

THE BEELINE



Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

ISSUE

Fall 2019

Editor: Valerie Just

SEPTEMBER EVENT

Pat Ennis Speaker

P&P Honey and Bee Supply

- ✓ Moving from a hobbyist to a commercial beekeeper
- ✓ Should your bees go to CA for almond production?

MEETING INFORMATION

Saturday, September 21, 2019

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library

1210 NW Prairie Ridge Drive

Ankeny, IA 50023

Any questions contact:

Linn Wilbur

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION

DEADLINE: December 1, 2019

Email Submissions

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Mail Submissions

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Boone, IA 50036

You may make updates to your subscription, or add a subscription by sending a notification to: justiowahoney@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMIE BEYER

It has been great working weather for harvesting honey supers and extracting this late August. Wearing your bee protection can be "brutal" on hot days -- well this year it is not as bad -- but it is still warm under that suit and veil.

Now is the time to be thinking of checking for Varroa mites and starting a treatment program. It is vital that this is done by the end of September!! From my experience and from what I read -- I can't stress this enough. You want a brood cycle or two before winter so that you have "fat" bees that have not been parasitized by mites. These are the bees that will survive the winter and they need all that fat (that the mites normally eat) to survive. Over the last couple years, I have heard many times that the beek treated for mites and their hives still had low survival, but it's essential to understand they treated in October or later. Please read Linn's compilation of Varroa treatment methods and their comparisons in this issue of the Beeline. This is a great document to save, by the way.

As soon as you can, start feeding syrup to your bees. Some treatments for Varroa prevent you from feeding syrup so get those treatments done ASAP and then feed them. Some treatments will allow you to feed syrup during the treatment. So, start as soon as you can. Your hives need to have reserves of honey to make it through the winter.

Please take a look at Linn's calendar in this issue as well. This tells you when things need to be done -- timing is critical on most of the work we do with our bees.

I am planning on writing a President's message every month. Of course, this one is appearing in this quarterly Beeline but in the months in between, we will send it out via email in a CIBA Newscast. In these reports will be items that need to be done this particular month for your bees. So, this will be a huge benefit to our members.

This month's membership meeting on Saturday Sept. 21st is going to be another unique one as far as topics. Pat Ennis of P&P Honey, who most of you may already know as a great speaker, will be doing our program. I do not want to steal any thunder from Linn's Program report in this issue but believe me -- the program topics have rarely been done.

I would like to see everyone there. We always make the time to just visit with other beekeepers during our meetings.

Jamie

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Editor’s Document Navigation Tips

1. **Table of Contents:** Hover over any section of the Table of Contents, then hold the CTRL button down on your keyboard. This action will create a pointing finger image - press the left button on your mouse on any section of the Table of Contents to go directly to that section.
2. **Document navigation:** No matter where you are in this document, if you press the CTRL + Home buttons on your keyboard concurrently, the action will take you to the top of the Beeline. You can then scroll to page 2 to gain access to the Table of Contents to navigate the entire document using guidance in bullet number 1.



CIBA Business

September Meeting / Program Details (Location and time on front page)

Pat Ennis, P&P Honey and Bee Supply, Goodell, IA will be presenting on 1) Moving from a hobbyist to a commercial beekeeper and 2) Everything you wanted to know about California almond pollination and how to decide if your bees should go to California.

Pat is a long-time beekeeper, past president of the Iowa Honey Producers Association, and presently operates P&P Honey and Bee Supply with his wife Peggy. Pat started out as a hobby beekeeper in Wisconsin, worked for commercial operations in Hawaii and Iowa before he and Peggy went out on their own. Pat has taught a beginning beekeeping course at North Iowa Area Community College for many years and is one of the founding members of the North Iowa Beekeepers Club. Pat is an enthusiastic presenter, very knowledgeable on the art and science of beekeeping and never fails to entertain and inform.

Any questions please contact Linn Wilbur, (515) 382-4882, lwilbur50201@gmail.com



Mark Your Calendars – November Meeting!

The next CIBA meeting will be November 16, 2019. Mr. Charles Carpenter will talk on his 30 years of beekeeping, with an emphasis on how he marketed his products. He will share his successes in selling honey and wax products with us.



