e-Buzz

A monthly publication of the American Beekeeping Federation

September 2023

Vice President's Message

Dear Members,

My brother, John Miller, sent a short lamentation concerning the life of a beekeeper. I'd like to share just a few of his thoughts:

1. Burleigh County, ND; a farmer can participate in the CRP program by locking his farm into a ten-year contract for $19.00/acre/year or receive a cash lease for $110.00/acre/year. Is it a wonder we are in a flower shortage all over the U.S.?
2. The beekeeping industry has, for the past 35 years, exhausted itself on Varroa Destructor controls, leaving little room for decision-making errors. It seems the beekeeper's new normal is crisis. Crisis in pastures, crisis in parasites, crisis in pathogens, and potential devastation by Tropilaelaps Mercedesae.
3. Over 50% of Congressional members have not voted on a farm bill. A vast majority are from areas removed from farming, ranching, or beekeeping. They don't know the issues affecting us. They view the money spent on the Farm Bill as poorly used funding.

I'm not an advocate for the Government solving our problems. Often it can feel like government is the problem. We live in a time where the loudest voice gets heard and the quiet folks get ignored. What to do?

We plan to share some letters we need you to send to your elected officials to inform them on some very timely issues. We need their support for the HIVE Act sponsored by Representative Armstrong from North Dakota.
Honey has never received a definition from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This act will force honey to be defined, adding protection against synthetic honey. That type of sweetener is a syrup, not honey!

Please help us help the industry. Please schedule your visit to New Orleans for a great convention in January. Save the date!! Our goal is for it to be a life changing experience.

Best wishes for a great clean up and get those mites!

Jay Miller
Vice President

New Members

Welcome to the Colony!

We're buzzing with excitement to welcome these new ABF members since July:

Amara Ahcene	Tanya Cicerale	Ruth Harrigan	Ory Marrioneaux	Todd Smith
Joe Anding	Annette Colbert	Gareth Harris	Susan Martin	Monica Sperier
Arnie Angerman	Rachel Conner	Caroline Harris	Austin Mattison	Ed Sperier
Stacy Blomquist	Sherryanne De La Boise	Megan Hays	David Morris	Samantha Stevens
Jennifer Bothwell	Robert Dietrich	David Hocutt	Diane Nassar	Diane Thomas
Jocelyn Bressette	Ann Louise Dufort	Cynthia Holt	Ashton Nelson	Edward Tobin
Joshua Caldeira	Jessica Eckerlin	Charlie Hull	Kelly Parker	Robert Vollmer
Glenn Card (*President's Gold*)	David Elkner	Martha Keine	Jesse Popover	Susan Warner
Andrew Card (*President's Gold Sub*)	Frank Frantz	Earl Lamb	Bill Powell	Dianna Weaver
Wesley Card (*President's Gold Sub*)	Becky Gates	Mary LeBlanc	Halden Shane	Tom Wilk
Michelle Carron	Chad Gremillion	Joseph Lelinho	Thomas Shultz	
Dean Cerf	Mark Hancock	Jim Lifton	Melanie Smith	

Legislative Update

Hello from the nation's capital. Currently, we are just days away from a potential government shutdown with little, if any, progress toward finding a resolution and the clock continues to tick. Many Republican House members are expressing their frustration with the five members of their caucus who have been putting up barriers to any temporary funding to provide Congress a little more time to try and reach an agreed to year-long funding solution. The anxiety level on Capitol Hill is higher than normal and many members of Congress are searching for answers to the quickly approaching deadline of September 30th and openly expressing their frustration. Industry groups are searching for past agency memos and other information from previous shut downs to help inform their members what previous Administrations have done relative to industry needs that may be needed if we have a federal government shut down this Saturday. In addition to the government funding for the fiscal year ending at the end of September so does the current farm bill. House Agriculture chairman "GT" Thompson (R-PA) said this week while the farm bill expires September 30th, "the functional deadline" for the majority of the farm bill is December 31st and for crops tied to the next growing season. He said he wants to "avoid any significant disruption in programs that impact the American farmer". The Chairman believes that the Agriculture Committee will report a bi-partisan farm bill that the Congress will ultimately approve. The chairman expressed this week the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has been doing a good job of analyzing and scoring legislative proposals made by the committee and waiting for additional scores on farm bill programs as they continue to draft the legislation. The most recent estimate of the projected cost for the farm bill is $1.5 trillion (over 10 years). This would be the first farm bill scored over 1 trillion dollars.

