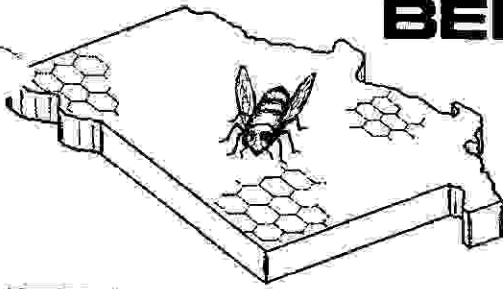


MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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VOLUME # 16

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
MARCH 1978

NUMBER 1

DEAR BEEKEEPING FRIENDS,

The Spring meeting of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association will be held Saturday, March 18, at the University of Missouri Agriculture Building located at Hitt and Rollins Streets in Columbia, Mo.

Registration will begin at 8:30 A.M. There is no registration fee. Our Program Chairman, Mr. Truman Hardin, has put together a very fine program. Dr. Richard Taylor, author of Joys of Beekeeping and other bee books, columnist for Gleanings in Bee Culture (Bee Talk), and Mr. Glen Gibson, Executive Secretary of the American Honey Producers, are the featured speakers. The attached agenda gives further details. Any one interested in beekeeping is invited to attend.

The Executive Board and those delegates appointed by their local associations are requested to attend a short business session on Friday evening, March 17. Other interested beekeepers are also welcome. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-East, located at Providence Road and I-70 in Columbia.

* * * * *

On February 24, Jay Tohtz, Jim Robins, Chester Crain, and Roger Nichols traveled to Jefferson City to testify before the Senate Agricultural Committee in support of our "Bee Law", Senate Bill # 683, being introduced by Senator Tinnin.

We learned that Representative Sam Doult had already introduced a similar bill, House Bill # 1070, and the House Agricultural Committee had passed favorably on it the previous evening.

* * * * *

1978 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE!

If you have not paid your 1978 dues, please do so through your local association or send them to the State Secretary, Chester Crain, 1216 W. 38th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64111.

A red check mark on your address label indicates that no dues have been received for over a year.

This will be the last letter sent to you unless your dues are paid. If there is an error in our records, please advise.

Last year a letter was published in our October Quarterly Newsletter from Mr. Jim Dotson, Apiculture Superintendent of the Missouri Department of Agriculture. In his letter, Mr. Dotson expressed the Agriculture Department's disappointment in the lack of interest shown in the Apiculture section of the Missouri State Fair.

Our State Fair is one of the better opportunities that we have available to us to promote beekeeping and the use of honey. With this in mind, an Executive Board meeting was held in Columbia, Mo. on Feb 25, to discuss the possibilities and probabilities of an all out effort to develop interest and member participation.

All members present at this meeting agreed that they and their local associations would contribute to this effort.

After much discussion of the sale of honey and exhibiting honey for judging, it was decided a chairman and committee of five would work out the details and report at the Spring meeting. Roger Nichols was appointed Committee Chairman and he asked Joe Maher and Don Taylor to serve as committee members.

Jay tohtz brought all in attendance up to date on the Bee Law as relayed in his message.

All interested in exhibiting honey in the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia or having questions concerning exhibition of honey should contact Mr. Joseph E. Francka, State Entomologist, Mo. Dept. of Agriculture, P. O. Box 630, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101, or Roger Nichols, 8754 E. 83rd St., Raytown, Mo. 64138. Both of us will be at the Spring meeting, March 18.

* * * * *

Notoriety of the African Bee is receiving another shot in the arm with the making of a new \$12 million Bee horror movie, The Swarm.

In the interest of beekeeping in general, each of us should learn as much about the Africanized Bee as we can in order to dispel some of the fears that grip the general public regarding bees in general. It seems that anytime an insect bites or stings a person the honeybee gets the blame.

Good public relations are especially timely now with swarm season right around the corner. We should all promote the use of honey and the honeybee.