September Board Meeting

Come one, come all! Board meetings are open to attendance by the organization. Our next board meeting:

- Thursday, September 5, 2019
- Starts at 6:00 p.m.
- Café Diem
2005 S. Ankeny Blvd #800
Ankeny, IA



Treasurer's Report

Valerie Just, Treasurer

Happy Fall!

I don't know where the summer went, but it is amazing to realize we are heading into September, with fall just around the corner. In my estimation, we have had a blessed summer in terms of weather, which hopefully has generated great production for your bees!

In the Summer issue of the Beeline, I reported on auction results, and provided a 3-year comparison. I wanted to take this opportunity to do the same, but in this issue, provide a 3-year overall financial health report – for 2019, I used current financial totals.

As you know, we had stellar auction results in 2019 – we had generous member donations this year which has categorically contributed to this report. As an organization, we have been enriched in so many ways; our leadership team continues to utilize the positive results of our fundraisers to propel this organization's commitment of not only giving back to the beekeeping community, but in educating the public on crucial issues

to all pollinators. We have passionate volunteers devoting time to keep this organization's momentum gaining ground in club vision and values.

I encourage you to take a few moments to reflect on the offerings this club has provided you and your bees over the years. Without these folks and their perpetual engagement to surpass our menagerie of accomplishments each year, inclusive of financial accomplishments, our ability to reach organizational objectives could be somber.

As a reminder, our mission is to promote the craft, science and future of beekeeping. John and I personally have many within this organization to thank for the well-being of our colonies. Anyone who has been beekeeping for several years knows that it takes a village to maintain healthy bee colonies, as well as keep abreast on the educational aspects needed to do the same. A big thank you to all of the village beeks!

The numbers in this table speak for themselves; however, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached at JustIowaHoney@gmail.com.

Bee the Change,

Valerie Just

| | Business Checking | Honey Queen Checking | Savings | CD #1 | CD #2 | Financial Balances | % Balance Increase from Previous Year |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| December 31, 2017 | \$2,801.17 | \$483.75 | \$1,047.01 | \$1,187.47 | \$1,181.12 | \$6,700.52 | |
| December 31, 2018 | \$4,298.66 | \$877.06 | \$1,052.04 | \$1,209.85 | \$1,207.99 | \$8,645.60 | 29.03% |
| August 25, 2019 | \$7,501.78 | \$1,271.78 | \$1,052.04 | \$1,221.67 | \$1,220.66 | \$12,267.93 | 41.90% |

July 20, 2019 Membership Meeting Minutes

By Margaret Hala, acting Secretary

Business meeting after potluck.

Queen Update

Abigail Kelly, CIBA honey queen, spoke on her activities. Indicated they raised over \$600 for the queen program during the auction. She has been publicly speaking, providing educational programs. Editor's Note: See the Queen's Corner for more details on Abigail's queen activities.

State Fair Needs

Doyle Kincy spoke on State Fair entries. Deadline for registration was July 14th. Need volunteers at the State Fair.

RAGBRAI will come through southern Iowa, stopping in Cummings Orchard. IHPA will be there with honey lemonade and educational material.

CIBA Programs

September 21st – Pat Ennis to speak – transition from a hobbyist to a business beekeeper.

November: Beekeeper is closing down his apiaries – discuss lessons learned.

January: Still pending

March: Jason Foley – Queen rearing, various methods. His successes and failures.

Secretary Election

Secretary election – open nominations from the floor. Steve Hanlin nominated, but declined. Arvin Foell nominated Jeremiah Kusel, but declined. Cheyenne Sisson accepted. Cheyenne Sisson voted as CIBA Secretary.

Meeting adjourned.



Committee Updates

News from our Honey Queen/Ambassador Committee

Hello, fellow central Iowa beekeepers. I am Susan Kelly, the new chair for the Queen/Ambassador Committee. It is an exciting time for the future of the CIBA Queen and Ambassador program. The committee and I have spent the last couple of months working on establishing candidate requirements and queen/ambassador role expectations. In addition, we have also developed expectations that the CIBA organization will have to the queen/ambassador program.

