May/June 2017
VOL 75, No. 3

American Beekeeping Federation NEWS
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ABF 1943 American Beekeeping Federation

Stay Cool This Summer

National Pollinator Week: June 19-25

4-H Contest Winners Announced

Shine Bright in Reno: 75th Anniversary ABF Conference & Tradeshow

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American Beekeeping Federation

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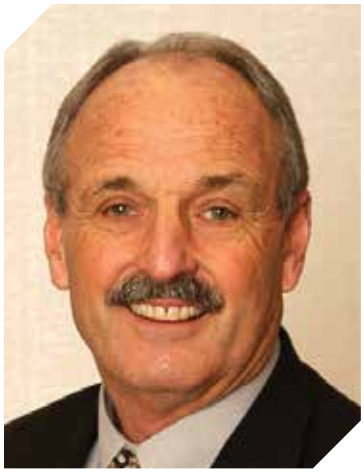
Perspectives in Beekeeping:
Strength in Numbers!

by: Gene Brandi
ABF President



Gene Brandi, ABF President

There is absolutely no question that beekeeping, especially smaller scale beekeeping, is more popular than ever. During the recent California Honey Festival in Woodland, I met scores of people who either had a hive or two in the backyard, had their bees and equipment ordered for delivery, or were thinking about getting into beekeeping. The story is the same wherever I travel throughout the country, beekeeping is more popular than ever. Even though most of these folks only have a few hives, when combined with all the other smaller scale beekeepers throughout the country it starts to add up. Practically any beekeeping organization in the country is larger today than it was ten years ago due to the increased popularity of beekeeping.

But just how many managed bee hives are there in the USA and how much of an increase, if any, has there been in recent years? Recently I had the opportunity to discuss bee hive statistics with Josh O'Rear of the USDA National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) and he could help answer some of my questions. It became clear to me that there have been several different methodologies used over the years and it is not always easy to reliably track colony numbers, especially smaller scale operations.

From the 1940's through the early 1980's honey bee colony estimates were conducted by the USDA: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Marketing Service, Statistical Research Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Economic Statistics and Cooperative Service, and finally NASS.

Currently, NASS has three programs which estimate the number of colonies: The Census of Agriculture, the Honey report, and the Honey Bee Colonies report. The Census of Agriculture is the longest running program, but has only been administered by USDA, NASS since 1997. Prior to that, it was conducted by the US Census Bureau. For most of the Census data, the colony estimate describes total number of colonies on farms on December 31st. It's important to note that for the Census, and all NASS's honey bee statistics, the number always references farms, which is any operation with $1,000 dollars or more in agricultural production, or normally would have been produced, in a year. Many small beekeepers are obviously excluded from this data.

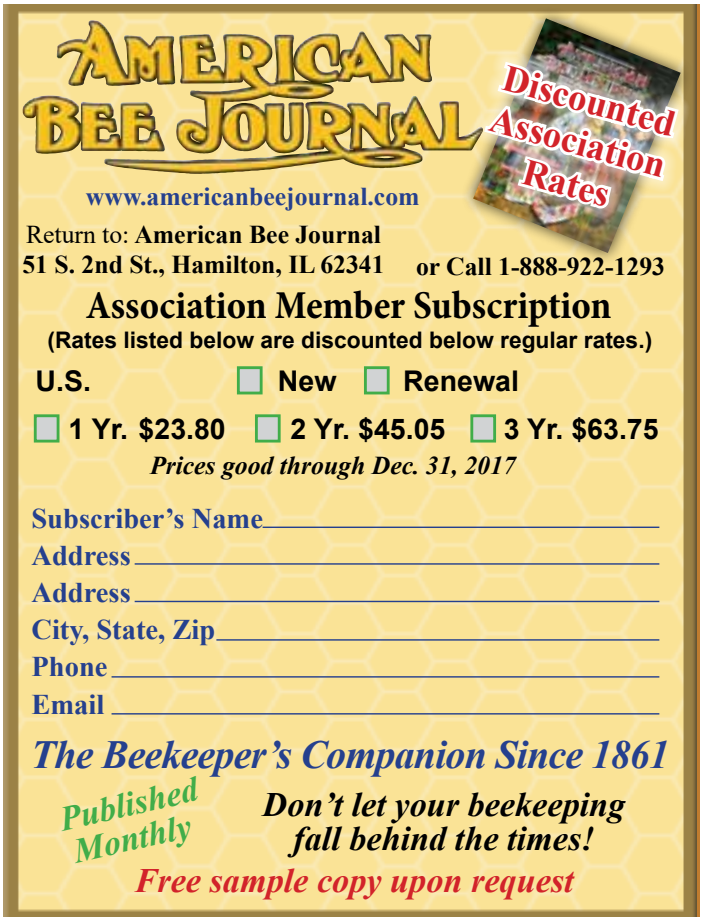
The Honey Report was first published 1987. This report is different from the others in that, until recently, it has only counted colonies from which honey was harvested in operations with five or more colonies and it references the entire production year, not just a point in time. In 2016, NASS began publishing statistics on operations with less than five colonies, but only if they are part of a farm as described above. I have submitted my honey and colony data to NASS for many years and one of the questions asked is the maximum number of colonies from which honey was harvested. This is a summer time number when most beekeeping operations are at or near their maximum number of colonies for the year. Be that as it may, it is a good gauge of colony numbers in the country as most of the colonies will usually produce some surplus honey.

In 2016, NASS released its first Honey Bee Colonies report. This report was part of the White House Pollinator Research Action Plan, and serves as the baseline data on number of colonies lost. This report is conducted on a quarterly basis and attempts to provide data in a realistic, time based manner that reflects the ups and downs of colony numbers throughout the year. NASS surveys approximately 3,300 beekeeping operations with five or more colonies quarterly, following their operations throughout the year. In addition, NASS surveyed a sample of nearly 20,000 beekeepers in 2015, and 6,000 in 2016, with fewer than five colonies.