* * * * *

At the Fall meeting the Missouri State Beekeepers Association adopted an emblem designed by Mr. Henry Broeckmann of Kirkwood, Mo. This emblem has been worked into a patch design. Various colors of these prints will be available for your approval prior to a supply of patches being made. Any one having other ideas for displaying the emblem should contact Charles Wills, 630 South Newton, Springfield, Missouri, 65806, Chairman of the Emblem Committee.

* * * * *

Be sure your local association has appointed their delegate to the State Executive Board Meeting, Friday evening, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-East, Providence Road and I-70 in Columbia. Many details need to be finalized at this meeting before they can be presented to the membership the next day.

* * * * *

Just received word that Mr. J. G. Kibbey of Jefferson City, Mo., 65101 passed away Sunday, March 8th. He was one of the original 4 who reactivated the state association and will be missed by all who have worked with him. Our sympathy to the family.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - Spring is just around the corner - the old saying goes, but as I sit here with six inches of snow on the ground and the temperature in the twenties, I wonder which corner.

As asked by you we have once again introduced our "Bee Law". Senator Timmin has introduced Senate Bill # 683, and Representative Doult has introduced House Bill # 1070. We did not ask Rep. Doult to do this but he felt that it was a good bill and should have every chance. So the following is a report on their progress.

The Senate Bill having been approved by the Agricultural Committee will be sent to the Senate floor to be discussed and voted on. We have sent a letter to each Senator asking for his or her help in our efforts and we have visited with more than half the Senators personally and answered their questions. The Senate Bill is the same as the Senate passed last year with the only change being in the definition of "Hive". Quote: "any domicile with removable frames for keeping bees." Senate Bill # 683 should come out on the floor and hopefully pass in the next week or two.

The House Bill has also been approved by the Agricultural Committee and is due to hit the floor of the House next Thursday on the preflection docket. The House Bill is essentially the same as the Senate Bill containing a definition of a hive. Quote: "any domicile for keeping bees with removable frames," and one additional section which basically covers the indemnity payment to beekeepers for the loss of bees due to disease. When we were delivering a letter to each Representative and discussing the bill we were left with the feeling the Representatives we talked to thought we had a good Bill they could support.

Now that you have read our report on our "Bee Law", we ask that each member sit down and call their Senator and write them a letter concerning these Bills. Whether it is for or against is your decision, but WRITE.

The Executive Committee will have a meeting concerning the State Fair display and the ups and downs, the ins and outs, and try to come up with a workable arrangement for everyone. We will try to finalize a game plan for the State Fair the night before the State meeting for those of you that would like to attend. Then at the meeting on Saturday our report will be presented to the membership for approval. The State Fair Honey display booth could well be the best way to get to know the public and talk to them about beekeeping and its importance. We may be able to also offset some of the bad publicity bees have been getting in the last year or two.

When I started this letter I promised myself it would be short and not boring. I failed on both counts. See you all at the Spring Meeting.

JAY TOHTZ

For those who may not be aware, the American Bee Journal is giving a 25% discount this year on all subscriptions and renewals sent through the bee association secretary. The current rates are \$4.88 for 1 year, \$9.00 for 2 years and \$12.38 for 3 years. These prices reflect the 25% discount.

Midwest Bee Disease and Pest Clinic will be held March 29 and 30 at the Hotel Forum Thirty, 700 E. Adams, Springfield, Illinois, 62701. Their telephone number is (217) 789-1530.

This seminar is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Apiary Inspectors of America. Very seldom is such an impressive panel of experts brought together for the benefit of the beekeeper.

Experts from Colleges and Bee Experimental Stations across the country will be there to speak on nearly every problem facing the beekeeper. For a complete agenda, consult your February issue (page 89) of the American Bee Journal.

* * * * *

HONEY PRODUCTION DECREASES IN 1977

U.S. honey production in 1977 totaled 176 million pounds, down 11% from a year earlier. Although colony numbers increased 1% to 4.3 million, yield per colony decreased to 40.9 pounds from 46.4 pounds in 1976. Missouri honey production totaled 5.6 million pounds, 1% above 1976. Producers had 29.9 million pounds of honey on hand for sale in the U.S. on Dec. 15, 1977. Missouri producers had 223,000 pounds for sale on Dec. 15. Average price per pound received 53¢ nationwide. Missouri producers received 64¢ per pound during the year, compared with 59.9¢ during 1976.

