SAVE THE DATE

2023 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow
January 4–8, 2023

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## CONTENTS

### SPECIAL FEATURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Beekeeping in Canada</td>
<td>Paul Kozak, Samantha Muirhead, Gabrielle Claing, and Julie Ferland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### REGULAR FEATURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>From the ABF President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>From the ABF Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Government Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ask Hoopie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Advertisers’ Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Federation Marketplace</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Member Milestones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>State Delegates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Donations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pesticides Harmful to Bees and Other Beneficials</td>
<td>Dr. Dewey M. Caron, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Providing Member Education in the 21st Century</td>
<td>Michele Colopy, Executive Director, LEAD for Pollinators, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Producer Board Seat Open on the National Honey Board</td>
<td>National Honey Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### QUEEN’S CORNER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Queen Committee Report</td>
<td>Anna Kettlewell, Honey Queen Program Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>American Honey Queen Report</td>
<td>Lucy Winn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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for January–March 2022

5 YEARS
Barbara Bloetscher, Ohio
Kathleen Riley-Beck, Indiana
Ginny Skipper, Florida
Edward Colby, Colorado
David Grimme, Texas
Clayton Dickman, California
Karen O’Day, Hawaii
Michael O’Day, Hawaii
Dan McConnell, Colorado
Jackie Park-Burris, California
Craig Wilson, Texas
Ken Meyer, South Dakota
Larry Roth, Illinois
Craig Thomas, Alaska

10 YEARS
Bradley Bechthold, Iowa
Wade Janzen, Saskatchewan
Sheila Millet, Idaho
Jane Duke, Texas
Liam Feely, Washington

15 YEARS
Paul Hosticka, Washington
Jonathan Millet, Idaho
Bob Morlock, North Dakota
Daniel Whitney, Minnesota

20 YEARS
Joe Videtich, Michigan

25 YEARS
Wesley Langston, Florida

30 YEARS
Kurt Brandi, California
Rob Brandi, California

35 YEARS
Joan Gunter, North Dakota

40 YEARS
Hal Livingston, Alaska

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
JUNE 28 - JULY 1, 2022

The Heartland Apicultural Society’s Annual Conference will be held in the heart of the heartland at the University of Southern Indiana Conference Center in Evansville, Ind. on June 28–July 1, 2022.

Featured speakers include: Dr. Michael Smith, Auburn University; Dr. Brock Harpur, Purdue University; and Randy Oliver. See the conference website for details about the program agenda, speakers, registration information, hotel arrangements, vendors, and more: heartlandbees.org/has-2022-evansville-in/
KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

With just about every beekeeper coming and going from California, I would like to take a minute to talk about trucking. This year was certainly the toughest year I have had finding trucks. Maybe I'm picky, but I always try to find the most competent drivers.

This year, with diesel prices skyrocketing, several companies had mileage rates from $3 a mile upwards to $5 a mile, depending on experience. I was extremely lucky to get trucks for around $3.25 a mile, but many keepers I talked to were well above that. My bees travel from south central Florida to California’s Central Valley. The trip is 2,997 miles one way, so I wholeheartedly understand the expense involved in transport.

This all leads me up to an experience I had this year. Beekeepers must be very careful picking a logistic broker. I was extremely agitated when a large bee hauling company tried to get me to sign a waiver that basically released them from any legal liability while my bees were in their driver’s care. As I talked to the dispatcher, he seemed to understand why I would never sign such a document. If that company cannot trust the driver with my hives, then why should I trust them? We all know the worry involved when the bees are being transported that distance. It’s very stressful and a well-insured, responsible company is a must!

With this year’s experience under my belt, I now certainly pay much better attention when booking a truck. It’s not easy in the rush to get bees to California and then returned safely. I have come to the conclusion if the driver can respect my bees and the people around them, then they can haul my hives. I know several respected trucking companies and owner operators.

I urge beekeepers to try their best to know the drivers to help avoid any issues. I also recommend considering extra insurance coverage when hives are in transport. It’s a small price to pay for peace of mind.

Dan Winter
ABF President
American Beekeeping Federation
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Dear Friends,

Hopefully you’ve received the Legislative Update. If not, you’ll also find it in this latest issue.

As someone new to the world of politics, I find myself constantly thinking about how ABF can affect policy in Washington in a meaningful way. We are working with Congress and federal agencies to protect honey bees, improve habitat, and maintain or increase research dollars at bee labs. We will also strive to keep the current driving rules in place for bee hauling, as well as find ways to better address honey adulteration and misleading labels. If we are to defend honey, we need to identify cheaters and help bring them to justice. Country of origin labeling enforcement helps our “Read the Label” consumer information efforts. As an ABF member, you too have an important role to play in ensuring that beekeeping and beekeepers remain top of mind in the American legislature! By e-mailing a note (not a form letter) to your representatives, you’ll help us enlarge our influence footprint.