The Senate Agriculture Committee has also been hard at work drafting their version of the next farm bill. Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stebenow (D-MI) expressed her concern this week about a possible government shutdown and the effect it may have on getting a farm bill to the President by year end. She said she believes the Senate may pass their version of the next farm bill ahead of the House. She said she is aiming towards December to pass a new bi-partisan farm bill in the Senate. Chairman Stabenow also expressed her concern of not having enough money to satisfy the many needs of the agricultural community particularly in the area of agricultural research and development. "U.S. agriculture needs a "moon shot" in agriculture research; I worry we don't have those resources to do that".

Historically all farm bills are very difficult pieces of legislation to pass, however this year, given a number of developing factors, it may be a more difficult task faced by the committee Agriculture chairmen and House and Senate leadership than in the past. One of the biggest looming factors is the estimated price tag and the current mood of Congress concerning federal spending and debit reduction. Spending estimates for the next farm bill are estimated at $1.5 trillion (over 10 years) the biggest farm bill ever. In this regard, food aid is the ball game. Approximately 80 percent of the farm bill spending is in food assistance/nutrition. This percentage was 76 percent in 2018. The battle of the next farm bill and its success will be determined in this arena. In the 1970's congressional leaders realized that if they were to be successful passing future farm bills, they would have to link nutrition assistance to future farm bills. This is still true today. Even with this linkage, farm bills are extremely difficult to pass Congress usually only by single digit vote margins. I am afraid this year's farm bill will be no different.

Fran Boyd, ABF Washington Representative

State Delegates Updates

Dan Winter was our guest speaker during our September meeting. He explained to the delegates on the call the work that ABF does to benefit beekeepers of all levels. He also shared the latest information on the legislative issues he has been working on. We were able to review the 2024 ABF Conference and Tradeshow schedule and announced that the Trade Show Expo is completely sold out. We discussed the latest on membership recruitment and several state delegates have requested items to be sent so they can setup an ABF table at their state meeting. Our last meeting of 2023 will be November 14th.

Our calls feature guest speakers, an open forum for discussion on what ABF is doing for beekeepers and our industry, as well as delegates sharing what is going on in their states.

Meet the Delegates

Russell Heitkam, from California, has been a member of the American Beekeeping Federation for over 20 years and the California delegate for 10 years. As a commercial beekeeper and a queen breeder, the ABF is a vital part to his success. He looks forward to seeing old friends and making new ones every year and can't wait to see everyone in New Orleans.

Russell has been keeping bees for over 40 years. He started as a kid helping his father, Pat, build a thriving business from nothing. Heitkam's run about 4,000 colonies for almond pollination, nuc and package production--but mostly concentrate on queen production. Mr. Heitkam has recently joined the board of directors of Project Apis m.

State Events

If you have a state event and would like to share it with ABF members, please send it to Debbie Seib at seibshoosierhoney@yahoo.com. Here are some upcoming state events:

October 7 Louisiana State Beekeepers and USDA Lab 27th Annual Field Day

October 7-8 Washington State Beekeepers Association Pacific Northwest Beekeeping Conference

October 13-14 Missouri State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference

