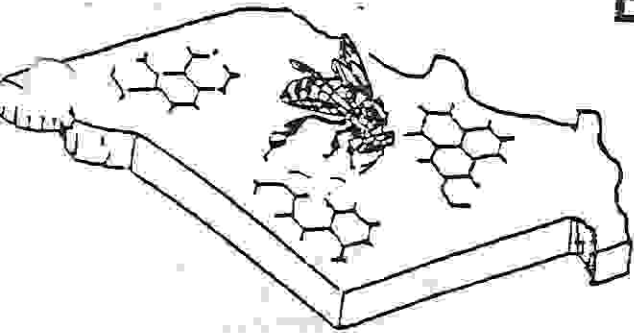


Summer 1994?

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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Dear Beekeepers!

THE FALL MEETING WILL SOON BE HERE. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SINCE WE WILL BE VOTING ON THESE ISSUES AT OUR BUSINESS MEETING.

Neal Bergman is the chairman of the nominations committee. He invites any member to place their name or the name of another member into nomination at the Fall MSBA Meeting. These positions are open to additional nominations: Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Program Chairman, and two Board members. Please contact Neal prior to the Board Meeting.

The MSBA By-Laws need to be amended to put into effect the dues change we approved at the March, 1994, business meeting.

ARTICLE 4; DUES; SECTION 1

The dues shall be ten dollars per calendar year. Dues paid at the Annual Meeting each Fall shall be considered as dues for the next succeeding calendar year. Dues will not be pro-rated for a previous member.

Please read the attached policy statement prepared by the MSBA's committee on Africanized Honey Bees. The committee members included Joe Francka, Mike Brown, Joe Yungwirth, Jim Thaxter, Ray Nabors, and Roger Nichols. We will discuss the policy statement and then take a vote, so please read it prior to the meeting.

See you all soon. It might be a long way to travel but we really have a good program. Bring items for the Queen raffle. We also have invited beekeepers from Arkansas, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Let's make sure we have enough Missouri members so we are not out-numbered.

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
POLICY STATEMENT
Africanized Honey Bees

The apiculture industry in Missouri includes a diverse group of commercial and noncommercial operators, providing pollination services to agricultural producers; and producing honey, beeswax, and other hive products for Missouri consumers. Beekeepers in 1992 assisted apple growers in producing a \$7.5 million crop through pollination services. Many other crops require or benefit from bee pollination, accounting for millions of dollars in agricultural production. Honey production in Missouri during 1992 was 1,925,000 pounds valued at \$1,232,000.

Africanized honey bees, Apis mellifera scutellata, sometimes known as "Killer Bees", represent a serious threat to the beekeeping industry specifically, and to Missouri citizens generally. During their 40 year journey from South America, through Central America and Mexico, and recently into Texas, the African bees experienced very little dilution of their aggressive traits. Crossbreeding with the more docile European honey bee population already established in the Americas, has not helped despite the programs of trapping and drone saturation that were undertaken in Mexico.

The Africanized honey bee has retained much of its highly-defensive behavior in spite of this cross-breeding. The trait makes the bees more difficult to manage, for numerous reasons.

The Missouri State Beekeepers Association recognizes that management of Africanized honey bees is a problem because of:

Extreme defensiveness - multiple stinging incidents - hives must be located away from people and livestock - very difficult to do in Missouri.

Excessive swarming --- 10-15 swarms per year.

Reduced pollinating efficiency.

Increased liability to beekeepers.

Members of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association also recognize that the state beekeepers neither want nor need Africanized honey bees disrupting their production of honey and pollination of agricultural crops, native plants and wild flowers in this state. The Missouri State Beekeepers Association further

recognizes that to protect the apiculture industry, and to help protect other agricultural operations and the general public; the following management strategies should be implemented now, in preparation for the eventual arrival of Africanized honey bees:

I. Education

A. Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri State Beekeepers Association, Missouri University Extension, USDA-Plant Protection and Quarantine, et. al., will be responsible for providing educational materials to:

1. General Public (particularly urban)
2. Public health officials
3. Elected Public Officials (local and state)
4. Media
5. Public land use managers
6. Elementary teachers

II. Apicultural Training

A. The Missouri State Beekeepers Association, the State Entomologist and University of Missouri Extension should cooperate in a training program for the following:

1. Fire Department Personnel -- For removal of Africanized honey bee swarms in cities.
2. Public Land Use Managers -- State and Federal parks personnel for Africanized honey bee inspection and swarm removal.
3. Public Health Officials -- To deal with stinging incidents.
4. Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and First Responders -- To respond to accidents.

III. Regulation & Quarantine

A. Missouri Apiculture Law

1. Current law is adequate to deal with Africanized honey bees except for abandoned apiaries and liability protection during swarm and colony removal and/or destruction.
 - a. Begin legislative action to require care or destruction of abandoned apiaries that will be suitable nesting sites for Africanized honey bees; and
 - b. Implement a "Good Samaritan" statute to protect trained beekeepers from liability for civil damages while engaged in swarm or colony removal of aggressive colonies which is in the public interest.
2. Ability to rapidly detect, identify and destroy isolated colonies when necessary. (State Entomologist and field personnel)
3. Establish Quarantine if necessary.

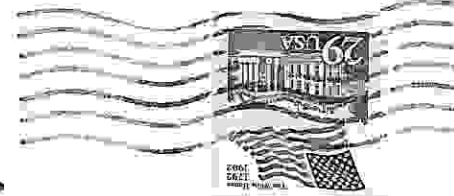
IV. Other Strategies

A. In Conjunction with all Missouri Beekeepers:

1. The Missouri Beekeepers Association should publicly recommend requeening of hives with gentle European bees on an annual basis.
2. Care in selecting apiary sites.
3. Management of colonies for European drone production.
4. Management of feral colonies through:
 - a. Use of bait hives & destruction of all Africanized honey bee swarms captured; and
 - b. Destruction of all feral Africanized Honey Bee colonies when discovered in nature.

Actual economic and environmental impacts of Africanized honey bees are speculative at this point, however it seems reasonable to assume that their eventual introduction into Missouri will cause irreparable harm to the beekeeping industry as it currently exists. This will be a direct result of the Africanized honey bees defensive nature, making hobbyist and sideline beekeepers both unwilling to work with the more hostile bees, and unable to accept the increased liabilities associated with maintaining bees. Most hobby beekeepers will cease to exist, thus, creating a potential problem of pollinating native plants and wildflowers. Tourist activity could be negatively impacted also, should Africanized honey bees become established throughout Missouri. Therefore, an immediate proactive campaign to provide all citizens with information relative to the positive aspects of beekeeping, as well as, protective guidelines for dealing with the harmful Africanized Honey Bee should begin now.

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FIRST CLASS