One thing I struggle with most in our nation’s capital is receiving lip service or being told “no.” I have come to realize that if we aren’t showing interest in other groups’ challenges, they won’t be interested in ours either. Taking the time to attend a trucking convention and voice our support for “hours of service regulations” is critical, since it’s an issue of importance for both of our industries.

Finally, although not part of our legislative efforts, I would like ABF to meet with top managers at United Parcel Service, the United States Post Office, and FedEx to express appreciation for their movement of mated queens. I would like to share some honey and almonds with them and help them understand the scope and need for reliable queen shipping in the United States.

We want to hear your concerns so we can continue to meet the needs of this industry. Please continue to stay in touch. And be sure to read Quarterly for all the latest news and updates!

Thanks,

Jay Miller
Vice President

“AS AN ABF MEMBER, YOU TOO HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ENSURING THAT BEEKEEPING AND BEEKEEPERS REMAIN TOP OF MIND IN THE AMERICAN LEGISLATURE!”
ASK HOOPIE

The American Beekeeping Federation and The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees felt it was important to continue the tradition Dr. Roger Hoopingarner began in educating beekeepers through the “Ask Hoopie” column. Anyone who knew “Hoopie” understood his passion for preserving the health of honey bees. His column was widely read in the *ABF Quarterly* magazine for many years. David Westervelt, co-chair of American Beekeepers Federation Research and Education Committees, retired chief apiarist for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Foundation for The Preservation Of Honey Bees Trustee, and vp of Bees Beyond Borders, has volunteered to carry on the column.

In David’s own words, “It is a great honor to be asked to continue the “Ask Hoopie” question and answer part of the *ABF Quarterly*. Roger was a great friend, mentor, educator and a legend in the beekeeping world! Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity.”

Q. I’m a backyard beekeeper with five years of keeping hives with the help of my husband and son. Every year at the same time, a problem arises as spring begins. We lose one to three queens and only manage five hives! We’ve contacted all the queen breeders trying to find replacements but with no luck. All of them say the same thing, or just don’t want to talk. Please help!

A. Welcome to one of the fastest growing “new” hobbies in the world! Backyard and sideline beekeeping has taken off like a wildfire with states enacting laws allowing beekeeping in residential backyards, cottage food laws, and people wanting to go green. You’re not the only beekeeper having a problem getting queens. Sideline beekeepers are having the same issue because like backyard beekeepers they need a smaller number of queens. They also aren’t on a set schedule like commercial beekeepers who have been using the same queen breeders for years and have a standing order. It’s not that the queen breeder doesn’t want your money. It’s because like the commercial beekeeper, the queen breeder is on a very tight schedule and is trying to fulfill their orders. With the growth of beekeepers, there has also been a huge growth in new bee clubs, associations and small-scale queen breeders interwoven into the local clubs. There has also been a huge increase in queen rearing classes for beginner and advanced beekeepers.

This is where I would try to locate local queens or queen cells that are a short drive away. You could also attend a class and start raising cells and queens and selling the extras to offset your cost. Check with your state department of agriculture, as they may have a list of registered queen breeders. They may also have laws and rules on queen rearing.

Q. Commercial beekeeping has been in my family for three generations. We’ve only used antibiotics one time over the last 10 years, which ended up in a test sample of honey. We never used any of the new products registered for treating American Foulbrood (AFB). We’ve seen an increase in what looks like brood breaking down like European Foulbrood (EFB), but not exactly EFB. We’ve been thinking about which antibiotic to use and how should we use it?

A. First, I’d like to say you and your family of beekeepers have been either the best or luckiest beekeepers in the world! AFB is a worldwide disease, and the oldest problem beekeepers have been dealing with that hasn’t changed in more than 2300 years! Greek philosopher and naturalist Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) mentioned using thyme oil to help resolve the symptoms. It took 2200 more years to separate out the AFB from EFB, and 50 years after that the first antibiotics for AFB and EFB were developed. The best treatment our forefathers had was the only true cure for AFB, fire! However, with the cost of beekeeping equipment, loss of bees, and possible quarantine by state officials, treatment with an antibiotic might be a good idea if what you have is treatable. First, I would share your problem with your state, local university, USDA, or even a private diagnostics service like Dave Wick’s BVS, Inc. There has been an increase in “snot brood,” which is not testing out as either of the two foulbroods, but some commercial beekeepers report gaining control using TM at label-recommended mix ratios and requeening the colony. Anything you can do to reduce the stress, remove the contagion, and increase the hygiene of your honey bees, the better off you’ll be! I can only recommend using registered legal products by the label. If they are not working, please contact your local authorities so they can investigate.

Submit your questions to “Ask Hoopie” at info@abfnet.org
Washington, D.C. "Buzz"

As I write this column both the House and Senate have left town for their two-week recess for Passover and Easter. The White House was able to secure the confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court to fill the seat of retiring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Jackson will replace retiring Justice Breyer at the end of the court’s current term. The vote was bipartisan 53-47 with three Republican senators voting in favor of Judge Jackson’s confirmation. This was a significant victory for the White House and given the current mood in Congress and the upcoming midterm elections, it may be the most significant legislative victory for the administration this session.