NASS recently reported that United States honey production in 2016 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 162 million pounds, up 3 percent from 2015. NASS also estimated there were 2.78 million colonies from which honey was harvested in 2016, up 4 percent from 2015. In addition, beekeepers with less than 5 colonies produced an estimated 766 thousand pounds of honey in 2016.

There is an interesting quote in USDA Handbook number 335 (Beekeeping in the USA), last revised in 1980: "In the United States about 200,000 people keep almost 5 million colonies of honey bees and produce 200 million to 250 million pounds of honey annually."

continued on page 4

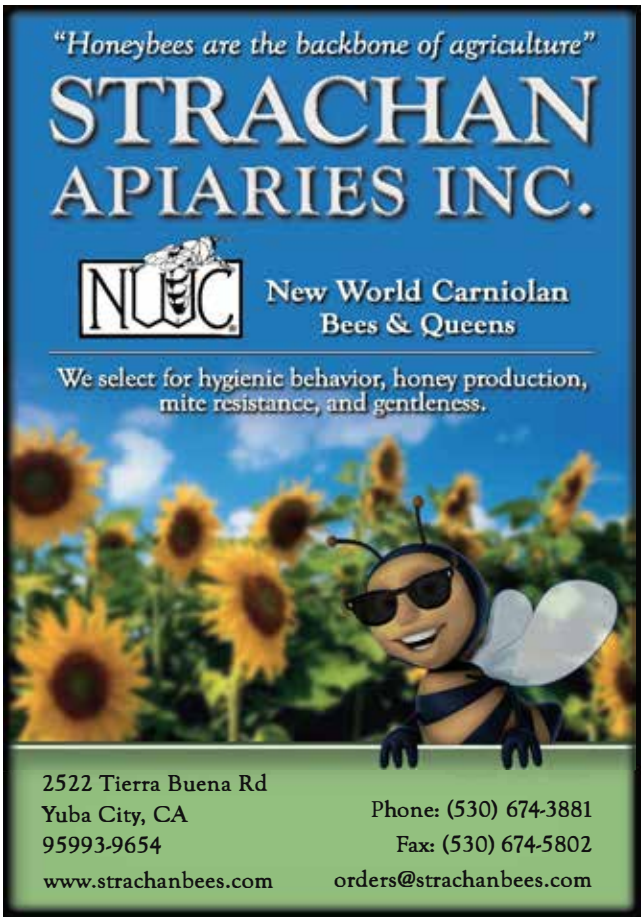


Perspectives in Beekeeping – cont. from page 3

While it is difficult to ascertain the total number of beekeepers in the USA today, there are certainly less than 5 million managed colonies. As a matter of fact, using the new Honey Bee Colonies Report, NASS estimated there were approximately 3.1 million total managed colonies in 2016, which is about 300,000 more colonies than estimated in the honey report which has been the standard for more than 30 years.

There is no question that domestic honey production has plummeted during the past decade or more. We have not produced a 200-million-pound crop in the USA for many years as crops have been below 150 million several times in recent years. This is clearly an indication of the decreased fitness of our national bee population. More winter dead outs mean more splitting to restock the dead outs. The rising number of annual losses results in further splitting throughout the year, continually weakening the strong colonies that could otherwise be making honey under good conditions.

Clearly there are fewer managed honey bee colonies in the USA today than there were in the 1950's-1970's, regardless of the methodologies utilized to estimate their numbers. The winter and annual losses continue at seemingly unsustainable rates. It is only through the hard work and dedication of the nation's beekeepers that we have been able to, so far, rebuild the national bee colony numbers every year.



Message from the ABF Vice President

by: Tim May
ABF Vice President

Tim May, ABF Vice President

I am writing this on a beautiful spring day. 70 degrees, sunshine, and calm, a perfect mid-May day in northern Illinois. This has not been the norm this spring. We experienced warmer than usual weather in early spring. Then on March 24 the temperature reached 80 degrees, 12 hours later it had dropped to the mid-30s. It rained for the next week with high temperatures barely into the 40s. I received calls from apple growers predicting the earliest bloom ever, but with the cold and rain the bloom was delayed almost a month.

Whatever happened to gradually warming temperatures throughout the spring. Now the bees must try to adapt to these extreme conditions. As if varroa, nosema, pesticides and shrinking habitat weren't enough to deal with. After experiencing large winter losses (around 60%) morale gets pretty low. I always remember what a wise old beekeeper (Bob Miller) once told me "The positive side about large losses is that you get to clean up and clean out all the bad equipment in your operation and start fresh in the spring." This is true if it doesn't happen on a regular basis.

We are approaching "Father's Day" which is a very important day in our industry. Most commercial beekeepers got into the business because of their father. There are many multi-generational operations across the country. Thanks to most of our fathers we are either "stuck" or "lucky" to be commercial beekeepers. We have many memories about our fathers teaching us the "rules" of beekeeping. Although as you know many things have changed over the past 30 years, the basics of beekeeping remain the same.

As a third-generation beekeeper, I could learn from both my father (Phil May) and grandfather (George May). One thing I distinctly remember is that the bees were much meaner while working with my grandfather. He was a little rougher while opening a hive. After opening two or three the whole yard was upset and buzzing around his net. On the other hand, my dad was great at keeping the bees calm even during poor weather conditions. He was also, and still being a super salesman. He set the groundwork for our customer base and taught me how to expand it. Our sales methods have changed over the years, but having a good relationship with your customers remains a must.

A couple of weeks ago I was talking with Fred Rossman from Moutrie, Georgia. We talked about how our fathers influenced us in the bee business. He had some good stories about his father. He told me about how his dad built a machine used to drill the large syrup can holes in their packages out of parts from an old pickup truck. They still use that drill today. Zac Browning has told stories about driving around to bee yards with his father and grandfather. They discussed how the landscape has changed over the generations and how they must change their business plan to adapt to these changes. Denny Best from Summerfield, Michigan told me how his 55-year-old father, Oren Best can always get more work done than the younger guys. "He doesn't seem to move that fast, but he always seems to get it done quicker".

