

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

July/August 2009 • Volume 91 Number 4

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)

Keynote presentation By David Burns of Long Lane Honey Bee Farms

David Burns and his wife/beekeeping partner Sheri are from Champaign, Illinois. Like many beekeepers the hobby went wild and turned into a business. Currently they manufacture the woodenware hive equipment and also sell beekeeping equipment as well as queens, nucs and packages. In 2009 they sold over 600 packages. Their passion is to help others become new beekeepers. They accomplish this goal by conducting regular beekeeping classes on basic beekeeping skills, advanced beekeeping, and courses on queen rearing. They also have over 50 beekeeping lessons on the internet. David is working with the Illinois Queen Initiative, and is the president of Central Illinois Beekeepers Association

MORNING SESSION: The Art Of Queen Rearing: Better Queens Solves Most Problems

AFTERNOON SESSION: Sustainable Beekeeping: Changing The Dominant Model Of Beekeeping

Also speaking will be Ian Brown of Femme Osage Apiary Foristell, MO

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

Latest information and directions are available on www.ISBA.us.

APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Wet conditions this spring have hampered our efforts to conduct apiary inspections in some areas of Illinois. If you have had difficulty in scheduling an inspection due to the weather or are just plain interested in receiving an inspection, please contact one of our Department Apiary Inspectors at your convenience.

In the last ISBA Bulletin I was happy to inform you that the Department again had a full inspection team. Unfortunately, that has changed. Steve Mayes, the Department's

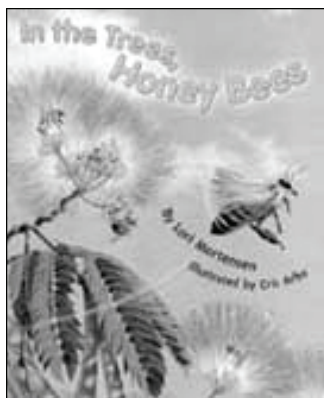
Apiary Inspector for a portion of central Illinois, has resigned effective June 15. Steve's bees and honey business are really keeping him busy. My hat's off to Steve for a job well done as a Department Apiary Inspector and wish him the very best in his future endeavors. The Department is actively seeking a person to fill our vacant Apiary Inspector position for the counties of Knox, Stark, Marshall, Putnam, Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell, McLean, Mason, and Logan. If you are interested, please contact me at 217/782-6297. In the meantime, we have made arrangements for other Department Apiary Inspectors to temporarily cover those counties. Russ McClenning will handle Knox, Stark, Marshall and Putnam Counties, Ron Abernathy – Peoria, Woodford and Tazewell Counties, Rita Taylor – Mason and Logan Counties and Danny Wright – McLean County.

Our inspections to date this year have revealed very little pest or disease problems. We hope this is a trend that continues throughout the year.

All of us have been busy this spring with swarm calls. The Department believes that it would be quite handy to have a statewide listing of beekeepers willing to collect swarms. If you would like to be included on this list, please contact Rosemary Armes, my Executive Assistant, at 217/785-4353 or e-mail Rosemary at rosemary.ames@illinois.gov. Citizens who contact the Department for swarm removal will be referred to those beekeepers for assistance, depending on location. Thanks in advance for your help with this.

New or unregistered beekeepers continue to actively register with the Department. 130 have registered since January 1, 2009. If you know of someone who hasn't registered, please encourage them to do so. It's required by the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act.

The ISBA has prepared a great agenda for the Summer Meeting on July 18 in Edwardsville. Look forward to seeing all of you there! β



In the Trees Honey Bees

A tantalizing new book for that aspiring young beekeeper has been published by Dawn Publications. Fascinating artwork is accompanied a dual text. One text works for the "read to me" age while a separate text works for the early reader.

Read to a kid about honey bees. You will both enjoy it.

BEES-P • Paper • Retail Price: \$8.95 • Sales Price: \$8.05 • ISBN 978-1-58469-115-0
BEES-H • Cloth • Retail Price: \$16.95 • Sales Price: \$15.25 • ISBN 978-1-58469-114-3
Ages 3 to 8 - 32 pages - fully illustrated - 9" x 11"
www.dawnpub.com

Promote Your Illinois Food Products at the 2009 Illinois State Fair

Again this year, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Marketing and Promotion is coordinating “Illinois Products” food sampling and selling (selling is optional) during the 2009 Illinois State Fair . This year, the Illinois State Fair will be held August 14-23, 2009, in Springfield, IL. Food sampling/selling will be done in the Illinois Department of Agriculture tent (a 60 ft. x 120 ft. tent) located on the east side of the fairgrounds (near the Lincoln Stage). Food sampling/selling hours will be 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. each day. Up to six companies can participate on each day.

The tent is located in a “high traffic” area on the fairgrounds. Consumer interest in this area has been very good in past years. Traffic through the tent varies from 1,000 – 3,000 people per day.

Illinois food companies (and a few non-food companies) can sample and sell their products for any number of days that you choose (from only one day to all ten days). Your cost to participate is only 5% of your gross sales. (If you don’t sell, you don’t pay anything.)

If your company has a pre-packaged product(s), the staff of the Division of Marketing can pass out the samples for you during the fair. We recommend that you provide a minimum of 1,500 samples (however, we will distribute any amount that you provide).

Participating company representatives will receive complimentary admission passes onto the fairgrounds and complimentary parking (subject to availability). Refrigeration and a food preparation trailer will be available to participating companies at no cost.