Funding the Government

Heading into early summer, most of Congress’ attention will be focused on funding the many programs and agencies of the federal government for fiscal year 2023. President Biden submitted his budget request to Congress early this year following his State of the Union address. The request is for $813 billion in defense and related spending and $831 billion in domestic programs and foreign aid spending. The Appropriations Committee chairs and ranking members are expected to meet following the recess to try and reach an agreement on the individual funding allocations for each House and Senate appropriations subcommittee.

Although specific funding levels have yet to be provided to the individual Appropriations subcommittees, they have actively begun to solicit requests from individual members of Congress and are beginning to hear from the administration through the congressional hearing process. ABF is actively engaged in making sure members understand the unique needs of the U.S. beekeeping industry and that the specific research needed for bee health and pollination is adequately funded for the fiscal year.

The House Committee on Appropriations is tentatively planning to take up fiscal year 2023 spending bills in June with possible House floor debate and action in July. It is expected that the individual House Appropriations subcommittee will “mark-up” their individual funding measures June 13-22 with the full Appropriation Committee mark-up June 22-30.

2023 Farm Bill

The process to write the next farm bill is underway. Both the House and Senate Agriculture committees have begun holding hearings this spring to gather the information from the administration and all interested organizations they will need to craft a new farm bill. The current farm bill we are operating under was enacted by Congress in 2018 and expires at the end of 2023. It is anticipated that the House and Senate Agriculture committees will begin to hold field hearings around the country to hear directly from producers beginning in early summer. ABF is actively working on finalizing our 2023 farm bill priorities and is in communication with other interested industry advocates to ensure we speak with one beekeeper policy voice.

USDA Announces the Formation of a New National Pollinator Subcommittee

This month the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the creation of a new subcommittee to be part of the National Agricultural Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board (NAREE). The board will advise the secretary of agriculture, all USDA science agencies and university partners on annual USDA strategic pollinator priorities and goals in addition to advising the secretary on pollinator health-related research efforts. This is something for which ABF and our industry partners have been advocating for a long time. The department began to accept nominations for consideration for appointment to the subcommittee in April. The secretary would like to name seven individuals to the new pollinator subcommittee. He is seeking individuals with diverse experience in pollinator health. The five major study areas are: status and trends (pollinator inventory and monitoring, economics, and social sciences); pests and pathogens (established and emerging); environmental stressors (weather stress, pesticide exposure, migratory and stocking density stress); forage, habitat; and, genetics/breeding. Selected candidates may serve 1–3-year terms with an anticipated starting date of July 2022.

ABF is working closely with industry partners to identify qualified individuals willing to serve and support their appointment to the subcommittee. Nominations are being accepted through the end of May.

With the conclusion of Easter and Passover, Congress will return to Washington and begin one of its busiest periods until Memorial Day. As mentioned, the primary focus of its attention will be deciding which of the many federal government programs it will fund and for how much. However, with the current domestic economic situation, the ongoing war in Ukraine and the upcoming midterm elections, it will not be business as usual. All will factor significantly into every action taken by Congress.
The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) works tirelessly in Washington, D.C. and throughout the U.S. to further legislative and regulatory priorities ABF membership has identified as important to our business. The best way for us to convey our message and concerns is with in-person visits to our legislatures and regulatory agencies, and our members writing to their representatives voicing our concerns.

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

We can make a positive impact through strong governmental relations to bring our thoughts and concerns to the appropriate parties. We need to convey our message when proposed legislation and laws will adversely affect beekeepers and their business.

We ask that you consider donating to the ABF Legislative Fund so we can continue voicing our concerns and have our collective voice heard.

>Please visit abfnet.org today and click the “donate” button!

**How ABF Protects the Beekeeping Industry**

**2022 PRIORITIES**

- Works with Congress to implement the Farm Bill provisions that sustain the beekeeping industry.
- Works with Congress to obtain appropriations to fully fund United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-ARS bee labs so vital research can continue into the many problems negatively impacting honey bee health.
- Stresses the need for USDA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other federal agencies to enhance efforts to improve honey bee health as recommended in “The National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators.”
- Works with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service and other public and private research institutions capable of providing meaningful research results for the beekeeping industry.
- Supports efforts to develop a commercial item description for honey by the USDA.
- Works with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to establish a mandatory and accurate country of origin labeling regulation.
- Urges the EPA to continue holding pesticide (crop protection) summits to further protect beneficial insects from exemptions in label use regulations.
- Works with government agencies, agriculture allies and other stakeholders to develop policies and programs to enhance, protect, expand, and provide access to suitable pollinator habitat.
- Work to safeguard honey bees as a top priority for all USDA conservation efforts and work for the expansion of acreage in the Conservation Reserve Program.
- Petitions the U.S. Department of Transportation to make current hours of service in livestock transportation regulations permanent.
- Encourages improved labeling laws that require non-deceptive wording and stricter country of origin labeling compliance.

