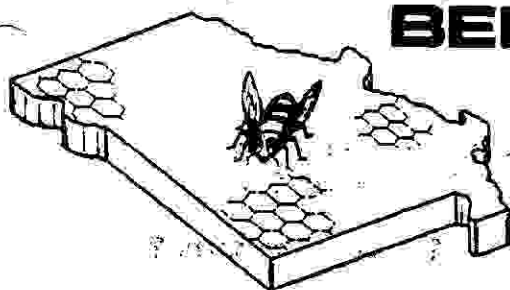


# MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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VOLUME # 18

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 4

MARCH 1980

DEAR BEEKEEPING FRIENDS,

The Missouri State Beekeepers' Association will hold its annual Spring meeting on Saturday, March 22, in Room 216 of the Agriculture Building at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The last two pages of this newsletter contain the outlined agenda of the meeting, information on the Friday evening executive board meeting, details on hotel reservations for Friday evening, and directions to the Agriculture Building from Highway 70 or #63. All of this information was placed on the last two pages so that you could remove this agenda and have all of the details that you need for your trip.

Remember all are invited to the Executive Board Meeting on Friday evening in Columbia!! Also when you make reservations at the HOLIDAY INN - LAST please be sure to mention that you are with the Missouri State Beekeepers'. The hotel requires that we have 25 reservations before we can use the meeting room free.

The Saturday morning meeting will begin with Mr. Charles Wills, our past President displaying and explaining part of his beautiful collection of honey plates and honey pots. His presentation is first on the agenda so as to allow you time to see his collection up close at the coffee break and at the beginning of the lunch recess.

Mr. Wills' presentation will be followed by a film "Flowers and Bees: a Springtime Story" rented from Syracuse University. As the explanation of the film states "Time-lapse photograph converts the story of spring into an art form. Nature moves and changes in a harmonic rhythm; flowers grow, open and close, turn to the sun, droop in the rain. Bees pollinate the flowers and return to their hives. A spring rainstorm disturbs the activity which begins again after the storm. A sensitive film that clearly reveals the interdependence between the insect world and the plants."

Following coffee break, Dr. Walter Rothenbuhler from Ohio State University will address the subject of "The Disappearing Disease". This disease has long plagued the puzzled entomologists and beekeepers. In the March 1975 newsletter an urgent call from the Department of Agriculture requested the

cooperation of Missouri beekeepers in providing information and observations on this phenomenon in their apiaries. The following questions which were asked in that newsletter could now be considered:

- 1) Have you had a dwindling case among your bees?
- 2) What symptoms did they have?
- 3) When did you notice this disease - 5 years ago - 10 years ago?
- 4) Do you find this problem worse in some years than in others?
- 5) What do you think causes the bees to disappear?
- 6) What is the weather condition when you observe this? Temperature? Humidity? Snow?
- 7) Did the colony recover when warm weather arrived?
- 8) Did they produce a crop of honey?
- 9) Do you think the crop yield was reduced due to this condition?
- 10) Do you think this condition is increasing or decreasing in your area?
- 11) How many colonies have you lost due to this condition in the last 5 years?
- 12) How many colonies were weakened due to this condition in the last 5 years?
- 13) If you lost a colony due to this condition, did you use the combs again?
- 14) Did you find the used combs caused the condition to remain with the next colony?

Dr. Rothenbuhler will describe the symptoms and effects of this disease on colonies. And he can tell us how far research has come in answering the questions posed 5 years ago.

The afternoon session will be comprised of two main speakers. Dr. Joseph Moffett, a research entomologist with the USDA since 1967, will speak on the "Reduction of Honeybee Losses From Insecticides". After ten years at the Tucson Bee Culture Laboratory, Dr. Moffett is presently at Oklahoma State University.

Insecticide poisoning has replaced disease as the number one epidemic plaguing both the commercial and the hobbyist beekeeper. And yet, although insecticides have been overused and abused, they do occupy a valid and an effective position in agriculture. It benefits all beekeepers to learn how to coexist with the farmer's or the backyard gardener's or the lawn-care neighbor's spray program.

Dr. Moffett has published more than 90 scientific and popular articles on subjects ranging from the effect of herbicides and insecticides on honey bees to the pollination of citrus and hybrid cotton to Nosema and American Foulbrood diseases to the flight of bees in greenhouses. He is himself a small farmer and beekeeper. His most recent publication is a book entitled Some Beekeepers and Associates.