State	Colonies of Bees		Yield per Colony		Honey Production	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	thousands		pounds		thousands	
Illinois	45	44	42	40	1,890	1,760
Iowa	80	82	83	74	6,640	6,068
Kansas	50	52	52	46	2,600	2,392
Missouri	110	116	50	48	5,500	5,568
Nebraska	138	144	50	50	6,900	7,200
U.S.	4,278	4,315	46	41	198,699	176,309

The above information was taken from the USDA Agricultural Statistician report, Crop & Livestock Reporter, of January 26, 1978, published in Columbia, Mo.

* * * * *

The following letter was received from a fellow beekeeper. I am sure there are members in his area who could lend assistance in resolving his problems.

Dear Mr. Nichols;

We are small beekeepers with 10-15 hives, but we need a market for our honey. We have between 400-600 lbs. of strained from last fall. Do you know of any place we could sell bulk honey and/or take it to be extracted?

We are located about 125 miles south of St. Louis and would like a place close enough to afford to travel. We go out to Springfield area occassionally and if there was a bakery or some place in that area it would help.

Any information you may have, you may contact me by writing or phone. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gerald Massie
Ellington, Mo. 63638

Any worthwhile information, ideas, suggestions or questions you would like to see discussed in the quarterly newsletter, please let us know and we will be happy to consider them. To fully report bee happenings across the state, we need to hear from you.

* * * * *

Winter losses of bee colonies are running high. The mortality of over-wintered colonies can be attributed to several things including a very light fall honey flow. With all the rain we had in the early fall, the bees were not able to work the fall flowers for nectar. A lot of the nectar stored in the hive by the bees was probably consumed during Indian Summer. Thus, many colonies went into the winter short on stores.

The prolonged period of below freezing weather would not allow the winter cluster to move to new food sources within the hive. Reports from across the state indicate that many hobbyist beekeepers with one or two hives were completely wiped out. Larger apiaries suffered from 25-40% losses. In addition, the cold weather would not allow the bees to take their normal cleansing flights.

With the late spring we are having, if you have not examined your bees, I would strongly urge you to DO SO NOW!!! not tomorrow!!

There are many different methods of getting feed to starving bees. Some of these are described in the Question and Answer section of our letter.

* * * * *

QUESTIONS AND AT LEAST ONE ANSWER!

MY BEES ARE STARVED. HOW SHOULD I FEED?

Many beekeepers throughout the state have hungry bees and are having to feed. If you have some supers of honey that was not extracted place immediately above the bees, after scratching the cappings so they can readily get it. Later in the Spring if you want the supers cleaned of honey, remove them and place between the hive body and the bottom board. The bees will take the remaining honey up and will not leave it below the brood nest. If you have no supers of honey available, sugar sprinkled on the inner cover so the bees can get it, is an emergency measure. A better method would be a 50-50 mixture of sugar and water fed from an inverted jar through the inner cover hole. Make sure the perforations in the lid are quite small so the syrup will not run unto the frame top bars and bees. Place an empty hive body on top of the inner cover with the telescope cover on top of the additional hive body. Dry sugar or syrup is much better feed now instead of the hard candy type as the bees can move more into the brood nest for immediate use. The candy feed is better for stimulative feeding later in the spring.

SHOULD I BE ALARMED TO FIND MANY DEAD BEES IN FRONT OF MY HIVES?

No. Many bees that are old will perish during the winter and will be carried out in front of the hive. As long as you started the winter with a large cluster of bees and plenty of feed, they will survive and come through in good shape.

WHY DO BEES FLY OUT IN THE WINTER AND DROP IN THE SNOW?