As ABF members we can accomplish our legislative priorities if we all work together. It is important that we each contact our senators and representatives in Congress. They are the ones who work on the important appropriations related to our industry. We promise to keep you informed of legislative issues throughout the year. If we can better serve you as your ABF representatives, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Jay Miller,
Chair, ABF Legislative Committee
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Barkman Honey .............................................................. 19
Buzz’s Bees ................................................................. 21
Creampal ................................................................. 15
Cook & Beals .............................................................. 13
Dadant ................................................................. 13
JZs BZs ............................................................. 23
Kona Queen Hawaii .................................................. 7
Mann Lake .............................................................. Back Cover
Pierco ............................................................... 17
Wooten's Queens & Bees ........................................... 21

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Proverbs 16:24
Each state with at least one member of ABF is entitled to a state delegate for ABF. We hold a bi-monthly zoom call with information transfer and guest speakers.

The first delegates assembly meeting of 2022 was held via Zoom on March 8. We had 32 participants including several state treasurers. We introduced several delegates to our assembly:

Valerie Severson – California
Mark Haag – California
Russel Heitkam – California
Dan McConnell – Colorado
Bill Hesbach – Connecticut
Susan Acacio – Hawaii
Ana Heck – Michigan
Richard Dimanin – Michigan
Peggy Garnes – Ohio
Zale Maxwell – Ohio
Kerry Haskins – Oregon
Ashley Ralph – Texas
Benton Kastman – Texas
Charlie Mraz – Vermont

Megan Bryant – Washington
Ruthie Danielson – Washington
Jess Beyer – Wisconsin
James Hillemeier – Wisconsin

We also welcomed treasurers Rob Reneau and Courtney Bradley from New Mexico, Tammy Tappana from Missouri, Tom Rathbun from Ohio, Steve Winchell from Washington and Shelly Astle from Wisconsin.

We reviewed the state delegates assembly goals and reiterated we all need to assist in helping the assembly to achieve these goals:

1. Get 100% of states to have at least one state delegate
2. Get 85% of states to allowed number of delegates
3. Get five states to be platinum sponsors
4. Get at least 35 delegates to attend/participate in the bi-monthly calls
5. Increase gold, silver, bronze state sponsorship by 10%
6. Write an article in every quarterly magazine
7. Write an article for e-Buzz

Each state having ABF members may appoint a state delegate to serve as a liaison between ABF and its state association and local clubs. Each state delegate acts as a membership and legislative coordinator — communicating important membership and legislative information between ABF and the state and local clubs.

Let’s grow together! Don’t miss this opportunity to publicize your state meetings. Let us know if you want your state more involved with the membership and legislative happenings and consider becoming a state sponsor of the ABF.

After discussion about the goals and how we can achieve them, we opened the meeting to our guest speaker, Micheal North. Micheal is a native of Georgia and a CPA since 1992. His presentation was about financial literacy, including the role of board members pertaining to the financials and the review of financial statements. This opened a lively discussion from the attendees, including questions on software used by other states, and liability insurance and how much states carry.

Our remaining meetings are set for May 10, July 12, Sept. 13, and Nov. 8. If you are a state delegate, please add these dates to your calendar.

If you are a state delegate and were unable to attend the meeting but would like the presentation, or would like more information about the state delegates assembly, contact Debbie Seib at seibssoeverhoney@yahoo.com.

Regards,

Debbie Seib, Chairman
State Delegates Assembly
crème de la crème

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- Todd Jenkins, Michigan
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- Peter Schultz
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- Sherry Sherry
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Pesticides Harmful to Bees and Other Beneficials

by Dewey M. Caron, PhD

Steve Ellis, president of the Pollinator Stewardship Council (PSC), sent out an urgent request asking for information about possible instances of unusual brood behavior and significant brood loss following almond pollination this spring. Symptoms include brood emerging with their proboscis apparently paralyzed and protruding, and bees unable to eat plus failure of pupae to fully develop and dying before emergence. Damage would have most likely been seen immediately upon colony return from almonds.

PSC’s recent newsletter includes some photos to consult. Brood patterns show as spotty and conditions mimic fall bee Parasitic Mite Syndrome. The PSC is asking if you have noted these symptoms to contact them pollinatorstewardship.org/contact or email at info@pollinatorstewardship.org. PSC’s newly appointed Executive Director Jennifer Bryan-Goforth is trying to determine impact and cause.

If this latest incidence proves to be directly related to pesticides, it will simply be one more instance in a long history of harmful effects of pesticides on honey bees. Other beneficial insects are also negatively impacted by pesticides.