Recommended Program Changes

➤ Change in the Queen/Ambassador's Reign

In the past, the queen has been crowned at the March meeting; the committee recommends moving that timeframe up to January. The impacts of this change, specifically for the upcoming year, are applications will be open from September 10, 2019 (around or about, depending on approval from the CIBA board) until December 1, 2019.

Queen/Ambassador applicants will be asked to attend the November CIBA meeting and give a brief introduction.

Interviews will likely happen the first two weeks in January 2020. The queen/ambassador will be chosen by the queen committee before the January winter meeting. Applicants will be notified before the meeting and the queen will be crowned at the winter meeting in January.

This change of dates will assist the queen/ambassador's ability to develop and schedule programs before most people have summer plans. It will also line up more closely with the IHPA honey queen program.

➤ Change in the Age Requirements

The committee is also recommending adjusting the age requirement for the queen/ambassador candidates. Candidates will need to be 16 years of age by January 1, 2020.

More information will be posted on the CIBA website after the board has read and approved the changes. There will be a new application form; we will also be providing the candidates the organization's desired qualifications and written expectations for the position.

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me, Kellycbf@hotmail.com or call me (no text) (515) 330-2624.

Susan Kelly



Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship News

News from our State Apiarist, Andy Joseph

By Andy Joseph

Hello.

Even later than my usual with this, so apologies to Jamie and the others for having to wait.

The State Fair sure went great. Huge crowds and lots of beautiful days. Thank you to everyone who helped out! The IHPA booth was hopping. Our Honey Queens from across the state were pretty amazing spokespeople for our industry and interest. We had a good number of Apiary competition entries, and everything was just excellent quality. I enjoy being a part of it each year and seeing it all come in and come together. Ginny Mitchell once again did an incredible job as our judge. She is knowledgeable across the variety of classes and gives a great amount of care into scoring each entry. Thank you all!

It's harvest time. Hopefully by the time you read this, I'll actually be working on getting mine off and extracted. Seemed like winter would never end. Then seemed like things weren't going to ever warm up and dry out. Just about the time I was becoming convinced we weren't getting a crop this season, it poured in. Decent to good crop, really late but good-looking honey. I think we got a lot from late-planted beans. This seems to be true for Iowa as a whole. For those who were getting started late or who split heavily to make up a lot of winter loss, the lateness was a godsend. Maybe all's well that ends well, right?

Most inspections have turned up fewer Small Hive Beetles than last year. Varroa numbers are climbing, and nearly always warrant a treatment, but the counts do not seem as bad as the last couple years either. I suppose this is also directly related to our late, slow start to the season. Looks like we're set up in the immediate future for near perfect weather for Formic Pro / MAQS or Apiguard treatments. The time to get them treated is now.

I attended the NW Iowa Beekeepers meeting in Okoboji yesterday. A great group! We discussed late season tasks and winter prep. Many in that group are working with wintering double nucs. That's always an interesting topic to me. Young queens and combs packed with food stores and bees soon enough clustered low.

Some up there are beginning to feed – It's about that time of year already. That said, I am sure seeing lots of goldenrod along the roadsides. I've been surprised to see a little white sweet clover hanging on here and there (though certainly it's well past being done for the year). Won't be long until asters poke out. I've been pushing more and more pollen sub these last several years and am convinced it pays off. So, get your feeders ready, if they're not already full.

Take care,

Andy

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Andrew.Joseph@IowaAgriculture.gov

Introduction

By Jamie Beyer

Below is a summary of a workshop for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 4 Bees that was conducted at ISU in July. Your President and Vice President were able to attend representing CIBA. Linn Wilbur and I also presented treatment techniques for Varroa mites to the group. It was an excellent workshop that Randall Cass (ISU Extension Entomologist on Honey Bees and Native Bees) and ISU Bee researchers organized. CIBA as well as IHPA received a lot of recognition at this event.

News from our Extension Entomologist, Randall Cass

By Randall Cass

The IPM4Bees Midwest Working group hosted a workshop for bee researchers, extension agents, and graduate students on July 25, 2019, at Iowa State University. This working group was established this year with funding from the North Central IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Center. The primary goal of the working group is to foster communication and collaboration in the Midwest over both agricultural and apicultural integrated pest management (IPM) strategies that impact honey bee and native bee health.

