpose of the IQI is to promote the development and adoption of disease and mite resistant honey bees and queens that survive well and are productive under Illinois conditions. The IQI seeks to do this through 1) cooperative exchange of breeding stock, 2) cooperative purchases of supplies, 3) member exchange of ideas and methods of testing stocks, 4) educational programs for its members and 5) promotion of Illinois-produced queens and bees to our state's beekeepers. Our goal is to exceed 50% of the demand for queens in Illinois and 20% of the demand for nuclei or packages by 2012. β

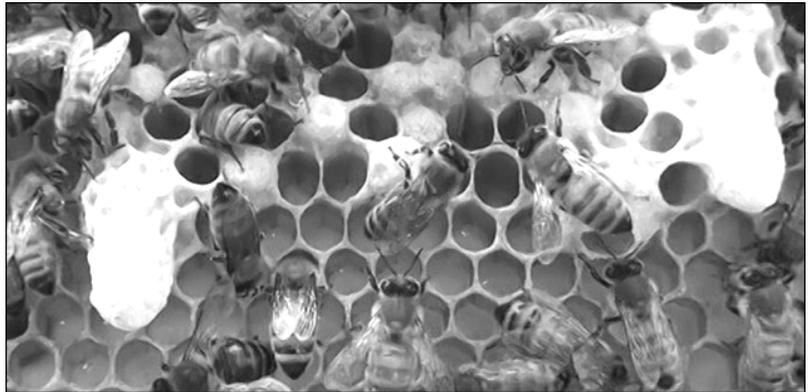
Visit isba.us for the latest information on ISBA activities. Read back issues of the ISBA Bulletin.

The Success of Your Hive is Riding on Your Queen
Thoughts on Queens, Drones, and Winter
David Burns, EAS certified master beekeeper

As we slide down into fall beekeepers are more likely to have killed their queen during super removal a month ago, or queens can fail toward fall. Don't go into winter with an old queen or a missing queen.

There are three caste of bees in a hive: 1) The female worker bee, underdeveloped reproductive ability, 2) The male drones who only mate high in the air with virgin queens, then die and 3) The queen.

When a hive makes a new queen, they do so from a fertile egg laid by a queen. They feed this young, three day old larva or younger, a special queen royal jelly and build out the queen cell perpendicular to the comb. It looks like a peanut shell. From the time the egg is laid until the queen emerges requires 16 days. Workers take 21 days to emerge and drones 24 days.



When the queen emerges she, of course, is a virgin queen or what some call an unmated queen.

The queen only mates one time outside the hive. A few days after emerging, she will take her mating flight and fly away from her hive a mile or two to a drone congregation area (DCA). The DCAs are 20 feet or higher and have been an established meeting place of drones for years. The DCA is a place where a crowd of drones hang out in the afternoon seeking a virgin queen. Virgin queens somehow know where the DCAs are and will mate with 12-20+ drones. She may take several mating flights over the course of a week, but once mated she will never leave her hive again unless the hive decides to swarm. For reproductive swarms, the original, old queen will leave with 60% of the bees and the 40% left behind will be headed up by a new queen.



The queen mates with many drones in order to increase the genetic diversity in the hive for survival. During mating, the drone's genitalia (shown in picture) breaks off and is left in the queen and can be seen upon the queen's return to the hive. This is called the mating sign. However, since she mates with many drones, each drones removes the previous drone's mating sign and then mates with the queen.

The sperm from each drone is stored in the queen's spermatheca so that she is able to lay fertile eggs for years to come from her initial mating flights. She will never mate again. A poorly mated queen may have stored only a limited amount of sperm and may only lay a very short time and turn into what we call a drone layer, laying only unfertilized eggs which produces drones.

It is very important that beekeepers see the value in replacing their queens on a regular basis. Replacing queens especially after June 21 can dramatically increase your hive's winter survivability. The emerging brood from a new queen after June 21 will have more fat bodies going into winter, live longer and will have not depleted glandular secretions. β

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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	19.50	37.00	52.15
Bee Culture	21.00	38.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

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POSTMASTER: Send address Corrections to Illinois State Beekeepers Association 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.



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Rita Taylor, Secretary
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ISBA fall meeting
November 6, 2010

⇒ November in Springfield
⇒ Apiary inspectors report
⇒ Watch those queens!



Illinois Queen Initiative