October 13-14 Florida State Beekeepers Association Annual Meeting/Conference

October 14 Omaha Bee Club Fall Convention

October 27-28 The Beekeepers of Indiana Fall Conference and Workshops

October 27-28 Ohio State Beekeepers Conference

October 27-29 Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference

November 3-4 Wisconsin Honey Producers Association Fall Convention

November 3-4 Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Conference

November 4 Illinois State Beekeepers Association Annual Fall Meeting

November 10-11 Iowa Honey Producers Annual Conference & Tradeshow

November 11 Colorado Beekeepers Association Winter Meeting

November 14-16 California State Beekeepers Association Annual Conference

If you would like more information about ABF State Delegates Assembly or about state sponsorships, contact Debbie Seib at seibshoosierhoney@yahoo.com. If you are a State Delegate and would like ABF information to share at your event, send an email including estimated numbers to abfnet.org@gmail.com. Please give us three weeks notice.

Regards,
Debbie Seib, Chair
ABF State Delegates Assembly

ABF 2024 Conference and Trade Show

Exciting Conference News...

The 2024 American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow begins on Wednesday, January 10; however, we have scheduled some special tours on Monday and a "Dinner and a Show" on Tuesday, January 9th, 2024. We will show videos of commercial beekeepers in their apiaries. New Orleans is welcoming us with a buzz and we are looking forward to swapping stories of 2023 in the world of beekeeping. Come shop through the Vendor Expo. We are now sold out with over 50 vendors to buy from. Check out our website for the list of vendors. Contact them with any special orders and they'll bring it with them for on-site pickup.

We've lined up a special honey judging class which will include teaching how to judge honey and creating a set of rules for judging nationally. This will be followed by a three-hour workshop by Dr. Judy Wu Smart on "Science Policy and Advocacy Training for Beekeepers". The workshop will include both a lecture on how laws are passed, why it's important, and the step-by-step processes of meeting with legislative staffers or testifying. After the lecture, the attendees will break into small groups and practice the skills taught in the lecture.

Registration is now open with early bird registration rates through October 31, 2023. Pre-registration will close on December 31, 2023.

Want to learn, have fun and try something new? Then you need to be in New Orleans to hear the Jazz about Bees.

Education: We are back to a three track schedule. Each level of beekeeping will have a schedule with topics targeted for them. You are more than welcome to switch to other tracks. Friday will also include an entire day of 'Beginning Beekeeping Classes' taught by Bo Sterk and David Westervelt.

Fun: From our opening ceremonies to our Saturday tour of the Baton Rouge Bee Lab, you'll experience a fun-filled event. This year our offsite event will be at the House of Blues. Great food, Jake Laundry jazz band, magician, face painter and Mardi Gras revelers.

New: This year we are adding a Forklift certification on Friday with the program in both English and Spanish. The first part will be an online test and the attendees will need to cover the cost of the test.

See our website for the complete schedule, hotel information and tours: https://abfnet.org/2024-abf-conference-frame/

Janae Becher	William Gartner	Lenny Lacrosse	Tracy Pielemeier
Richard Benson	Elizabeth Griffis	Heidi Marusa	Lawrence Roth
Linda Burkett	Wilson Griffis	Gina Matury	John Schellenberger
Joshua Burns	Gary Haas	Delsey Maus	Peter Scott
Louise Clayton	Richard Hack	Jim Mcmahon	Bill Spurlin
Oliver Costello	Sondra Heiken	Paula Messer	Angela Steinhauer
Nicole Desoto	Joan Houston	Michael Meyer	Dylan Suttle
Paul Dietrich	Mark Johnson	David Miller	Fr. Benedict Whitwell
Conrad Dietzler	Nicky Jones	Maura O'Donnell	Jon Zawislak
Edward Ellis	James Kenney	Don Petry	

For questions, send an email to Debbie Seib at abfnet.org@gmail.com.

Honey Queen Buzz

I hope everyone had a successful and productive National Honey Month! September is an ideal time for the American Honey Queen and Princess to visit your state to promote the many uses for and varieties of honey. Queen Selena and Princess Allison traveled coast to coast promoting the fruits of our labors.