A review article in Frontiers in Environmental Science, developed at the Center for Biological Diversity in Corvallis, Ore., concluded that agricultural pesticides pose a grave threat to soil dwelling organisms, including but not limited to pollinators such as ground nesting bees (such as mining and bumble bees). It is the most comprehensive review of the impacts of agricultural pesticides on soil organisms, most of which we know little to nothing about. Although tiny, soil organisms are critical to healthy soil, planet biodiversity, and soil carbon sequestration. They represent a front line in our fight to reduce the effects of climate change.

The review perused studies on non-target invertebrates (insects and their close relatives) that have egg, larval, or immature development in the soil. The review encompassed 275 unique species or groups of soil organisms and 284 different pesticide active ingredients or unique mixtures of pesticides. The effects were most pronounced in soil used to grow corn or soybeans, the two most widely planted U.S. crops.

Dr. Tara Cornelisse, entomologist at the Center for Biological Diversity, said “71% of cases show that pesticides significantly harm soil invertebrates. Our results add to the evidence that pesticides are contributing to widespread declines of insects, like beneficial predaceous beetles and pollinators like our solitary bees. These troubling findings add to the urgency of reining in pesticide use to save biodiversity.”

Insecticides caused the most harm to ground beetles, ground nesting solitary bees, parasitic wasps, millipedes, centipedes, earthworms, and springtails. Herbicides and fungicides were especially detrimental to earthworms, nematodes, and springtails. And we know, our honey bees via direct contact, or by elimination of the flowering plants and contamination of ground nesting habitats, can secondarily be harmed along with the soil organisms.

The pesticide industry argues that the use of pesticides is “regenerative” or “climate-smart” agriculture. youtube.com/watch?v=JgJWnjnyux4 Dr. Kendra Klein, senior scientist at Friends of the Earth, Berkeley, Calif., another co-author of the study, counters, “This research shatters that notion and demonstrates that pesticide reduction must be a key part of combatting climate change in agriculture.”

A second recent research paper, published in Science from Germany’s Institute for Environmental Sciences, also challenges the claims of a decrease in the environmental impacts of pesticide use. Their review revealed that the pesticides most commonly used today, including neonicotinoids, are increasingly toxic to beneficial insects and other invertebrates. The authors state, “The toxicity of applied insecticides to aquatic invertebrates and pollinators has increased considerably, in sharp contrast to the applied amount, and this increase has been driven by highly toxic pyrethroids and neonicotinoids.”
Despite these known harmful effects, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not require soil organisms to be considered in any risk analysis for a pesticide registration. Of concern is that EPA is widely expected to confirm a proposed plan outlined last year that will extend the use of the neonicotinoids imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin, and dinotefuran on U.S. farmland for the next 15 years, even though the agency has noted “ecological risks of concern, particularly to pollinators and aquatic invertebrates.” [psu.edu/news/research/story/insecticides-becoming-more-toxic-honey-bee/

These recent reviews are powerful messages to sound the alarm for how pesticides harm pollinators, including honey bees. Studies on harmful effects of pesticides on pollinators, by themselves, have not been able to sway our regulators to effect change in pesticide registration. The two reviews showing growing evidence of the persistence of pesticides and their harmful effects on soil dwellers, plus the movement of pesticides in water, especially during heavy rain events when soil particles carrying pesticides are carried into our streams and rivers, might up the ante and lead more quickly to putting some brakes on pesticide usage. In the soil a pesticide can linger for years or decades, continuing to harm soil health and beneficials long after they are applied. While pollination might still be accomplished via the extensive splitting and movement of colonies of honey bees, the overall stress and poor health, revealed by heavy annual losses, is not sustainable.

Use of pesticides to control harmful pests will not likely change by farmers or by beekeepers for that matter. There are alternatives, but widespread adoption is slow. For example, farming practices such as cover cropping and composting build healthy soil ecosystems and reduce the need for pesticides in the first place.

For beekeepers, the use of stock more resistant (tolerant) to mites, spacing colonies further apart, avoiding mite bomb conditions in apiaries, and use of non-chemical approaches such as brood breaks and drone trapping, singly and even more so in combination, can reduce the need for putting a pesticide (acids, essential oils, synthetics) inside our colonies. The Honey Bee Health Coalition recently released a report: honeybeehalthcoalition.org/program/hive-management/Commercial_Beekeeping_062121 It is a case study of six commercial beekeepers and their management for avoiding repeated use of, and reliance on, non-registered pesticides for varroa.

ENDNOTES


See also civileats.com/2019/09/05/with-regenerative-agriculture-booming-the-question-of-pesticide-use-looms-large/
CROSS-POLLINATING ON-SITE AND ONLINE EDUCATION

Providing Member Education in the 21st Century

by Michele Colopy, Executive Director, LEAD for Pollinators, Inc.

The last few years provided an opportunity to assess the status quo in beekeeping education. The cancellation of events, along with adjusting to online activities, forced program leaders to listen to members, conference audiences, speakers, and vendors about how to provide education to the beekeeping and agricultural stakeholder community.