This is usually noticed when snow is on the ground, however, that process goes on all winter. The old bees not wanting to die in

the hive, will fly from the hive and drop to the ground. If there is an excess of dead bees it could be poor stores, causing dysentery. Feeling the need for a cleansing flight, the bees are tempted to fly when the weather is unfavorable. Many become chilled and drop to the ground, unable to get back to the hive, causing the colony to dwindle. If the bees have proper protection, good stores and are healthy, you will not have to worry about those found on the snow. Most of those bees are old bees. If they did not fly out, they would perish in the hive anyway.

WHAT CAUSED BEES TO STARVE IN THE HIVE WITH HONEY STORED AROUND THEM?

If the honey is stored around them, they will not starve, but in an extended cold spell such as we have had, the bees will have eaten all the honey near them and due to the cold, can not move in the hive to where they can reach more honey, therefore they perish. This is not the case with a strong colony in most instances.

MY BEES DIED THIS WINTER AND NOW THE COMBS ARE MOLDY. WHAT CAN I DO?

Often times when a colony dies during the winter the combs become moldy. They will be filled with dead bees having their heads down in the bottom of the cells. The best way to get these combs cleaned is to exchange two or three of these combs for good ones in a strong colony. The strong colony will clean out the mold and dead bees and if the combs are uniform, they will be as good as new for the bees to raise brood in. If the hive does not have too much mold in it, sprinkle the brood comb with sugar water and put a swarm in it. The swarm will immediately clean up the comb and remove all the dead bees. If you do not sprinkle the comb before putting in the swarm, they might not stay in the hive, departing shortly after being hived. Do not attempt to wash or treat the comb in any way as the comb may be damaged and using some foreign substance, the bees may not accept it after the cleansing process.

IN EARLY SPRING I SEE MY BEES CARRYING OUT BROOD. WHAT IS THE CAUSE?

When you see your bees carrying out undeveloped brood in the spring most likely it is because they are starving and do not have enough food to survive and feed the brood. They will throw out the brood in order to save enough for their survival. Another reason might be that the queen had expanded her brood nest too far, a cold spell came and much of the brood was chilled, causing it to die. The bees will then take out that brood to clean up. If you see this going on, check for food storage, and if short, feed them some sugar syrup. You can keep the colony from perishing in this manner.

WILL BEES STARVE DURING THE SPRING?

Yes. The bees will be going along in good shape and the queen will lay many eggs and the brood pattern will expand greatly, then comes a cold spell and the bees have trouble gathering any nectar. Confined to the hive, feeding the brood and eating themselves, they often run out of stores and starve. About as many colonies are lost to starvation in April and May as are lost during the winter.

HOW CAN I KEEP MY SMOKER GOING?

If you have trouble with your smoker going out when you need it most in the bee yard, make a fuel that will not go out. Buy a 1 oz. bottle of saltpeter and stir into a gallon of water. Take cotton cloth and tear into square pieces. Soak in the mixture and hang out to dry. This fuel will not go out until burned up, and is easy to fire. It burns like a fuse on a firecracker. Store it where, if spontaneous combustion should fire it, it will do no damage..

DO QUEENS LAY EGGS THE YEAR AROUND?

No. The queens usually taper off the egg laying along in early November, then rest until the latter part of January or the first part of February when she will again start laying. The amount of eggs she then lays in the spring will be controlled by the amount of nectar gathering activities in the colony.

WHEN SHOULD I FEED SULFATHIAZOLE FOR DISEASE CONTROL?

Feed the bees any time they will take food, starting with early February while they are rearing brood and continue to do so until a couple of weeks before you put on the supers. Then do not feed again until after the supers are taken off in the fall. Feed sulfathiazole powder, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoonful to a gallon of syrup or honey. Feed TM 25 by mixing $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful to a gallon of syrup. To feed in patties, mix $\frac{1}{2}$ pound Crisco in 1 pound of sugar with a Tablespoon of sulfathiazole or 2 Tablespoons of TM 25, making the patties flat and placing on the top bars of the upper hive body. In feeding the syrup take the cover off, invert a jar over the hole in the inner cover with several holes punched in the cap about the size of a large pin, put a super on the top of the hive and cover with the outer cover. If very cold, place a cloth around the entrance of the inner cover to contain the heat of the hive.