The workshop brought together 30 people from across eight different states in the region to discuss pressing topics in bee IPM and develop new extension tools to serve beekeeping communities in the Midwest. Speakers at the event included Dr. Arián Avalos, a bee geneticist from the USDA ARS Bee Research Lab in Baton Rouge, and Bob Walters, the director of business development at FieldWatch. On the second day of the workshop, participants traveled to the field to observe varroa monitoring and management demonstrations and visit an ISU Prairie STRIPS site. The bee experts that attended the event will continue collaborating on bee IPM tools that are appropriate for the Midwest and sharing the knowledge they gained through extension and outreach in their local communities.

In addition to the July workshop, the IPM4Bees Midwest Working Group also hosted a symposium at the North Central Branch Entomological Society of America Conference held in Cincinnati in March. There, ten scientists presented their ongoing research related to honey bee and native bee health with regard to pesticide exposure and landscape management.

The IPM4Bees working group is already setting its sights on 2020, considering new locations to host the workshop in Midwest and also intends to host another symposium at the Entomological Society of America Conference next year.

Editor's Note:

The North Central IPM Center is tasked with improving health, environmental and economic conditions in the north central region through leadership and cooperation with diverse stakeholders to facilitate the development and adoption of integrated pest management solutions.

The North Central IPM Center is one of four regional centers funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to promote and facilitate the adoption of effective integrated pest management (IPM) strategies. The center serves as the hub for multi-state partnerships and communication networks that link researchers, farmers, extension educators, commodity organizations, environmental groups, pest control professionals, government agencies and others from the 12-state north central region of the continental United States. The NCIPM Center is currently housed at Michigan State University and Iowa State University.

For more information, access this [link](#). For those receiving a physical copy of the Beeline, the address is <https://www.ncipmc.org/about/>.

US Approved Varroa Chemical Treatments

Contributed by Linn Wilbur

Editor's Note: To insert this table into the Beeline, the table was divided into two parts. To fully capture the information, Linn recommends that you print the two pages of the table, and lay them side-by-side. This is a draft document and Iowa State University (ISU) is presently working to incorporate it into an extension document that would be available for download. This document was a handout used as part of the field day chemical treatment presentation given by Linn and Jamie at the July IPM4Bees Midwest Working group meeting at ISU. Copies of this document or the ISU Extension document if published will be available at the September CIBA meeting

| Product | Active Ingredient | Class | Mode | Formulation | Manufacturer | Effectiveness | Supers on during treatment? | Resistance Issues? | Effective in Capped Brood? | Supplemental Feed While Treatment? |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Apiguard | thymol | essential oils | fumigant | gel | Vita beehealth | 74-95% | No | No ¹ | No | Yes/No ³ |
| Apilife Var | thymol, camphor, menthol and eucalyptol oil | essential oils | fumigant | tablet | Veto-Pharma | 70-94% | No | No ¹ | No | ? ⁵ |
| Apistan | tau-fluvalinate (synthetic pyrethroid) | synthetic chemical | contact | impregnated strips | Zoecom | 95-99% | No | Yes | No | ? ⁵ |
| Apivar | amitraz (formamidine) | synthetic chemical | contact | rigid polymer strip | Veto-pharma | 95% | No | Yes | No | ? ⁵ |
| Check Mite + | coumaphos (organophosphate) | synthetic chemical | contact | impregnated fabric strip | Bayer | 85-99% | No | Yes | No | ? ⁵ |
| Formic Pro | formic acid 42.25% | organic acid | fumigant | saccharide gel strip/paper laminated | NOD Apiary Products USA | 83-97% | Yes | No ¹ | Yes | No |
| HopGuard II | potassium salt (16%) of hops beta acids | organic acid | contact | folded cardboard strips | BetaTec | 75-79% | Yes | No ¹ | No | Yes |
| Mite-Away Quick Strips (MAQS) | formic acid 46.75% | organic acid | fumigant | saccharide gel strip/paper laminated | NOD Apiary Products USA | 61-98% | Yes | No ¹ | Yes | Yes ⁶ |
| Oxalic Acid | oxalic acid dihydrate | organic acid | fumigant | crystals for vaporization | ApiBioxal | 82-99% (no brood) | No | No ¹ | No | Yes |
| Oxalic Acid | oxalic acid dihydrate | organic acid | contact | crystals for drip/drench | ApiBioxal | 82-99% (no brood) | No | No ¹ | No | Yes |