I hope you will take this opportunity to promote your product(s) at the 2009 Illinois State Fair. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me (telephone - 217/524-3012; e-mail larry.aldag@illinois.gov).

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon. Dates will be assigned on a “first come-first served” basis.

Larry Aldag
Marketing Representative
Illinois Department of Agriculture β





A Proposal to the Illinois Department of Public Health
From the Illinois State Beekeepers Association
Recommended Revision to Honey Processing Guidelines
2009

Introduction: The present articulation and enforcement of the Illinois food preparation and facility regulations has and continues to cause harm to Illinois Beekeepers, Illinois Farmers and to the Illinois Public. The present regulatory language has caused numerous hobbyist Beekeepers (the backbone of Illinois pollination services) to leave their craft, as they are no longer allowed to reasonably sell Honey at farmer's markets.

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. As public interest and demand for locally produced honey is on the increase, the amount of honey available to them is on the decrease.

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. This proposal is intended to raise awareness of the issues surrounding the current regulations, offer case studies to more manageable and realistic guidelines and propose direct changes to Illinois' current honey processing regulations.

The Situation:

The U.S. and Illinois are dependent upon Honey Bees as pollinators. Honey Bees exclusively pollinate:
\$15 Billion worth of annual crops (\$248 Billion globally)

1/3 of our U.S. fruits and vegetables

130 U.S. crops (apples, berries, melons, avocados, oil seed crops, etc.)

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

A vast majority of Illinois Beekeepers are hobbyists who rely upon honey sales (at local farmer's markets and other retail outlets) to maintain these colonies.

Most Illinois beekeepers do not have the financial ability to build and maintain processing facilities, as defined by the Illinois Department of Public Health nor have the resources to contract with or utilize an existing facility.

Due to honey's unique antibiotic characteristics, it requires unique processing guidelines as opposed to the current all-inclusive regulations. Additionally, honey can be sold in both "unprocessed" and "processed" states and therefore requires regulations and guidelines differentiating these characteristics.

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 positively for chemical contamination and adulteration.

Feral and managed honey bee colonies are in rapid decline in the U.S. Since 2007, 35% of the nation's 2.4 million Honey Bee colonies have died from Colony Collapse Disorder.

The number of Beekeepers in Illinois has been steadily declining for years:

1988 Illinois had 2,966 Beekeepers

2007 Illinois had 1,329 Beekeepers

This is a 44% Drop

The Cause:

A number of factors have caused beekeepers to leave their craft:

Accidental importation of exotic pests and diseases has made beekeeping more expensive and complex than in the past (pre-1990).

Producing honey on a small-scale basis has been made economically unsustainable through the application and enforcement of overly stringent, generalist Illinois food processing regulations.

Prior to the summer of 2007, Beekeepers sold Honey at local farmer's markets, unhindered. Beginning in the summer of 2007, beekeepers were consistently turned away from selling their "extracted" honey products (Honey contained in a bottle) at farmer's markets. They were turned away if they could not show proof of having an approved processing facility.

A vast majority of Illinois beekeepers sell their product exclusively at local, community farmer's markets. Without the ability to sell their product, they are no longer able to fund their operations.

The Case:

Since honey is a natural antibiotic, requires only minimal processing to bottle and it does not require pasteurization or refrigeration. Honey has no shelf-life limit and is best kept at room temperature in an airtight container.

Due to honey's highly unique capacities and chemistry, it should not be lumped in with other food products but should have its own, unique processing guidelines that embrace, rather than discriminate against it.

There are numerous health benefits attributed to the consumption of honey.

Honey is inherently a high acid, low moisture, and shelf-stable product that does not pose a significant risk under the HACCP considerations for a food production.

Glucose oxidase, a natural enzyme in the honey, produces hydrogen peroxide that is known to be an effective antibacterial agent.

Honey possesses well-documented antibacterial properties making it an effective medical wound dressing.

Honey has not been the cause of any recorded public health ailments or issues.

Numerous States recognize the need to support their beekeepers and see the unique qualities of honey as different from other processed food items. States such as Iowa, Wisconsin and Ohio recognize these issues and have specific language in their guidelines to both protect public health and support its beekeeper residents.

State Case Studies and Examples:

Iowa: exempts honey from regulation when sold at farmers' markets.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1294.pdf>

Wisconsin: states "The extraction of honey from the comb, or the production and sale of raw honey or raw bee products by a beekeeper" is explicitly exempted from regulation. "A license is not required to sell the beekeeper's own honey that has no added color, flavors or ingredients. Though no license is required, honey must be handled in a way that assures food safety."

http://www.wifirst.wisc.edu/assets/Producer%20Food%20reg%20overview_08_07.pdf

<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/fs/business/food/publications/pdf/CharacWIFoodDistribSystem.pdf>

Ohio: A "food processing establishment" does not include a cottage food production operation." Specifically exempted is "a beekeeper who jars honey when a minimum of seventy-five per cent of the honey is from that beekeeper's own hives"

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3715.021>

The Solution:

The Illinois Department of Public Health should revise its documentation to responsibly differentiate and exempt Illinois honey from other food products and processing requirements. These documents should provide a more accurate set of guidelines that embrace Honey's unique characteristics while protecting public health in Illinois.

This proposal was developed by Ken Haller and Larry Kregel spring 2009. β

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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The Illinois State Beekeepers Association Bulletin (USPS 258-600) is published bimonthly at 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024. Membership is \$10.00 per year that includes a one-year subscription to the Bulletin

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

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