Most multigenerational beekeeping families have stories about how they learned the bee business from their fathers. For good or bad they are the ones that influenced us and got us involved in this crazy industry.

(From Left to Right) Tim May, Phil May & Colin May

Now I am the father trying to teach my fourth-generation beekeeping son Colin the bee business. There is much more to teach and learn than in the past and many more problems to solve. As many of you fathers know this can be difficult, since they already know everything. Once you get past that problem things seem to work out. I must admit that I can be stubborn, as many old beekeepers are, but good communication is necessary for a successful family business.

To all the multigenerational beekeeping families "Happy Father's Day" and hope you have a successful season.

Meet Your ABF Board
Special Interest Group Leaders

by: Regina K. Robuck
ABF Executive Director

Directors Representing Commercial Beekeepers SIG

Mario Jakob

Mario Jakob is a third generation Florida beekeeper. He and his wife Shelly own and operate D & J Apiary, Inc. operating 3500 hives and mating nucs, a beekeeping supply store, and a mobile store they take to local club meetings across Florida. He is a lifetime member of the Florida State Beekeepers and is a member of Sioux Honey Association. Mario has been on the board of directors with ABF since 2012. His commitment to the industry and the ABF organization is evident in his volunteer efforts in many committees, including Membership & Marketing, Commercial SIG, Executive & others.

Dan Winter

Daniel W. Winter is a second-generation commercial beekeeper from Wolcott, New York but winter his hives in Moore Haven, Florida. Daniel (Dan) currently serves on the New York State Apiary Industry Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors for the American Beekeeping Federation and the Empire State Honey Producers Association (ESHPA). Dan also serves as an advisor to Cornell University's Honeybee Tech Team.

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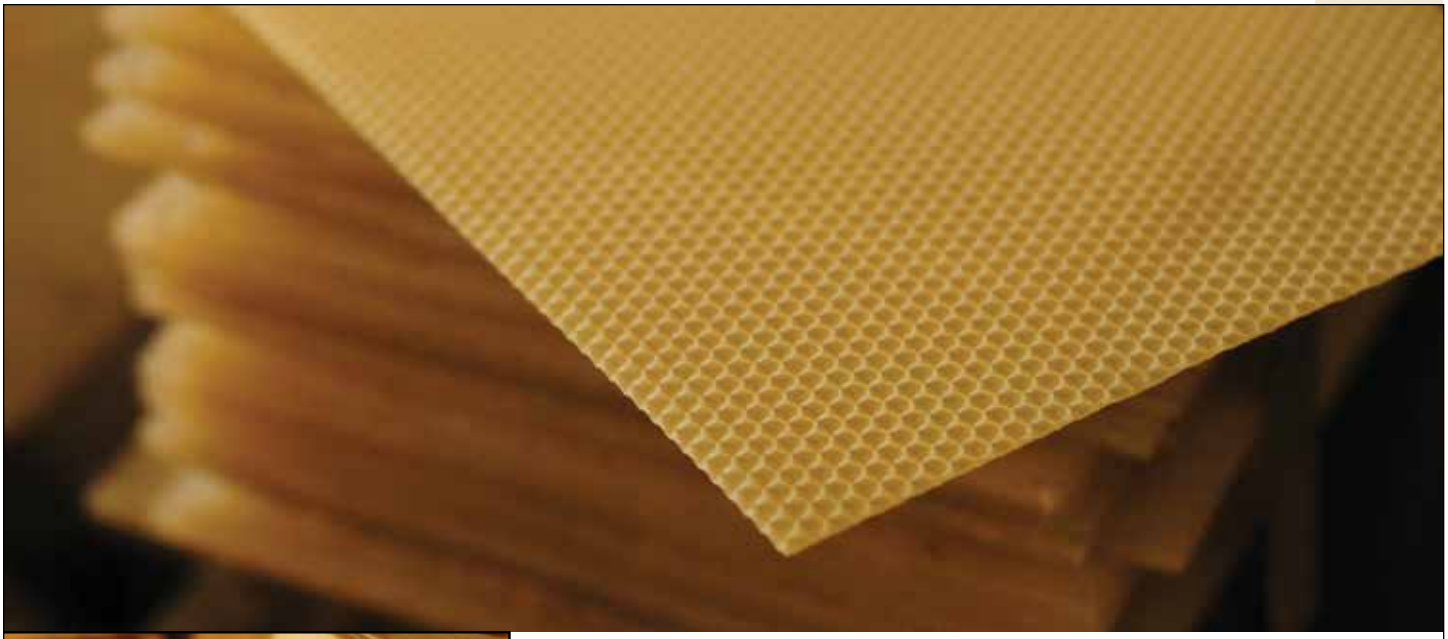
Emily Brown

Emily Brown is a passionate beekeeper, honey bee educator, and former owner of "AZ Queen Bee LLC," a bee removal and honey retail business in Scottsdale, Arizona. She is a former American Honey Queen, is on the Board of Directors for the American Beekeeping Federation, and is a Winner of the 2015 Good Food Awards for Pure Raw Honeycomb. She maintained hives throughout the Phoenix/Scottsdale area and in 2017 relocated to Annapolis, MD where she is starting a new beekeeping business.