| Product | Treatment (Tx) | Length of Tx | Adverse Effect on Bees? | Estimated Cost/Hive ² | Restrictions | Available from ⁴ | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| | | | | | | Dadant | Mann Lake | BetterBee | Kelley |
| Apiguard | 2x Txs 10-14 days apart | 24-28 days | May decrease queen egg laying activity and may increase adult and young larvae mortality | \$3.33-\$7.00 | Temp 59 to 105°F for Tx | X | | X | X |
| Apilife Var | 3x Txs required. 2nd Tx day 7-10, 3rd Tx 7-10 after 2nd and left on for 12 days. Single wafer broken into 1/4s and placed on frames at periphery. Recommended no wafer directly over brood. | 26-32 days | Use at >95°F may cause agitation to adult bees and brood deaths. | \$4.68-\$7.43 | Temp 65 to 95°F for Tx. Recommend start Tx late afternoon. No more than 2x Tx per yr. Not available CA or HI. | | X | | |
| Apistan | 2 strips per Tx, single Tx | 45 days | Decreased queen and drone reproductive health | \$4.18-\$6.70 | >50°F for Tx | X | X | X | X |
| Apivar | 1 strip per 5 bee covered frames in brood camber per Tx, single Tx | 42 days | | \$6.40-\$7.10 | No more than 2x Tx per yr | X | X | X | X |
| Check Mite + | 1 strip for 5 combs of bees, single treatment. | 42-45 days | Negatively affects reproductive health of queens, queen rearing and drones (sperm production) | \$6.40-\$7.99 | Do not super for 14 days after removal of strips. No more than 2x Tx per yr. | | X | | X |
| Formic Pro | 2 treatment protocols: 1) 2 strips for 14 days 2) 1 strip for 10 days, replace with 2nd strip for additional 10 days | 14 or 20 days | Brood and queen mortality, especially if >92°F. Bee bearding common. | \$5.08-\$7.75 | Recommended Tx temp 50 to 86°F. Increase ventilation. No more than 2x Tx per yr. PPE recommended. | X | X | X | X |
| HopGuard II | 1 strip per 5 frames of bees per TX in each brood box for 14 days. Repeat in 1-2 weeks if needed. | 14 days or 37 to 42 days | | \$4.16-\$5.99 | Recommended Tx temp 52 to 92°F. Required Tx temperature >50°F. With high mite loads repeat Tx 1-2 weeks apart. Max use up to 3 times per year. Corrosive. Use PPE to avoid skin and eye contact. | | X | X | |
| Mite-Away Quick Strips (MAQS) | 2 Tx protocols: 1) full dose, 2 strips for 7 days 2) half dose, 1 strip for 7 days with 2nd strip 14 days after for 21 days total. | 7 or 21 days | Brood and queen mortality, especially if >92°F. Bee bearding common. | \$5.15-\$7.38 | Temp 50 to 85°F for Tx. Use not recommended <50°F. Increase ventilation. PPE recommended. | X | X | X | X |
| Oxalic Acid | 2 Tx protocols (1g per brood box per Tx): 1) on broodless colonies, single treatment 2) on colonies with capped brood, 3-5 treatments 5-7 days apart | 1 day or 15 to 35 days | Requires closed hive 10 to 15 minutes post Tx | \$0.11-\$0.20 | Requires PPE including respiratory filter with acid/particulate cartridge. Temperature >37°F at time of application and for 30 minutes after. | | | X | |
| Oxalic Acid | Drip 50ml per hive (5 ml per bee occupied inter frame space) of 35g in 1 liter 1:1 sugar solution | 1 day | May chill adult cluster. Harder on bees than oxalic acid vaporization. | \$0.19-\$0.35 | PPE Recommended. Recommended no more than single Tx yearly on dormant bees. | | | X | |

Revision 07/27/2019

Information from "Tools for Varroa Management: a guide to effective varroa sampling & control," Honey Bee Health Coalition, Revised First Edition 2015 and Manufacturer's inserts and information

¹ No history of resistance developing. Recommendation is to rotate Tx's.