The second afternoon speaker is the Reverend Clarence Feeney, a member of the Ozark Beekeepers' Association. His topic Honey Plants is one in which he is well-versed. His program will include a slide presentation

with a question and answer period. The Reverend Feeney presented a similar program to his local Springfield group to highly favorable "reviews". Not only did he have slides and samples of the honey plants but he also knew their Latin names. Reverend Feeney is an excellent speaker whose presentation promises to be both interesting and informative.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE STATE MEETING!!!

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In order that the Beekeeper members of the Association are informed of the financial status of the organization, the Treasurer gives this summary of dues paid (as of February 18th) in comparison to past complete years. Grouped alphabetically.

	1980	1979	1978		1980	1979	1978		1980	1979	1978
A	1	16	11	J	3	10	10	R	9	32	27
B	9	52	55	K	3	19	20	S	18	57	70
C	9	30	32	L	4	18	18	T	1	14	18
D	9	31	31	M	8	30	42	V	4	9	10
E	3	8	11	Mc	2	13	9	W	10	38	31
F	5	11	18	N	2	6	7	Y		5	5
G	4	27	33	O	2	12	11	Z	1	2	2
H	3	37	46	P	4	23	25	TOTAL	122	492	547
I	1	1	1	Q		2					

We realize it is early in the year and that many members have already paid their dues to the local association and it has not been forwarded to the Treasurer. This process takes time and effort. Since the dues are our most dependable source of income, your officers are requesting that everyone take care of this matter so that the Treasurer's report at the State meeting in March will look better.

Truman Hardin, Treasurer

\*\*\*\*\*

If you belong to a local association, pay your State dues to your local secretary along with your local dues. The secretary should forward your name and State dues to the State Treasurer. At present, the State dues is \$2.00.

If you do not belong to a local association, please send your State dues along with your name and complete address to the State Treasurer Truman Hardin, 1829 W. Washita, Springfield, Mo. 65807. At present, your state dues is \$3.00.

\*\*\*\*\*

TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PAID DUES SINCE DECEMBER 1978!!

You have until April 1, 1980 to pay 1980 dues. If we do not hear from you, you will not receive the second quarter newsletter and will be stricken from the membership roster.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PLANT INDUSTRIES DIVISION  
APIARY INSPECTION  
P.O. Box 630  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
Telephone (314) 751-2462 or 751-4310

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410 East Loren  
Springfield, Mo. 65807  
(417) 869-2133 (office)  
(417) 831-3659 (home)

With the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new brood-rearing cycle, an inspection by one of the above gentlemen may save your bees or increase your 1980 honey crop. If anything looks amiss in the brood chambers, don't hesitate to call these gentlemen.

Inspection fees for a requested inspection by a beekeeper of his apiary are set down in Title 2, Division 70, Chapter 15 of the Missouri Apiary Law Rules -

"The following fees shall be charged at the time of inspection:  
for the inspection of five (5) colonies or less, five dollars  
(\$5); for the inspection of each additional hive opened, fifty

cents (50¢); mileage from the inspector's official domicile to the apiary and return at the rate then authorized by the Commissioner of Administration. The initial five dollar (\$5) fee will be charged only once per inspection, regardless of the number of apiaries inspected. No fee will be charged for nonrequested inspections and reinspections of quarantined apiaries or individual colonies."

\* \* \* \* \*

#### A BARGAIN FOR YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. Elbert R. Jaycox of the College of Agriculture at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) publishes a monthly beekeeping report entitled Bees and Honey. This report is issued from September through May. It is professionally written and informative. For example, the February report included the topics "Brood Warming and Bee Management", "Using an Entrance Feeder a Better Way", "Homer Park - An Innovative Beekeeper", "Notes on Fruit and Bees - Think Spring", "Homesite Selection by Italian Honey Bee Swarms", and a "Potpourri" section. The January report included "1980 - A Great Year to Try Something New", "Repelling Ants", "Use Resmethrin Insecticide Only With Respect", "Reactions Between Honey and its Container", "New Problems With European Foulbrood in Australia", and more!

If you or your association is interested, please send your subscription for Bees and Honey to The Office of Agricultural Publications, 123 Mumford Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

The cost for an individual subscription for one year is \$4.00.

BUT if 25 or more subscriptions are sent to one address the cost per subscription for one year is \$1.10.

This is definitely a savings if one member of the association is willing to have the copies of each report come to his address for distribution at the monthly meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MISSOURI STATE FAIR - HONEY BOOTH

At the 1979 Fall State Meeting the motion was proposed, seconded, voted on and carried that we continue to have the Honey Booth at the State Fair. Health permitting, Mr. Joe Maher volunteered his services as coordinator for the first half of the Fair. Several local associations then volunteered personnel to help man the booth:

Midwestern	1 day	Ozarks	2 days
Boone Regional	1 day	Madison County	1 day
Two Rivers	2 days		

How about the rest of the associations and individuals?? This topic will be taken up at the business session.