Stephen Repasky

Stephen Repasky is a second-generation beekeeper living in Pittsburgh, PA. He is a certified Master Beekeeper through the Eastern Apicultural Society and is also the current President of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, President of Burgh Bees, and a member of the Board of Directors for the American Beekeeping Federation. He is also an active member of the PA Queen Improvement Project and is a member of the Penn State Center for Pollinator Research Advisory Board and the Pennsylvania State Apiary Advisory Board. Stephen keeps approximately 100 colonies and is involved in honey production, queen rearing and the selling of nucleus hives each summer to those interested in starting or expanding their own beekeeping adventure! He had his first book published by Wicwas Press in 2014 entitled " Swarm Essentials" and can be found teaching beekeeping classes in the Pittsburgh area and presenting lectures on a variety of beekeeping topics at local clubs and many regional and national conferences around the United States.



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Government Relations Report

by: Tim May
ABF Vice President

ABF President Gene Brandi and I will be headed to Washington D.C. during National Pollinator Week. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and The U.S. Department of the Interior have designated June 19-25, 2017 as "National Pollinator Week". The schedule of events has not been released as of now, but as in the past there will be multiple activities and programs going on in Washington during the week. Fran Boyd (Meyers and Associates) is currently scheduling meetings with Congressional staffers and members of the Pollinator Caucus for our visit. We will also meet with other agencies during the week.

On April 10th Senator John Thune (R-South Dakota) released legislative language to overhaul the USDA's conservation program. The language is part of many legislative proposals that will be released by members of Congress as they work on the Farm Bill to be completed by 2018.

Thune's proposal includes several changes to the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Maximum acreage administered by the CRP would increase to 30 million acres from the 24 million acres included in the 2014 farm bill. "Light grazing" and the planting of hay would also be allowed on CRP enrolled land according to Thune's proposal.

According to Thune's outline "This provision would provide greater flexibility for the use of land enrolled in CRP, reduce the cost of CRP and eliminate the implementation of emergency haying and grazing of CRP every year"

USDA conservation easement programs will also have changes. Land owners will be allowed to make modifications to land under conservation easement for water management, vegetative cover control, habitat management or other purposes.

Thune also proposed the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP). It would allow farmers to enroll their least productive acres

into the program for a rental payment and additional crop insurance assistance. This is a short-term program with three to five year options available to farmers.

Senator Thune will be releasing more proposals as work on the 2018 farm bill continues.

In April neonicotinoids were found in treated drinking water for the first time. Engineers and chemists from the University of Iowa and the U.S. Geological Survey reported traces of neonicotinoids in tap water from Iowa City as well as the University of Iowa campus. The concentrations of neonics ranged from .24 to 57.3 nanograms per liter. These concentration levels are considered very low, but regulators have yet to put a safe level of neonics allowed in drinking water.

ABF would like to thank everyone who donated to the legislative fund. To date we have collected over $11,000.00. If you would like to still donate, you can do so by going to our ABF website and under About ABF, click Donate to the ABF and Foundation. There has been an increasing number of issues that have been effecting the bee industry and your financial help is greatly appreciated.

Call for Papers/Presentations

75th Anniversary 2018 American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Tradeshow

Mark your calendars and save the date for ABF's Annual Conference & Tradeshow, January 9-13, 2018, at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. ABF will be celebrating its 75th diamond anniversary and we plan to celebrate in a magnificent way.

The Call for Presentations is now open. If you have important beekeeping research to share, a best practice in beekeeping or a proven track record with keeping the hives alive, we want to hear from you.

Please complete the Call for Presentations submission form and return to Tara Zeravsky at tzeravsky@meetingexpectations.com no later than July 28, 2017. The conference committee will review all submissions and you will be notified of your participation in early September. As a reminder, all presenters receive complimentary registration to the conference. All other expenses are the responsibility of the presenter.

Download the 2018 Call for Presentations Submission Form by visiting our website at www.abfnet.org

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Foundation Offering Five Graduate Student Scholarships

Submission Deadline: September 22, 2017

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. (The Foundation) is offering $2,000 scholarships to apiculture graduate students in 2018. This is the Foundation's eleventh year to award these scholarships.

The Foundation is a charitable research and education foundation affiliated with the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF). The Foundation has benefited from a number of generous gifts, including the estates of Glenn and Gertrude Overturf and Margaret and Victor Thompson, and continues to be sustained by ongoing gifts from ABF members and other supportive individuals.

The Foundation Trustees have chosen to use a portion of these gifts to offer graduate student scholarships to foster professional development for emerging apicultural scientists. The scholarships are available to all currently enrolled graduate students studying any aspect of honey bees, bee husbandry and/or the apicultural industry.

The purpose of the scholarships, in addition to providing modest financial support, is to allow the recipients to attend the 2018 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow at Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada on January 10-13, 2018. Each awardee will be given a $2,000 scholarship check; in addition, the Foundation will cover all lodging expenses and up to $750 in travel expenses. Graduate students enrolled in a university, either within the United States or internationally, are eligible to apply. The recipients will have an opportunity to meet other researchers and beekeepers and to present their research at the meeting. The Board of Trustees always looks forward to interacting with recipients and hearing about their research during the conference.

Applications for the scholarships will be accepted until September 22, 2017.

Criteria: Applicants should submit the following for consideration, as ***one collated PDF document titled with his or her name (“Applicantsname”.pdf)***:

1. A one-page cover letter from their university advisor outlining:
   - The student's progress toward their graduate degree (Master's or PhD)
   - Tentative graduation date
   - Any other information about the student
   - Any information about their research that would help "get to know" the student.
2. The student's curriculum vitae, or resume, not to exceed two pages.
3. A research proposal (not to exceed three pages), written by the graduate student. This proposal should:
   - Begin with an introduction to the research problem, followed by clear goals and objectives that state the research questions and hypotheses
   - Outline specific research experiments the student is conducting for their degree
   - Describe research the student is planning to perform, or the progress the student already has made toward that research
   - Clearly state how the research benefits bees, beekeepers, and/or the apicultural industry
   - Discuss the methods that will be used to answer their research questions, and the expected results or results to date
   - Be written for a general audience. The reviewers of the proposals are beekeepers that really want to understand the importance and implications of the research.