² Range of cost primarily dependent on number of Tx's in packaging, not source of purchase. (\$ based on 1 deep 10 frame brood box, prices as of revision)

³ Feeding during treatment is at users discretion per Manufacturer's supplemental information

⁴ Listed availability of product is not a recommendation for purchase. May be available from other sources.

⁵ No information provided by Manufacturer

⁶ Community feeding during Tx. No feeding in contact with internal or external parts of a hive

Wintering Bees in Central Iowa

By John Johnson

1. Location

Best locations for wintering bees have protection on the north and west from the wind and cold. Access to the sun is also preferable.

2. Disease and Mite Control

In early September when all supers have been removed, treat for Varroa mite and foulbrood control.

3. Queenright and Strong

Ensure colony is queenright and moderately strong with numbers of bees. An approximate definition of moderately strong means enough bees to cover five or six full depth frames on both sides. In September an October there will usually be some capped brood which will emerge and add to colony strength. Do not try to winter weak colonies. It seldom succeeds. Save the honey and combs for next spring. they are valuable. Unite weak colonies with other units or shake them out on the ground.

4. Adequate Feed

Ensure there is enough feed to supply the bees through the winter. Also ensure there are three open combs with little or no honey adjacent to each other in the middle of the upper and lower hive bodies. Bees will then cluster on the open combs in the middle of the hive body. They do not cluster well on combs of honey.

In Central Iowa, bees usually need approximately 7 full depth frames of honey in the upper and 4 frames in the lower hive body. If they do not have the quantity, supply additional honey from another source or feed sugar syrup. If it is necessary to feed sugar syrup, begin the feeding no later than late September. It frequently takes some time for the bees to deposit a sufficient supply of syrup into the combs.

5. Weather Protection

Weather protection increases chances the colony will survive the winter. The following practices work well in Iowa:

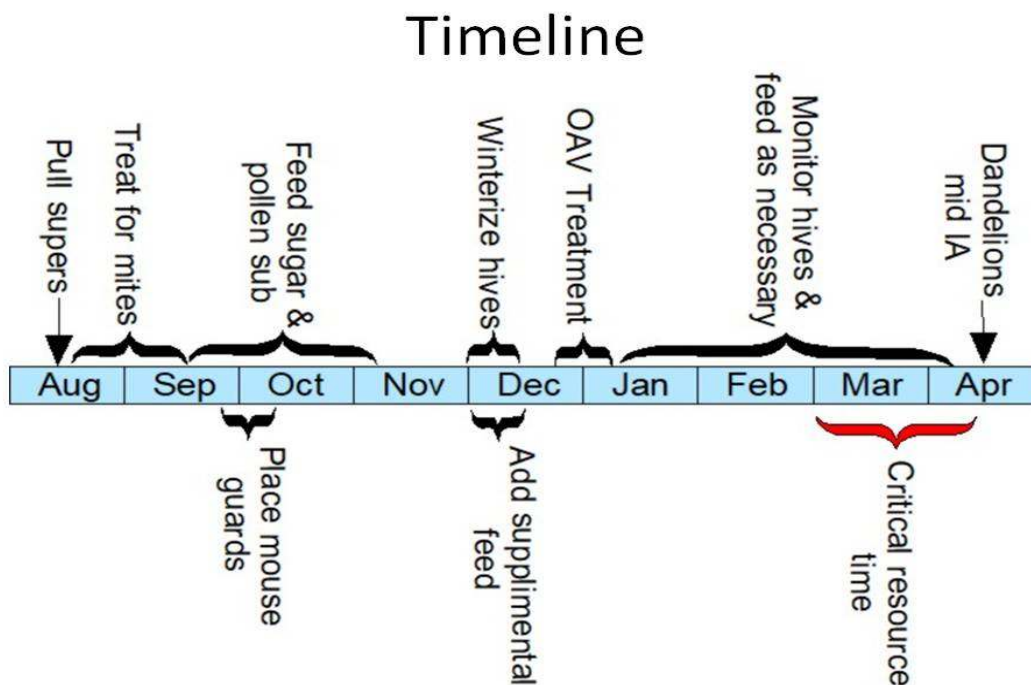
Install the entrance reducer in September after Varroa mite control treatment is concluded. This protects against mice and cold.