For the past two years, too many county and state beekeeping associations simply shut their doors and put the “business closed” sign on their websites and Facebook pages. They ignored their missions and the needs of their community in the hope life would “return to normal.”

Shutting down operations, whether a factory, a restaurant, or even an association that provides education and fellowship, takes care and planning to re-open. Ceasing to function makes “resuscitation” tenuous.

Like pollinators, leaders in bee clubs and state associations must listen to their members, and adapt to both environmental and member changes. Good leaders realize their associations’ mission is to ensure members want to be a part of their association, involved in club activities, give and receive education, and connect with others.

Leaders in county and state associations have to adapt to serve their members and meet their mission. Industry, restaurants, and member associations that adapted over the past two years created processes that allowed them to expand their services to their members and the community. Adaptation means listening to members and understanding how best to serve them. If you have been providing online educational speakers the past two years, it is easy enough for leaders, members, and the speaker to provide the presentation, since you already have the tools and members have adjusted to virtual meetings.

The new status quo for a sustainable member association will be one where bee clubs are fully serving the needs of all members and the community.

The new status quo is serving the members where they are — either at the member meeting venue or in their homes.

Early in 2020 LEAD for Pollinators planned a leadership conference that transitioned to a virtual conference featuring 24 speakers and serving individuals in 17 states and Canada. We received positive feedback from our speakers and audience. Participants were pleased with our transition to virtual. The event conveyed the education, we interacted with our audience, and everyone was safe. We paid our speakers, while reducing our costs by not having to pay travel, hotel, and meal expenses. Listening to your audience and your members is vital to serving them and your association’s mission.

Delivery of member association education has changed and must continue to evolve. Eventually local membership has heard every speaker in their area and perhaps even at the state level. Good speakers excite an audience to think, laugh, and utilize skills or information learned during a presentation. By changing the status quo — and accepting the status quo must change — bee club program committees now have access to national and international speakers online.

Even when we return to on-site events, audiences will demand quality and diversity in topics, speakers, and cost. First-rate speakers can be provided with ease via the internet without speakers having to travel and without member associations and conferences incurring speakers’ travel, hotel, and food costs. Through the internet — and by using video conferencing features such as chat and breakout rooms — speakers can continue to engage effectively with their audiences. (If your event has not paid speaker fees and travel costs, read “The Value of a Good Speaker” in the March 2021 American Bee Journal and start paying speakers!).

The return to large venues, conferences, and fairs will be slow for many groups. The full audience may not return for a while and member
association education leaders will have to re-evaluate how to meet their mission. To provide education, we must forego “the way we have always done it” and, instead, adapt like pollinators. Leaders must be open to new ways to communicate, share, and listen and learn from their members and each other.

Program committees must learn to plan and implement hybrid conferences and monthly member meetings. For those members who are unable to attend a meeting, they could still attend online, as long as we also make on-site meetings accessible online. By providing national and international speakers on-site and online, we can save travel costs and time not only for the speaker, but also meeting and event planners.

Speakers will be asking for the online option. Members will expect online options. Audiences will appreciate a national or international speaker “brought in” to an event online with breakout sessions for a more personalized educational experience. Audiences will also appreciate reduced travel costs through online event participation.

Event planners will reduce their costs and increase the value of their event with diverse speakers on-site and online, including diversity of interaction to meet the needs of this new speaker and audience experience.

It is a new education and event planning world. Help ensure your association provides a value-added experience your members find through your association. The new normal will have to offer both on-site and online education and member service access. Embrace it. Revive your local and state member association through fully serving the education of your members, and plan hybrid member education!

Michele Colopy is the executive director of LEAD for Pollinators, a non-profit providing leadership, education, action, and development to support the health and sustainability of honey bees, native pollinators, and the keepers of the ecosystem. Learn more at leadforpollinators.org
The current 10-member board includes three first handlers, three importers, three producers, one marketing cooperative representative, and their alternates. More information about the board is available on the NHB page of the USDA American Marketing Service (AMS) website or at honey.com/about-the-nhb/members.

The USDA AMS provides oversight of 22 boards, including the NHB, which are paid for by industry assessments. This oversight helps ensure fiscal accountability and program integrity.

USDA policy is that diversity of the boards, councils, and committees it oversees should reflect the diversity of their industries in terms of the experience of members, methods of production and distribution, marketing strategies, and other distinguishing factors, including, but not limited to, individuals from historically underserved communities who will bring different perspectives and ideas to the table. Throughout the full nomination process, the industry must conduct extensive outreach, paying particular attention to reaching underserved communities. It must also consider the diversity of the population served and the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the members to serve a diverse population.

Are you a beekeeper who is passionate about honey research and marketing? Have you thought of nominating yourself or another beekeeper to be a member of the National Honey Board (NHB)? The NHB is a research and marketing board whose mission is to increase consumption of honey in the U.S. NHB programs are designed to increase awareness and usage of honey by consumers, the food service industry, and food manufacturers. The mission and programs exist to support the beekeepers and handlers who sell their honey across the country.