Recipients will be selected in late October 2017. Each chosen recipient will receive detailed information about the scholarship, travel arrangements and conference expectations in early November 2017.

Applications must be submitted as ***one PDF document electronically, including name, address, e-mail address and phone number***, to:

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc., e-mail address reginarobuck@abfnet.org: with the subject line: 2018 Foundation Scholarship Application.

If you need more information about the scholarship program, contact: Regina Robuck, Executive Director, American Beekeeping Federation and The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. at 404.760.2887 or reginarobuck@abfnet.org.

Foundation News

2017 National 4-H Essay Contest Winners Selected!

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees selected the 2017 4-H Essay contest winners on the topic **"How can MP3 (Managed Pollinator Protection Plan) more effectively protect honey bees from pesticide exposure"** Out of the sixteen submissions, the following papers were deemed the best of the best. They are as follows:

- *First Place: Miles Mathis (age 16) Kingsville, Texas*
- *Second Place: Daisy Burns, (age 17) New Hampshire*
- *Third Place: Grayson Barefoot (age 16) North Carolina*

In his first-place winning essay, Miles Mathis starts by stating "Bees are crucial to agriculture and feeding the world. Currently, 2% of our population is working hard to feed the other 98% of the entire world!" He received a cash award prize of $750.00 for his winning essay.

Daisy Burns essay is entitled "The Beginning of the End?" She writes "The decline in honey bee population has caused many to wonder, what would a bee-less future hold? Hopefully, Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3s) will help us to never find out. Daisy is the second-place winner and received a cash award of $500.00 for her essay.

Grayson Barefoot had the third-place winning essay. He starts his essay with "Five gallon buckets full of dead bees. That's what my grandfather said he had after his neighbor sprayed pesticides on a soybean farm. " His third-place essay earned him a $250.00 cash award.

This is just a taste of the winning essays. Please find all of the winning articles on our Foundation website at http://preservationofhoneybees.org/.

You can find all three winning essays on The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. main page.

State winners, who submitted their essay, were:

- Amaya DeLaCruz, ID (honorable mention)
- Skyler Turner, KY
- Rithanya Saravanan, VA
- Jessica Turner, AR
- Sarah Hammonds, LA
- Sophie Lucas, OH
- Ben Tellano, GA
- Samuel Park, NE
- Jeremy Rosauer, FL
- Madeline Moradi, OR
- Christina Gilbert, TN
- Kaitlyn Ashbrook, NM
- Savannah Reisinger, PA

Congratulations to all participants in our annual essay contest.

Bee Connected:
ABF Facebook Fan Page

by: Regina K. Robuck
ABF Executive Director

If you are a member of Facebook, you can be a fan of the ABF Facebook page. All you have to do is simply search Facebook for "American Beekeeping Federation" to access the page and click the "Like" button to become a fan.

Everyone is welcome. To date, we have over 22,000 fans and are reaching new fans each day.

If you have a Facebook fan page for your business or local beekeeping association, let us know and we'll add you to our lineup.

Please feel free to post your beekeeping photos on our page, write on our wall and keep sending your friends to our page. Stay tuned for ABF updates, fun facts, recipes and photos of our ABF members doing what they do best!

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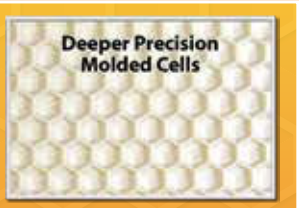

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2017 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest - First Place

by: Miles Mathis
Age 16 - Texas

"How can MP3 More Effectively Protect Honey Bees from Pesticide Exposure?"

Bees are crucial to agriculture and feeding the world. Currently, 2% of our population is working hard to feed the other 98% of the entire world! Bees pollinate over one-third of the world's crops (Spector, 2013). USDA (2015) states that 70 of the 100 crop species are pollinated by bees and provide 90% of the world's food. In addition, bees pollinate over $15 billion worth of crops in the United States. The issue is bee populations are declining. Elizabeth Grossman (2013) states that in the past 10 years, beekeepers in the United States and Europe have been reporting annual hive losses of 30 percent or higher. This is substantially more than is considered normal or sustainable. Additionally, both commercial and small-scale beekeepers reported by survey a 44% loss of their honey bee colonies in the United States. The survey also showed summer loss rates were close to winter loss rates. This is alarming information, as summer should be the best time for bees to flourish.

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is a major cause of the declining bee populations. CCD is a dead colony with no adult bees and some dead bee bodies. There is also a live queen and usually young bees and honey are still present. Pesticides such as neonicotinoids are also considered a threat to bee populations and have been linked to CCD. Pesticides can also kill pollinators for several days after the pesticide is used. Therefore, it is absolutely imperative for all parties involved to understand which pesticides to use, as well as when and how to use them.

Successful agriculture production is essential to feeding our growing world population, and bees are vital to successful agriculture production. Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) is designed to educate growers, landowners, farmers, beekeepers (commercial and hobbyist), pesticide users and applicators, pest control advisors, pest management professionals, general public, homeowners and gardeners on the best practices associated with pesticide use for agricultural purposes (Dwinell, 2016).

MP3 is not a mandate from the federal government, and there is no federal funding available. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that states complete a MP3 in order to protect against the decline of bees due to pesticide exposure. Completing a MP3 would ensure accurate bee information on pesticide labels. Colopy (2015) asserts, "Some labels state honey bees will not forage at less than 55 degrees Fahrenheit. That is incorrect. Honey bees and native pollinators are known to forage at temperatures as low as 42 degrees Fahrenheit." Many groups also believe that bees will not forage after 3:00 p.m., which is incorrect.