Honey Production Up In 1979

U.S. honey production in 1979 totaled 237 million pounds, up 3 percent from the 1978 level of 230 million pounds. The number of colonies increased 2 percent to 4.15 million and yield per colony increased to 57.2 pounds from 56.5 in 1978. Missouri apiaries produced 7.94 million pounds of honey in 1979, 27 percent above the previous year.

In mid-December, producers reported 37.8 million pounds of honey on hand for sale, compared with stocks of 31.9 million pounds in 1978. Missouri stocks of honey totaled 397,000 pounds on December 15. Average price received per pound in 1979 was 59.0 cents Nationwide, while producers in Missouri averaged 90.9 cents per pound.

	Colonies of Bees		Yield per Colony	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	-thousands-		-pounds-	
Illinois	38	36	43	59
Iowa	86	83	53	75
Kansas	43	40	60	50
Missouri	112	124	56	64
Nebraska	127	130	65	40
U.S.	4,081	4,145	56.5	57.2

	Honey Production		Average Price per Pound	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	thousand pounds-		-cents-	
Illinois	1,634	2,124	67.9	76.7
Iowa	4,558	6,225	50.9	56.4
Kansas	2,580	2,000	58.4	67.2
Missouri	6,272	7,936	74.9	90.9
Nebraska	8,255	5,200	47.2	48.2
U.S.	230,483	237,268	54.5	59.0

\* \* \* \* \*

## LET IT BEE KNOWN . . .

The first section on BEEKEEPING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS has been taken from past issues of the newsletter written by Mr. J. Maher.

- 1) I NOTICED SEVERAL DRONES IN ONE COLONY DURING JANUARY. IS THIS UNUSUAL?

Generally, a good colony with a good queen, plenty of stores, and plenty of young bees will eliminate the drones in fall. If you find a colony with many drones, you possibly have a failing queen and in spring a weak colony. Plan to requeen about April 1 to 15.

- 2) I FOUND A COLONY IN EARLY SPRING WHICH HAD AN UPPER ENTRANCE (5/8 inch hole) AND THIS ENTRANCE WAS A RIM OF DARK FLAKY SUBSTANCE WHICH APPEARED TO BE WAX. WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THIS?

This was wax. If you had examined further you would have found that the colony was dead or extremely weak and that robbing was taking place. The bees, uncapping the honey in the hive, were carrying cappings on their feet and depositing some of it as they departed. In taking a casual glance at such a hive one would think that the colony was very active. In fact, all or most of the bees observed were robbers.

- 3) DURING EARLY SPRING, WHAT IS THE POWDERY SUBSTANCE ON THE BOTTOM BOARD? DOES THIS INDICATE ANYTHING WRONG IN THE COLONY?

This substance is the cappings from cells from which the bees have used the honey. Or it could be some wax or propolis on which they have chewed. This should cause no concern. However, it should be removed as soon as possible since it will gather moisture at the front of the hive. Also, this can be a spot where the wax moth can enter by crawling under the cappings and laying an egg. Mr. Maher states that he has seen this wax almost an inch deep on the bottom board and later in the summer be a crawling mass of wax moth larvae.

- 4) WILL BEES STARVE BEFORE THE SPRING?

Yes. The bees will be going along in good shape with the queen laying 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, they often run out of stores. About as many colonies are lost to starvation in April and May as are lost during the winter.

- 5) WHY DOES ONE SELDOM FIND BROOD IN A DEVELOPING COLONY IN THE SPRING WHEN THEY ARE OVERCOME BY STARVATION?

The bees will uncap the brood cells and eat the younger pupae and the stores in the cells. This leaves all cells practically empty.

6) WHEN MAY I EQUALIZE MY COLONIES AND WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE?

If you check your bees about April 1st and find them building up fast, move all the brood down into the lower brood chamber of a two-brood chamber operation. Put your empty combs over the brood nest. If you find all the bees and some brood in the upper hive body with the lower hive body empty, just reverse them. If you find a colony that has more than six frames of brood at April 1st, you had better take some of that brood from the colony and give it to a weaker colony. This will boost the weaker colony so that it will make a honey crop. You do not need more than 6 brood frames of brood in a colony as of April 1st. After removing the brood from the stronger colony, you may wish to feed it a bit and then it will be up to making a crop.