To be nominated to join the NHB, producer members or alternates must produce a minimum of 50,000 pounds of honey in the U.S. annually and complete an application form: honey.com/nomination-form. You may also contact Margaret Lombard, CEO, NHB at (303) 776-2337 or margaret@nhb.org, or Katie Cook, marketing specialist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at (202) 617-4760 or katie.cook@usda.gov.

Nomination applications are due soon, and the term of service is three years. NHB staff does not have any role in selecting board members. Instead, board members are selected by trade organizations, the American Beekeeping Federation, and the American Honey Producers Association.

BEE A PART OF THE NATIONAL HONEY BOARD
The first quarter of 2022 is in the books, and we’ve had a fuller, more robust promotional schedule for our American Honey Queen than we’ve had in the last few years. Thank you to everyone and your renewed enthusiasm for hosting our national spokesperson at your events, passing along virtual presentation opportunities to the program, and providing your dates for your spring, summer, and fall events!

As you are aware, Queen Lucy is our only spokesperson in 2022, and the number of requests that have been made to the American Honey Queen Program has been extraordinarily high. We are so thrilled with everyone’s excitement, but, due to supply and demand this year, we may not be able to honor all requests. The Queen Committee is sifting through many requests — sometimes up to four events over the same weekend in our high promotional months — to determine which events we can have Lucy visit this year, and which ones will be on the top of our list for 2023. This wonderful demand for the Queen’s promotional work this year highlights why we traditionally have two national representatives for the ABF annually. Summer and fall opportunities are immense, and the American Honey Queen Committee recognized this early on in its formation.

Having an American Honey Queen and Princess each year allows for twice the number of promotions and promotional days for the program and allows us to accommodate most of your annual requests.

The American Honey Queen Committee is working with our present state programs and has been fielding many phone calls and email inquiries about starting new local or state Honey Queen programs. The American Honey Queen Committee is also researching ways to expand our candidate pool so we can continue to provide the ABF with quality representatives to carry forward our promotional and educational programing for years to come.

I thank you all for your continued support of the American Honey Queen Committee and your patience as we develop an incredibly busy and rewarding promotional schedule for American Honey Queen Lucy Winn this year. Please keep those promotional and presentation requests coming in by emailing me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or calling me at 414.545.5514.
BUSY AS A BEE
by Lucy Winn

The weather is warming up and the days are getting longer! I am excited for spring. Even through the chilly months, I have been very busy.

From Feb. 2-8, I traveled to Redgranite, Wis. for Honey Queen training, which consisted of presentations, product demonstrations, media interviews, reporting, image, government relations, sales techniques, industry briefings, crafting messages, and many other skills. With the help of Anna Kettlewell (1999 American Honey Queen), Louann Hausner (1996 American Honey Princess), Danielle Dale (2012 American Honey Princess), and many other past American Honey Queens, Princesses, and Queen Committee members, I created my key messages. I also toured Henry’s Honey Farm and learned more about commercial beekeeping and Wisconsin honey. Thank you very much to Dan and Gina Piechowski for having me. My training concluded with promotions! I gave three school presentations — two in person and one virtual — to more than 130 elementary school students, highlighting the types of bees in the hive and the importance of honey bee pollination in Wisconsin.

The rest of February and early March continued with several events in Pennsylvania. Back in Bethlehem on Feb. 17 and 19, I was interviewed by Bo Koltnow, an anchor for WFMZ-TV in the Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia area. The eight-minute interview was valued at $9,600. One day I was interviewed on my school’s campus on the importance of honey bees, as well as the American Honey Queen Program. On Feb. 19 I went to the WFMZ-TV studios for a live follow up on some of the topics covered.

Shortly after, on March 2, I traveled to central Pennsylvania to speak to the mayor and Borough Council of Carlisle about the importance of honey bees in the American and local economies. I was presented with the Mayoral Proclamation of Congratulations and Accomplishment for which I was incredibly honored. Thank you very much to Mayor Shultz, a bee enthusiast, for inviting me to speak to the council.

March 4-8 I joined the Harris County Beekeepers with support from Brazoria, Bend, and Montgomery County Beekeepers, as well as the Houston Beekeeping Associations at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is a month-long event highlighting Texas agriculture, western culture, and rodeo thrills. This year, 2,417,248 people attended the event, and 362,300 guests were present during my promotional days. At the honey bee exhibit, I met many Texas beekeepers, spoke to people about beekeeping and honey at the two observation hives, and explained the process of honey extraction using their hand crank model. Having beekeeping equipment such as an extractor present at the event made describing honey production an interactive experience. A huge thank you to my hosts, Rachel and Jim Orr, for the promotion. It was truly a pleasure to get to know them both!