The Pollinator Stewardship Council suggests that MP3 would encourage stakeholders come together to learn from each other, and educate all citizens on the fact that without bee pollination many of the crops we rely on will not produce. MP3 "facilitators" will need to bring all groups together to listen to needs from each group, and help them agree on and develop effective plans of action. Once each state has an effective Managed Pollinator Protection Plan, the plan can be used by local and state government officials to develop valuable legislative policies that would require the best management practices to be utilized for pesticides to more effectively protect honey bees.

The Pollinator Stewardship organization website states that the current action of Texas for the MP3 is, "Pollinator protection plans are in discussion with appropriate agencies." This seemed to be the trend for most states. A few states, including Florida, Oregon, and North Dakota, have their MP3 plan developed and published. Dennis Gray with the Coastal Bend Bee Keepers Association was familiar with MP3, but stated, "It's doubtful whether MP3 will offer any real protection to honey bees from pesticide exposure." I interviewed five different farmers in the Coastal Bend area, as well as multiple beekeepers, and two Ag agents in my area, and unfortunately none of them had heard of the Managed Pollinator Protection Plan.

Dale Scott, TDA coordinator for Pesticide Product Registration and Evaluation laid out the core elements of the MP3 including: stake holder participation, methods to know if managed bees are near a treatment site, methods of communication between growers and beekeepers, best management practices to minimize acute risk of pesticide to bees, a defined plan for public outreach, process to review and modify the plan, and a mechanism to measure the effectiveness of the plan. Certainly, if these elements could successfully reach all the groups involved, MP3 would have a positive impact on protecting honey bees from pesticide exposure. Currently, according to the information I found while researching this topic, it doesn't seem that this potentially effective program has been marketed successfully.

In conclusion, I believe that MP3 has the potential to make a huge national impact on the protection of honey bees from pesticide exposure. However, while the goal of MP3 is to improve communication between groups, it does not seem that MP3 has been promoted effectively as many stakeholders are unfamiliar with the program. While commodity groups may not initially be interested in modifying pesticide use, it is important for the sustainability of agriculture that these groups come together and communicate with beekeepers to successfully implement the core elements of MP3. Ideally, a national campaign to unite commodity groups and educational sources such as the Extension Service would improve communications, and hopefully create buy-in from stakeholders to help develop individual state plans. Moving forward, our futures depend on the survival of bee populations. When implemented successfully among all states, MP3 could very effectively protect honey bees from pesticide exposure by initiating communication between major stakeholders and finding common ground that will secure the future of the honey bee and humans!

For references, please visit: *http://www. preservationofhoneybees.org*

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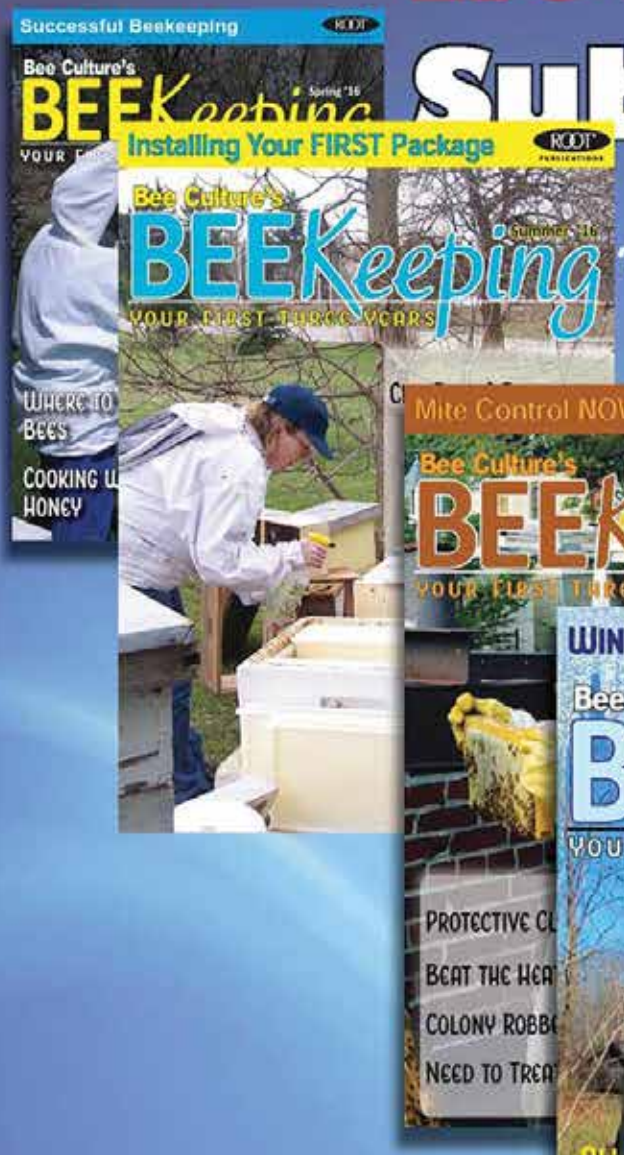

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Queen Committee Report

by: Anna Kettlewell
Honey Queen Program Chair

Spring has officially sprung, and the momentum of spring promotions will propel Queen Maia and Princess Hope into a summer of busy travel and work on our behalf.

Our summer schedule is jam packed with many exciting events. Should you still have a summer event at which you would like Maia or Hope attend, please contact me right away. Otherwise, please keep sending me your early and late autumn requests as we are beginning to book flights for the Queen and Princess through early September now. We still have room on the calendar for many events, and we'd love to have the Queens visit as many states as possible. As always, the Program strives to visit approximately 30 states each year, and the queens travel, typically, over 300 days collectively on our behalf annually. We are right on par to reach these goals with all your help!