Fairs and festivals continued into September, with such events in Washington, Ohio, Iowa, California, and Massachusetts. The Program made a return to the Washington State Fair for the first time since the 2010's and made a first time visit to the Big E in Massachusetts. The Lithopolis Honey Fest in Ohio, Palo Cedro Honey Bee Festival, and Pioneer Spirit Day in Iowa rounded out the exciting fair schedule for this September. Just as in August, the Queens were busy with many different activities, from selling honey and teaching the public using observation hives to presenting on honey bees and demonstrating honey extraction.

September also means that school is back in session nationwide, and Selena and Allison returned to the classrooms again providing honey bee education to students at all age levels. Special experiences for the Queens included trips to Pennsylvania and North Carolina, where our spokespersons met up with former American Honey Queens who coordinated educational promotions for them. In Pennsylvania, in addition to celebrating National Honey Month, Allison promoted honey as part of Rosh Hashanah celebrations. An important part of the Jewish culture, honey is particularly important in this holiday. Consider such cultural events in your honey promotions. It's a great way to reach new markets for your business and spread the word about our industry and its criticality to our celebrations, health, and livelihoods.

Community educational presentations are also an important part of fairs and festivals. In California, to help promote the popular Palo Cedro Honey Bee Festival, Selena visited area schools in the days prior to the festival teaching children and teachers about the important queen breeders in the area and promoting attendance at the festival. Weekday school presentations are a great way to promote your exhibit at your area festival, fair, or National Honey Month presentation. Consider having the American Honey Queen or Princess promote your event or business through educational presentations.

Continue to keep up with Selena's and Allison's travels through the American Honey Queen Facebook Page. They love seeing your support, especially in these upcoming busy months. Contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to schedule a presentation or promotion with Selena and Allison through the end of 2023 or to discuss your 2024 events, including your 2024 National Honey Month events. Happy promoting!

National Honey Board®

National Honey Board and Top Chef Carla Hall Team Up to Help Save the Honey Bees

During National Honey Month

To make a big splash ahead of National Honey Month, the National Honey Board co-hosted a Honey Saves Hives Media Kitchen event alongside Chef Bee-FF Carla Hall in NYC in August. Followed by two cooking demonstrations from Chef Carla and a honey tasting flight, it was an informative night of bringing people together to make the connection between honey, bees and pollinator-friendly food! Take a look at some of the photos captured at the event here.

Chef Carla attended *Good Morning America* to share her two honey-centric mocktails for Robin Roberts' bachelorette party. Carla teased her excitement for National Honey Month in September and how she loves that honey is an all-natural wholesome sweetener for any beverage. Take a look at the segment here. If you're wanting to make Carla's mocktails yourself, check out the recipes here.

In addition, Chef Carla caught up with Tasting Table to share her favorite summer foods, cooking tips and her unique approach to incorporating honey into dishes. Check out the exclusive articles below:

Carla Hall's Favorite Summer Eats and Tips for Cooking with Honey - Exclusive Interview
The Foods Carla Hall Recommends You Cook Before Summer Ends - Exclusive

Images Credit: National Honey Board

RECIPE for September

Honey-Ginger Pork Stir-Fry

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 T soy sauce
- 2 tsp. cornstarch or tapioca starch
- 2 inches (about 2 tsp.) fresh ginger, grated
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 T grapeseed oil, or other neutral cooking oil
- 1 lb. pork tenderloin, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 lb. (about 2 cups) green beans, trimmed and cut in half
- Cooked brown rice for serving

DIRECTIONS:

In a small dish, combine the honey, soy sauce, cornstarch, ginger, and garlic. Set aside.

Add the oil to a large skillet or wok set over high heat. When hot, add the pork. Cook, stirring frequently, until browned on all sides, about 5 minutes. Push the pork to the sides of the pan; add the green beans to the center. Cook, stirring frequently, until the beans and pork are cook through, another 3-5 minutes.

Stir the sauce into the pan; cook 1 minute. Immediately remove from heat.

Serve over brown rice.

Photo and recipe courtesy of the National Honey Board. For more honey recipes, visit honey.com.

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