Following Texas, on March 9 I presented to 150 students from John Wallace Middle School in Connecticut. I gave a presentation on the types of bees in the hive, honey production, and pollination. I was absolutely blown away by the intelligent and thoughtful questions from the students. For instance, a question about the possibility of honey robbing was brought up, opening a conversation about how hives interact with one another.

Following that I flew to Gainesville, Fla. for the Florida Bee College. The Florida Bee College was a wonderful event occurring on March 11-12, offering classes to new and experienced beekeepers alike. During the banquet I spoke about the American Beekeeping Federation and the benefits of joining. There was a table at the event that allowed me to distribute American Beekeeping Federation materials and membership forms. I strongly promoted the conference being held in Jacksonville, as most of the beekeepers there lived in Florida. The classes offered were diverse and appealed to all different types of beekeepers. While attending some of these classes, I learned a lot more about southern beekeeping practices, which differ greatly from the hive management I know from living in Pennsylvania. A true highlight was meeting young female beekeepers interested in the American Honey Queen Program and rekindling the Florida Honey Queen Program. The University of Florida Bee Lab puts on an amazing program. I so enjoyed meeting the more than 200 in attendance. Thank you for having me and to Amy Vu and Dr. Jamie Ellis for making my trip possible.

Also, during this time the Bluegrass Beekeeper School in Kentucky was occurring. I filmed a video about the American Honey Queen Program and the American Beekeeping Association to play at their event on March 12. Thanks to technology I was able to promote in two places at the same time! I am grateful for the opportunity from the Bluegrass Beekeepers to share at their event.
Queen Lucy spoke about the vital role of honey bees in agriculture Feb. 19 on WFMZ-69 News in Allentown, Pa.

The middle and end of March brought more school presentations. On March 17 I gave a presentation to 145 first and second graders at Glen Lake Elementary School in Minnetonka, Minn. I also had the pleasure of presenting to 12 members of a 4-H club from Bucks County, Pa. on March 24. I have more school presentations planned through May, and I am so excited to share the story of the honey bee with more students.

In between those promotions, on March 22, I was interviewed by YouTuber Frederick Dunn about my role as American Honey Queen. The link for the interview can be found on his YouTube channel, on fredsfinefowl.com, as well as the American Honey Queen Facebook page.

I had a wonderful winter and am looking forward to seeing what this spring brings, including my upcoming visits to California, Texas, and Kansas! I would love to help your organization and your beekeeping business through promotional events!

To arrange a promotion with me, contact American Honey Queen Program Committee Chair Anna Kettlewell at 414-545-5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.
BEEKEEPING IN CANADA
The First in a Series of Profiles

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Agriculture and Agri Food Canada (AAFC) estimated that beekeeping in Canada has a value of $2.57 billion per year to the agricultural sector in pollination value, increasing to $4 billion to $5.5 billion with the value of canola pollination in 2017. In general, most of Canada’s 773,182 colonies (69%) and the majority of honey production (79%) are in the prairies (AAFC 2019). Canada is a net exporter of honey, and importers prefer it for high quality and light, mellow flavor.

Pest and disease management has become a major part of beekeeping in Canada, with varroa mites and brood diseases being the main concerns. These pests and diseases are federally and provincially regulated, and colonies must be inspected before moving from one province to another, or in some cases before sales within provinces. Depending on the requirements of the province and the pest or disease, colonies must be free of disease or have pest levels below an established threshold before permission to move is allowed. Beekeepers may be required to manage, treat for pests or, in a worst-case scenario, destroy colonies to prevent widespread outbreaks, (e.g., American foulbrood) with some variation between provinces.

Regulators, researchers, and specialists, including the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA), work closely with beekeepers as individuals and as an industry to promote best management practices and integrated pest management, and to facilitate the registration and access of new legal methods of treatment for pests such as varroa. As a result, Canada has had a good track record of proactively identifying new strategies for pest control.

Another important partner is the national industry association, the Canadian Honey Council, which is in regular contact with CAPA on a variety of issues. These relationships are important for exchanging information on pests and diseases, challenges facing the industry, as well as identifying opportunities and potential for collaborations.

FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES
- Canadian Honey Council: honeycouncil.ca
- Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists: capabees.com
- Annual Colony Loss Reports: capabees.com/capa-statement-on-honey-bees
TREAT DURING THE SPRING SEASON FOR 45% HIGHER HONEY YIELDS*
*By treating for nosema, studies show 45% higher honey yields

ONLY REGISTERED TREATMENT FOR NOSEMA
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- Promotes healthy bee packages for thriving colonies
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Only Registered Approved Treatment for Nosema
Nosema is a fungal disease commonly found in honey bees

Honey bees consume nosema-causing spores from contaminated honeycomb or interactions with other bees. Once consumed, the spores begin to germinate in the bee’s mid-gut leaching the bee with nutrient loss and cell damage. The weakened bee is then more susceptible to disease and is also less productive.

One nosema spore can multiply into several million spores within one worker bee that can in turn, contaminate the hive and surrounding colonies.