Each Queen has aspirations to accomplish professional goals for the program each year. Consider these types of promotions when hosting Maia and Hope this year:

- **School presentations** – on every level (elementary school (Kindergarten (K-5) and older, please), middle school, high school, and college.
- **Civic and professional groups** – consider your city councils, town boards, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, and garden clubs.
- **Agriculturally-focused organizations** – local 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, Farm Bureau groups, Farm Union organization, and commodity groups are great organizations to speak about the interdependence of honeybees to different aspects of agriculture.
- **Media interviews** – local radio and television stations are our primary focus, but consider reaching out to local magazines, newspapers, podcasts, YouTube outlets, and even local newsletters and the like. Outlets where we can reach wide audiences are fantastic!

Be creative with the Queens' downtime when they are in your states. Looking into our personal networks is a great way to begin. What connections do your friends, family, and neighbors have? Maybe your neighbor is the president of the Rotary, which hosts speaker's weekly. Does your cousin have a child in school? Connect through them with the local schools. There are lots of ways to develop an effective promotion using your own network. You might be surprised how many people are willing to help you!

Please continue to send me your promotional requests for Queen Maia and Princess Hope as soon as possible! I am looking forward to finalizing their late spring and early summer promotions in these upcoming months! You can reach me at 414.545.5514 or *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com*.

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Milestones for March and April 2017

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American Honey Queen Report

by: Maia Jaycox
American Honey Queen

Maia Jaycox
American Honey Queen

Hello, beekeepers! I have had a great start to the year! Being a full-time student, it can be a little difficult finding time to travel, but the Queen program has found great ways to keep me busy, particularly during my spring break this year!

Princess Hope and I spent the first weekend of March together in Minneapolis to attend the University of Minnesota Beekeeping in Northern Climates Course for first and second year beekeepers. I learned different ways of keeping bees in colder climates and learned some new techniques that I could use when working with my own colonies. During a breakout session, Hope and I had a booth all about ABF and talked to attendees about the organization. Gary Reuter and Dr. Marla Spivak did an amazing job with the short course, and I thank them for inviting Hope and I to participate. I would like to thank the Gorham family for allowing Princess Hope and me to stay with them while we were attending the short course.

During my spring break I was travelled to Florida, Connecticut, and Wyoming, March 9-19. My first stop was Florida, March 9-11, to work and attend the Florida Bee College in Marineland, Florida. I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Jamie Ellis and many other great people. I talked to the attendees of the meeting about the American Beekeeping Federation and the Queen Program to encourage their membership in our organization and their use of its many programs. I also worked with their Junior Bee College, where the kids were very excited to learn all about honeybee. I told them about what I will be doing this year and how I got started in beekeeping. I would also like to thank Dr. Jamie Ellis and Mary Bammer for organizing the Bee College and making my trip possible.

After Florida, I headed to Connecticut March 12-17 for Ag Day at the Capitol and other events. Unfortunately, while I was there, there was a big snow storm, and we received over 18 inches of snow! Ag Day at the Capitol was postponed to a later date, so I couldn't attend.

In Connecticut, Queen Maia hosted a roundtable with high school agriculture students wanting to learn as much as possible about honey bees and how to work with them.

Nevertheless, I still promoted Connecticut honey and beekeeping through presentations. I spoke to four different agriscience classes, and at one of the schools they prepared an entire meal with every dish including honey in some way. I reached 100 students on how honeybees help our environment. One of the groups was in the process of getting a colony started at their school, I had a roundtable discussion with them so they could ask more in-depth questions on working with a colony. I would like to thank Ted and Becky Jones for hosting me while I stayed in Connecticut and cannot wait to head back there in June when there won't be a chance of snow.

My final stop on my trip was in Wyoming March 17-19. I worked at the Wyoming Bee College in Cheyenne. I served as an emcee for the event, introducing many speakers, such as Dr. James Tew. I also attended some of the sessions and had my first television interview in KGWN Channel 5. This station reached over 70,000 people, and my interview was valued at approximately $1,800. On my last day in Wyoming, I had the opportunity to work with a mini hive of bees and pet the bees as well! I send a big thank you to Catherine Wissner for hosting me for this event and making sure everything was running smoothly.

I spent most of April focusing on my studies at Iowa State University, but I did squeeze in time for a few presentations locally. I helped one of the women in my dorm building with a class project. She interviewed me about why honeybees are so important to us, and she will ultimately post this interview on YouTube. I also spoke to my sorority about what my position entails and what Hope and I do to bring awareness to the industry and the use of honey. They were very interested in all the things I will be doing over the year. There are different chapters of my sorority throughout the United States, and I hope that I can speak to more chapters throughout the states I visit, if the opportunity presents itself.

I write this as I head into finals week at my school. I am excited to start traveling more once my tests are done. I can't wait to promote beekeeping around the United States, and I will have many opportunities throughout Iowa, Texas and Illinois in the upcoming weeks! If you are interested in having Princess Hope or myself appear at your event, contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. Have a bee-utiful day!

American Honey Princess Report

by: Hope Pettibon
American Honey Princess

Hope Pettibon
American Honey Princess

Hello everyone. I hope y'all are doing well and so are your bees. My bees are doing very well. We put a new nuc in our apiary, and they have taken off and are ready for the summer! I have seen my bees on lots of herbs, trees, and bushes. You may have seen different videos on our Facebook pages of my bees on the flowers. I love to watch them gather the pollen and nectar from the different flowers around me!

On February 25-26, I spoke in two different schools outside San Antonio. I first spoke at His Hill College in Comfort, Texas, focusing on how to help them start the process of getting a beehive on their property. The college is on the top of a hill and has great foraging for honeybees. I spoke to 250 students at Danville Elementary School in Kerrville and had a newspaper interview with the Kerrville Daily Times. The reporter listened to my presentation, and she wrote a great article that was almost entirely based on my presentation! The newspaper reached about 10,000 people, and the publicity was valued at over $4,000.

Princess Hope spoke to college students outside San Antonio about placing a beehive on the campus.