When removing brood from a strong colony, just take the brood frame from the hive, hold it over the hive and give it a good shake. This will dislodge the field bees. All that will be left on the frame are the young bees. CHECK TO BE SURE THAT THE QUEEN IS NOT ON THE FRAME. Then proceed to the weak colony and install the frame of brood next to the brood nest of the weak colony. Continue this operation until you have taken all of the frames from the strong colony that you want to move. Don't have more than 6 frames of brood in the other colony or it will then build up fast and create a swarming situation.

7) WHEN AND HOW DO I MAKE SPLITS OR DIVISIONS?

If you want to make some splits or divisions, the best time is between April 1 and 15. Order a queen and have her available. When the time comes, just remove one or two frames of brood from each colony that can spare it. Assemble all of those frames into one hive body. Four frames of brood is sufficient. No more than 6 frames of brood should be placed in the hive body. Give them 2 or 3 frames of honey and pollen and the balance as good foundation frames or drawn comb. Then introduce the queen and let alone for several days. When you notice that they are getting crowded in the brood nest, add a second hive body. You will have a good colony of bees which should produce honey the first year.

8) WILL DECOY HIVES CATCH SWARMS?

If you place a swarm box containing one or two frames of old combs in the fork of a tree or on top of a building usually 10 feet from the ground, you are apt to catch a swarm in the box. Do not use more than two combs in the box and space them about 2 or 3 inches apart so that the wax moth cannot destroy them so readily. Look at the combs occasionally to see if the moth is becoming active. If so, fumigate the combs and put them back in place.



Article from the December 16, 1979, issue of the Dallas News sent to Mr. Bill Garesche by George McBlair of Dallas, Texas.

Mexico Honey Producers Bitter  
Over 'Sweet' Chinese Exports  
by

Mexican honey exporters are bitter over Chinese efforts to muscle into their sweet annual market of \$31 million.

It's not just the volume of Chinese honey sales on world markets that concerns the Mexicans, for years the globe's largest exporters, Chinese prices are also unsettling them.

"The Chinese are virtually giving it away," says Dr. Alberto Barrera Reyes, head of the Mexican Agriculture Ministry's Apiary Development Department.

Mexico sells a ton of light amber honey to buyers in the United States, one of the world's largest markets, for U.S. \$1,030. China's prices are often 10 percent lower.

The biggest market of all is West Germany, which bought 38,805 metric tons of honey from all over the world between January and the end of August this year - a 10.7 percent jump over the same period in 1978.

While Mexico sold the West Germans 12,707 metric tons of that, 2.5 percent more than in 1978, the Chinese sold them 7,669 metric tons, an 81 percent increase over last year.

(U.S. imports from different parts of the world from January through August were 19,650 tons, compared with 22,069 in 1978. The United States and the Soviet Union are the world's biggest honey producers.)

"Mexico's still the largest exporter but the Chinese are catching up," says the purchasing manager of one of Mexico's major companies that buys and exports honey.

"Mexican producers complain to us that we're paying very low prices for their honey. But the Chinese are selling cheaply and bringing prices down. If Mexico had had a bumper crop this year and the Chinese had had one as well, the prices would really have dropped. If the Russians start exporting their honey, that'll be the end."

As it happens almost the whole of Mexico's end-of-year honey harvest in the highlands was lost because of freezing weather.

"When wild flowers like the acahual, which grows among the corn and which the bees settle on, were starting to bloom they were hit by ice," says Barrera Reyes.

In the state of Puebla, some people lost up to 75 percent of their expected crop," according to the purchasing agent.

"We're the biggest private Mexican exporter," says the bearded purchasing manager. "In a good year we have sold 8,000 tons of honey and earned \$120,000."

"It can be a very good business but the risks are tremendous," apparently both physically and economically.

He tells the story of a bee-keeper from the depths of Chiapas state, in Mexico's tropical southeast, who used to telephone the company daily demanding payment for a shipment of honey.

"One morning I walked into my office and there the bee-keeper was, waiting for me. I noticed he was wearing a large hand, un. He said he wouldn't leave until he got his money."

A satisfied bee-keeper left later that day with a check in his pocket.

Estimates as to how many bee-keepers there are in Mexico vary between 5,000 and 36,000. People connected with the business agree on one thing, however. They say Mexican honey is among the most varied and of the highest quality in the world. . . .

Because of its climate, Mexico produces honey most of the year. It may be water-white colored, white, extra light amber, light amber, amber, or dark amber.

As far as flavors are concerned, there are hundreds, with such exotic honeys as orange blossom, banana, coffee, peach, safflower, clover, and cactus.