WHY USE TERRAMYCIN INSTEAD OF SULFATHIAZOLE AND WHAT DOES TM25 INDICATE?

TM 25 means that the substance is terramycin and the strength is 25 units. There are about three different strengths of TM and the most commonly known as far as beekeepers are concerned are TM 10 and TM 25, meaning that one has to use about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as much of TM 10 as TM 25 for the same results. Lately only TM 25 seems to appear on the market. One reason for using TM is that it appears to do the same as sulfathiazole in American Foul Brood but has a much greater possibility with European Foul Brood therefore is used so that it will work on both. The objection to using TM is that it will deteriorate more readily and will not stand up when mixed with hot mixtures such as might be used in making some of the extended patties. Sulfathiazole will stand the heat and will not deteriorate for a considerable long time. Order a small amount and feed consistently and most likely you will not have any bee losses from disease.

WHEN IS IT SAFE TO OPEN HIVES FOR BROOD EXAMINATION IN THE SPRING?

If the temperature is up to 50 degrees Fahrenheit and there is little or no wind blowing, brood may be hastily examined, but should not be exposed for more than a few seconds. Just raise a frame enough to see brood and that there appears to be no disease, then put the frame back into position, examine for stores, then close the hive. If the temperature is around 65 degrees, then one could go down into the hive body and take out frames and examine all of them. This is not usually necessary. Just finding some brood, stores and a good size cluster of bees are about all one looks for until you start looking for queen cells at a later date. It is not a good idea to open the hive too often until the middle of May. A beginner may want to look into the hive every week during the summer. This might reduce the honey production some, but not to a great extent.

REMEMBER to attend the Spring Meeting and DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK DUMB QUESTIONS. THEY ARE EASIER TO HANDLE THAN DUMB MISTAKES!

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MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

MARCH 18, 1978 - COLUMBIA, MO.

A.M.

- 8:30-9:00 Registration - no fees
- 9:00-9:15 Meeting called to order - Pres. Jay Tohtz
- Welcome - Dr. Wayne Atkins - Assistant to the Vice-President of Missouri University and beekeeper
- 9:15-9:30 Dr. Flermoy Jones - Dept. of Entomology, University of Mo.
- 9:30-9:45 Introduction of state Officers & local assn. Presidents
- 9:45-10:00 Break
- 10:00-10:30 Working with Congress and Beekeeping experiences-Mr. Glen Gibson, Executive Secretary-American Honey Producers
- 10:30-10:45 Questions and Answers - Mr. Gibson
- 10:45-11:30 How to make sideline beekeeping pay - Dr. Richard Taylor
- 11:30-11:45 Questions and Answers - Dr. Taylor (Joys of Beekeeping) (More time during the afternoon session.)
- 11:45-1:00 LUNCH

P.M.

- 1:00-1:15 Promoting Missouri Honey - Mr. Joe Francka - St. Entomologist
- 1:15-2:00 President's Message and business session - Jay Tohtz
- 2:00-3:00 How to Raise Beautiful Comb Honey - Dr. Richard Taylor
- 3:00-3:30 Buzz Session - Dr. Taylor and Carl Kalthoff
- 3:30-4:00 Door Prizes and adjournment

EXECUTIVE BOARD-State Officers and delegates from local associations plus other interested beekeepers will meet at the Holiday Inn-East, located at Providence Road and I-70 in Columbia at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 17, for a business session.

IF ANY OF THE MISSOURI BEEKEEPERS HAVE AN INTERESTING PROJECT OR ARTICLE THEY HAVE FOUND SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR APIARY, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING IT TO THE STATE MEETING FOR DISPLAY. WE ARE SURE OTHER MEMBERS WILL BENEFIT FROM YOUR EXPERIENCES. TABLES WILL BE PROVIDED.