I next traveled to Minnesota March 3-5 for the University of Minnesota's Beekeeping in Northern Climates course. This class taught me how beekeeping is done in the northern climates. I didn't realize how different beekeeping could be! I learned so much and had more questions than I could ask. I learned that honeybees need two supers full of honey to survive the winter. Our winters in Texas only last about three days! One day of the class, I spoke to approximately 280 attendees about the ABF and its programs. Many of them were thankful to hear about it and said they were going to become members. Thank you to all the University of Minnesota staff, particularly Dr. Marla Spivak and Gary Reuter, who made the classes go smoothly and to Willie and Marilyn Gorham for driving and hosting me and Queen Maia for this event.

From March 5-12, I visited Kentucky for Bee Friendly Frankfort. This is an event where all of Frankfort celebrates the honeybee! The restaurants serve food made with honey and serve mead. One of Frankfort's favorite restaurants, Buddy's Pizza, even hosted a bee hive hairdo contest. I helped judge for the tallest and most creative hairdo. I had the opportunity to talk to the State Commissioner of Agriculture about some different challenges that Kentucky beekeepers are facing, and he was willing to work with Tammy Horn, the apiary inspector to help the honeybees. He also wants to start a hive right outside of his office to teach new beekeepers and the public about honeybees. During my visit, I spoke in many schools and reached over 1,000 students. Additionally, I had three radio interviews in Frankfort and two television interviews in Lexington. In total, the value of this media publicity was over $6,000. I concluded the trip with presentations at the Bluegrass Beekeepers School, where I taught a class on how to install a bee friendly garden. Thank you to my host, Marsha Bezold, and to Tammy Horn for all their work in making my trip a success!

Princess Hope meets with Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture, Ryan Quarles, about the challenges facing Kentucky beekeepers.

On March 19, I participated in the McKinney Garden Show in McKinney, Texas. I always learn so much about all the plants, and these events are a great opportunity to speak to people about honeybees. I worked with the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association at their exhibit with an observation hive, and it was one of the most visited booths. About 8,500 people came through the show, many of whom stopped by to purchase local honey!

I next traveled to Houston March 23-27 for Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The Harris County Beekeepers Association had a great exhibit. One of the first booths you see in the main building is the bee booth. Inside, there was a man-size skep to display in the booth. People can walk into the skep where they will see an observation hive. This exhibit attracts people and almost everyone wants to know what's inside. The Harris County Beekeepers have one volunteer inside the skep who tells everyone all about the bees in the observation hive. Outside, there is a display that explains how

continued on page 22

American Honey Princess Report – cont. from page 21

beekeepers extract their honey, and attendees can see an extractor that holds two frames. The kids love spinning the extractor and watching it go around and around. The next part of the exhibit had an observation hive where people can ask more questions. This is where I spent most of the time if I was not explaining how to extract honey. Lastly, the exhibit had an empty bee hive and information on how to get started in beekeeping. Over 600,000 people visited the exhibit in the two days that I was there. I stayed with Ed and Elaine Michalik, who showed me great hospitality, as always!

Throughout April, I spoke in many schools throughout my local region. On April 10, I spoke at J.W. Hays Primary School in Whitesboro to over 500 students in two presentations. I had the opportunity to use a PowerPoint presentation for these groups, and included videos of the bee dance and of worker bees feeding the queen bee. The kids were so excited to see how the hive works! , April 12 and 18, I presented at Reuben Johnson Elementary School in McKinney to about 200 second and third graders. The kids asked great questions, such as how they can help the bees if they aren't beekeepers! I was so excited for that question! I told the kids to plant flowers and that honeybees like flowers that are open so that they can get to the pollen and nectar easily.

I also visited the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Club meeting on April 10. I have not seen them in almost a year, and I spoke about my travels and activities as American Honey Princess and shared some stories. Over 300 of the members participated in this meeting, and it was a joy to be back in their company. My final local event was on April 18, when I spoke to the McKinney City Council. I thought that they were introducing me at first, but then I realized that they were awarding me a proclamation for my accomplishments as a citizen of McKinney now working on a national level spokesperson for beekeeping. I was so honored and proud to be there representing ABF! The City Council proclaimed April 18, 2017 as Hope Pettibon Day in the City of McKinney. I spoke to the Council and audience about some of the issues facing Texas and United States beekeeping. After the meeting, the Mayor thanked me for speaking on the issues and told me that he was unaware that bees were so important – even in McKinney!

In my next article, you will read about my upcoming trips to Houston, Washington, Missouri, and California and some more local events. Until next time, have a wonderful next couple of months and have fun taking care of and watching your bees. Thank you all for your continued support as I represent honey and beekeeping throughout the United Sates. You can schedule a promotional event with Queen Maia or me by contacting Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com*. I would love to spend some time with you sharing about the honeybee.

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From the Auxiliary

by: Louise Johnson
ABF Auxiliary President

Flowers are blooming the birds have returned and bees are very busy. We have installed all the packages of bees And the bees wintered fairly well. Hoping everyone has a good year.

Take lots of pictures to enter in the photo contest. The contest will take place at the ABF Convention in Reno, Nevada.

Just a friendly reminder, if you have not paid your dues for 2017 please send payment to the Auxiliary Treasurer.

Shelly Jakob
17732 SE 283rd Ave.
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Praying all is well and the bees are doing GREAT.

Honey Recipe:

Fresh Fruit Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Cantaloupe
- 1 Pint Strawberries, halved
- 1 Pint Blueberries
- 1 Pineapple, cut into chunks
- 1/4 Cup Honey
- 2 TBSP Lemon Juice
- 2 TBSP Orange Juice
- 2 TBSP Light Rum
- 1 TBSP Honey

DIRECTIONS:

1. Remove seed from cantaloupe and form into balls with melon-baller cutter.
2. Place in large bowl with remaining fruit.
3. Combine remaining ingredients and pour over fruit.
4. Mix and refrigerate for several hours before serving.
5. Serve in hollowed out cantaloupe. Garnish with sprigs of mint and watercress (optional)

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