After October 20th, do the following:

- Make a second entrance between the upper and lower hive bodies. This provides for some ventilation and a place for bees to come and go if the lower entrance becomes blocked. (editor: present recommendation is to provide a single upper entrance above the top box for ventilation)
- Put Styrofoam over the inner cover. This provides insulation and helps reduce moisture build up in the colony.
- Using tar paper, wrap around and over the colony so that it is entirely covered by the tar paper and thus protection from the wind and provides important heat on sunny days. Bee supply houses sell treated cardboard which neatly fits over the colony for winter protection. This is convenient to use and provides good protection for the colony.
- Remember to cut a hole through the winter wrapping so the bees can utilize the opening between the upper and lower hive bodies.

NOTE: Some beekeepers may contend it is not necessary to provide winter protection in the form of wrapping and Styrofoam over the inner cover. Most successful beekeepers know from experience, the winter protection practices described in this paper are well worth the time and cost.

31 Overwintering Timeline



The suggested timeline is based on Central Iowa and timing should be moved forward or backward depending on your location and your local climate. OAV = oxalic acid vaporization



The Queen's Corner

By Abigail Kelly, 2019 CIBA Honey Queen



Happy September everyone, although I am writing this on August 1st before the busyness of the State Fair! Hopefully, your bees had a very productive summer and you were able to extract some honey. I'm sure you are now preparing them for winter.

On June 6, 2019, I presented a honey bee themed story time at the East Side Des Moines Public Library. I started by reading the book *Little Bee* by Edward Gibbs. This book starts with a little bee fleeing from a frog and ends with a hunter fleeing from a little bee.

It is a great book to introduce why honey bees sting people. Next, I read *Bee Dance* by Rick Chrustowski. This is a great book that talks about the waggle dance and why the honey bees do it. I had the kids act out the waggle dance. Next, I showed them some of my teaching frames including one that shows the life cycle of a honey bee frame. Finally, the kids had an opportunity to color some honey bee themed coloring pages, make a bee craft, and plant some sedum, a pollinator friendly plant that blooms in August.

I attended the IHPA Summer Field Day, an event, as you know, CIBA assisted with. There were excellent speakers and great hands on activities. My favorite presentation was Ginny Mitchell's on what she looks for in products entered in the State Fair. I plan on using what I learned to win a few ribbons!

I gave a presentation on pollination and how beekeepers inspect a hive at the Minivators Clover Kids Club on July 16, 2019. Clover Kids is a 4-H program designed for young children, typically kindergarten through third grade. It was a small group, which I enjoyed because the kids were able to come closer to the hive set up. The kids loved trying on the veil I brought with me.

On June 18, 2019, I gave a presentation to a group of day campers in Clive. First, I talked about honey bee anatomy, honey bee castes, and the life cycle of honey bees. One kid believed that bears are the biggest threat to honey bees. I explained that humans actually cause more harm to honey bees particularly with pesticides. Next, I did a mock hive inspection. I talked about the importance of honey bees to pollination. Finally, I read them the book *Bee Dance* and had them do the waggle dance. I had the oldest kids look for hidden paper flowers then come back and do the waggle dance. Then the younger kids followed the older kids to the flowers. They loved running around.

I gave a presentation on how a beekeeper inspects a hive at the East Side Library on July 2, 2019. I had a group of about twenty-five adults and children. While doing my hive inspection, I explained why beekeepers use a smoker, what beekeepers are looking for in a hive, and the purpose of each hive component. Both the adults and children enjoyed getting a honey stick when they answered a question correctly. After my presentation, the attendees were able to make a rolled wax candle and plant some pollinator friendly seeds. I was able to hand out a card about the IHPA Youth Scholarship Program and a pamphlet on honey from the National Honey Board.

Through 4-H, I entered a presentation in the Polk County Fair. My presentation was entitled *Helping Honey Bees*. My presentation was chosen to go the State Fair. I will be giving this presentation at the State Fair on Monday, August 12, 2019. I will provide you an update on the outcome and highlights of my presentation in the next Beeline.