Once a buyer discovers a bee-keeper who produces a rare honey, he protects that source as though a whole year's profits are at stake. Often they are. . . .

"We have a vessel at Veracruz available every 15 days to carry honey to Europe," says the buyer. "My job is to get between 300 and 600 tons of honey every two weeks."

"I just cannot pick up a telephone and say, 'I need 100 tons'. Customers want different types of honey. Some people want it sweeter than others. Different customers want specific percentages of moisture."

"I have to see whether the honey is available, how much and find out if it can be at the port at the right time. If it's a very special honey, say mezquite, it probably will take me five weeks to get an order together."

The purchasing agent complains about transportation difficulties in Mexico. "There are not enough trucks and the railway system is unreliable. It causes huge congestion at the port. I had about 100 tons of honey in a warehouse at Veracruz once. Some pipes were blocking the entrance and I couldn't get the honey out."

"The ship left, leaving about 100 tons of honey, worth about \$120,000, just sitting there. This sort of thing happens all the time."

"Once we had a ship in on Mother's Day. Everybody got so stewed we couldn't get anybody to do the job of getting the honey on the ship."

\* \* \* \* \*

ORIGIN OF THE WORD "Honeymoon" Submitted by Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Kliethermes

"Today a honeymoon is no longer a time for a couple to get to know each other better, but is rather a time for a much-deserved rest after all of the hectic, draining pre-wedding activities. In European countries, couples would drink a special kind of honey wine every night for a month after the ceremony, hence the term "moon of honey", or honeymoon."

From a florist's book on wedding arrangements and etiquette.

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MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS' SPRING MEETING  
University of Missouri Agriculture Building  
Saturday, March 22, 1980

- A.M.
- 8:30 - 9:00 Registration - no fee
- 9:00 - 9:05 Meeting called to order by President Robins
- 9:05 - 9:10 Invocation by the Reverend Clarence Feeney
- 9:10 - 9:15 Welcome by Dr. Flernay Jones
- 9:15 - 9:45 Display and presentation on honey pots and honey plates by Dr. Charles Wilds
- 9:45 - 10:05 Film - "Flowers and Bees: A Springtime Story"
- 10:05 - 10:30 Coffee and donuts (A chance to look at the display if unclosed.)
- 10:30 - 10:45 Introduction of State and Local Officers
- 10:45 - 11:45 Dr. Walter Rothmuhler of Ohio State University speaking on "The Disappearing Disease".
- 11:45 - 1:00 Lunch (On your own. Time to visit and talk bees.)
- 1:00 - 2:00 Dr. Joseph Mifflett from Cushing, Oklahoma, speaking on "The Reduction of Honeybee Losses From Insecticides"
- 2:00 - 3:00 Reverend Clarence Feeney from the Ozarks Beekeepers' Association speaking on "Honey Plants"
- 3:00 - 3:45 President's message and the business session.
- 3:45 - 4:00 Door prizes and adjournment.

Directions to the Agriculture Building are given on the next page.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - State officers and delegates from the local Associations plus other interested beekeepers will meet at the HOLIDAY INN - EAST, Prevalence Road and I-70 in Columbia on Friday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m. for a business session. The phone number of the HOLIDAY INN is 314-449-2491. Please make your reservations early and please mention that you are with the Missouri State Beekeepers so that we will receive the credit for your reservation so that we may obtain the meeting room free.

Beekeepers with a special project, gadget, or procedure which you have found helpful in your own apiary, please bring it for display and discussion.

To get to the Agriculture Building from

I-70 East of Columbia

Leave I-70 (left-hand lane) and turn into the Business Loop 70. Turn left at Tandy Avenue (first set of stop lights) and follow this road south to the second set of stop lights. Turn right on Rollins Street and proceed to stop sign at Hitt Street. Turn right and park in Visitors Parking Lot  $\frac{1}{2}$  block up Hitt Street. Agriculture Building is across the street.

I-70 West of Columbia

Leave I-70 and turn onto #740 Bi-Pass. Follow #740 approximately 5 miles to the junction of Providence Road. The football stadium will be ahead and on your right. At Providence Road turn left and go approximately 2 blocks to Rollins Street. Turn right on Rollins and follow it to Hitt Street. Turn left about a  $\frac{1}{2}$  block to the lot.

From #63 South

Turn left onto Stadium Road and proceed to College Avenue. Turn right on College to the first stop light. Turn left on Rollins Street and turn right on Hitt Street.

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSN.  
619 Mendelsohn Drive  
Kirkwood, Missouri 63122

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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