On July 23, 2019, I worked the IHPA booth at RAGBRAI. I enjoyed sharing my love of honey bees with cyclists. The most asked question was who put the dot on the queen! I then explained that the beekeeper puts a dot on the queen so that he or she can spot her and know how old she is.

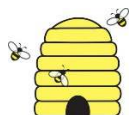
I worked the Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa booth at the Warren County Fair on July 26, 2019. I enjoyed talking about honey bees with fair-goers. The booth had an observation hive, a taste test between real honey and store-bought honey, a honey bee quiz, and informational pictures and posters. The kids (and adults) especially loved the honey taste test and the honey bee quiz.

I am going to run for IHPA Honey Queen this November. I will update you on my upcoming story time event, the State Fair, and an interesting opportunity I have had through the Science Center of Iowa in the next edition of the Beeline.

If you would like to engage me to come to your local library, school, or any other event, please contact either Susan Kelly, chair of the Queen/Ambassador Program, or Jamie Beyer, President of the CIBA organization. Susan's contact information can be found in the [News from the Queen/Ambassador Committee](#) in this edition of the Beeline; Jamie's contact information can be found on the [CIBA Leadership and State Organizations](#) page of the Beeline.

Abigail Kelly

CIBA Member Contributions



Margaret's FAQs

By Margaret Hala, Board of Director

| Question | Margaret Says |
|---|--|
| <p>I've got a hive with laying workers. I purchased a new queen and the bees killed her. I've since been told that you cannot save a hive like this, but have also heard that you may be able to do so. Do you know if it's possible and how?</p> | <p>If you have more than one hive MAYBE you can.... Let's say you have 3 or 4 hives. Take one frame with eggs from the best hive and 1 frame with larvae to capped from each of the others. MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MOVE ANY QUEENS!!! Place new frames in the middle of the drone laying hive brood area and frames from drone laying hive on outer edge of brood area in queen right hives, replacing the removed frames with those from the drone laying hive, leaving at least 1-2 original frames in the drone laying hive. Move attending bees with frames.</p> <p>This tells the drone laying hive they are without a queen and the other bees from the drone laying hive now in the queen right hives to mix and be accepted their new hive.</p> <p>You could also dump all frames of bees out on the ground a t least 30 ft from hive and place 1 frame of eggs and 2-3 frames of larvae and capped in the drone laying hive. In theory, the workers will fly back to their home but the unfertilized laying workers will not.</p> <p>Personally, I like the first option.</p> |
| <p>I've had long time beekeepers tell me that with experience you will get to know when you open the hive whether the hive is in good shape or has problems. Is this true and how long will it take?</p> | <p>I don't remember how long, but it may well be 2-3 years or more. One day you'll open a hive, hear a definite 'whirr', and then you'll think "oh, now I understand". It's definitely a different reaction and sound when you open the hive. Another beekeeper contacted me to say that they finally recognized the sound of a hive with problems. "It only took 5 years, but I finally got it," they report.</p> |
| <p>My electric knife keeps heating. It does not shut off and thus scorches the wax and honey. Is there anything I can do, other than replace it or send it back for repair?</p> | <p>We have one that keeps heating too. What I did was take the knife to an electrical repair place and got a foot pedal. The electrician needs to know the wattage of the knife to determine what foot pedal to use. Now we step on pedal, knife heats, lift foot, no heat, just like a sewing machine. Been doing it this way for years.</p> |



Beekeeping Banter

Editor's Note: I am bringing back an oldie, but goodie, because it is just so true...enjoy and have yourself a good giggle!

You know you're married to a beekeeper when...

- ✓ You spend at least one day a week on your hands and knees with a sharp knife scraping wax and propolis off your kitchen floor.
- ✓ You've ever used bee boxes as furniture in your house, for coffee tables, chairs, night stands, and storage boxes.
- ✓ You mow around mountains of bee equipment that never seems to make it to the barn.
- ✓ You plan weddings, child birth, surgery and funerals around honey extracting time.
- ✓ When buying a new truck, your spouse checks weight loads and measures the bed to see how many hives he can fit in it.
- ✓ You get stung by the bee that was clinging to your husband's bee suit when you picked it up to wash it.



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