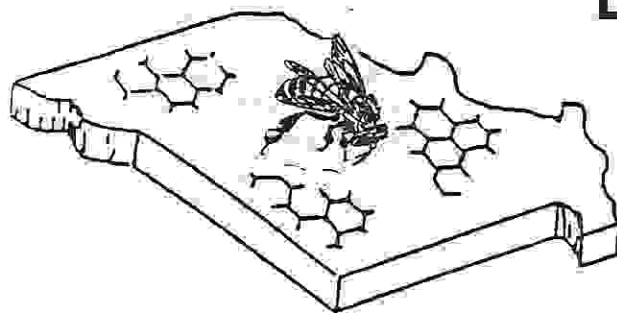


Fall 94 1995

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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VOLUME 32

NUMBER 3

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I have just returned from one of the best MSBA meetings that I have ever attended. Thanks to our Program Chairman Larry Hensley, and the fine local association, Southwest Missouri Beekeepers headed by Herb Spencer. The program was excellent, and the facilities were very good. We crowned a new Missouri Honey Queen, Cheri Guthals, from Gower, MO. Cheri's family are not beekeepers, so we need to provide Cheri with books and instructional materials that she can learn from. If anyone has some beginning beekeeping books that you are not using, please send them to Glenn Davis or myself.

At our business meeting we discussed several issues critical to our beekeeping industry. The first topic concerned the so-called Hancock II, or Amendment 7, that will probably be on the election ballot on November 8th. I have enclosed a statement that I received from Mr. John Saunders, the Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture. MSBA has, as an agricultural commodity group, voted to oppose Proposition 7, and we encourage all members to read the information carefully in order to go to the polls as informed as possible. The way it will, or could affect our beekeeping industry, if passed, is primarily in the inspection service performed by the Division of Plant Industries, headed by Joe Francka. He will have to cut his budget by 46%. With the movement of the Africanized bees northward, there would be no help or funds available to educate the public, or to test the bees for the African strain. We would have no inspection for bee diseases or movement of bees into or out of the state. It is also felt that the Missouri State Fair would be closed. It also will affect all state services, especially education in rural areas.

The second major concern of our beekeeping industry is the

dumping of Chinese honey into this country. You might say, "This doesn't affect me. I'm just a small beekeeper," but having a healthy national beekeeping industry helps us all in keeping equipment costs in line, and furthering research for chemical controls for mites and other bee pests and diseases. We need to have a united front to stop this cheap, adulterated honey from entering our country. The American Beekeeping Federation and the American Honey Producers have joined forces in a lawsuit against China. We have an excellent chance of winning; but none of this can happen without adequate funds. MSBA has established a fund for members to contribute to. The association has contributed \$300 from the treasury and is challenging the membership to match it. We passed the hat at the Neosho meeting and I'm now asking for donations of any size to be sent to Ron Vivian. Please state in your letter that it is for the "Anti-Dumping Fund." No amount is too small or too large.

MSBA also approved the Policy Statement on the Africanized Honey Bee that was mailed to all members prior to this last meeting. Over the Labor Day weekend, we had our first "Africanized Honey Bee" scare. Please read the Weaubleau newspaper article elsewhere in this newsletter and see how damaging the press can be, and also, if the quotes are true, what a disservice a beekeeper did to our industry in reporting the information to the newspaper. I checked my membership list, and to my knowledge Mr. Kain is not a member of our state association. The bees (all six of them in the sample) were sent to the Beltsville Bee Lab and the report came back that the bees were of European ancestry. I have been asked to inform all beekeepers that if you ever are in doubt as to whether the bees involved in a stinging incident are Africanized or not to please collect at least 50 bees

and put them in a jar of rubbing alcohol. Then send them to Joe Francka at the Mo. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Please be careful what information you give the press, and be sure not to use the term "killer bees," and also correct the reporter if he or she uses that term. If in doubt, call one of the officers of this association for help.

Thanks, Sharon Gibbons

ABF MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

South Carolina, Missouri, North Dakota, and Wisconsin were the winners of the 1993 ABF membership trophies awarded for increases in ABF membership and ABF dues paid.

The state membership contests pit like-size states in three different size groups. The changes are computed by percentages to further even the competition.

South Carolina won both trophies in the "Foundation" class of states--those states which have fewer than 10 ABF members. In membership, South Carolina posted a 137% increase; in the dues category, the state was up 225% over the previous year.

The "Mid-America" Trophy is awarded to states which have more than 10 ABF members (other than the top 10 states); this category is the largest grouping of states. Missouri was the "Mid-America" state with the greatest increase in dues--up 47%. North Dakota showed a 30% increase in ABF membership to take the "Mid-America" Trophy.

Among the "Top Ten" states with ABF members, Wisconsin won both 1993 trophies. The state gained 15% in ABF members and 13% in ABF dues paid.

The trophies are being presented during the various states' meetings this year.

The ABF Membership Incentive

Program is continuing this year with rewards being sent to those members who recruit new members or upgrade their own dues to a higher category. Also, the new members themselves can choose from among several prizes.

For information and recruitment materials, contact the ABF office. The 1993-94 Membership Incentive Program records will close effective Nov. 15 so we can compute the results and gave them ready to announce in Austin in January.

Amendment 7 (Hancock II) Could be Detrimental to the Future of Missouri Agriculture

by John L. Saunders
Director of Agriculture

What is Amendment 7?

Amendment 7, also referred to as Hancock II, is a proposed change to the Missouri Constitution that will appear on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot. The amendment seeks to allow Missourians the right to vote on all future tax increases. However, it is estimated this complex measure also would force a reduction of \$1 billion or more from the state's general revenue fund because it establishes a limit on the amount of annual revenue the state can generate.

A report by an independent consultant, the Moody Report, estimates that approval of Amendment 7 would cut current state spending by at least \$1 billion and possibly as much as \$5 billion, depending on how the courts ultimately interpret the amendment's language. Such actions would affect all parts of the state budget, and therefore all state departments.

State Services Will be Cut

Using the most conservative \$1 billion budget reduction estimate, state budget experts predict service cuts that could mean:

- some prisons and rural schools would close;
 - mental health services would be reduced;
 - aid to the elderly would be cut;
 - a delay or cancellation of most state road and bridge projects;
 - an increase in class sizes and the loss of more than 9,000 teachers;
 - the elimination of supervision for criminals on probation;
 - cuts in the Missouri State Highway Patrol; and
 - the loss of numerous other state services, programs, and staffing.
- The potential also exists for a host of federally funded programs to be eliminated because they require state matching funds to receive the federal dollars.

The Agriculture Department Would be Affected

The probable spending cuts imposed by Amendment 7 would prevent the Missouri Department of Agriculture from carrying out its statutory responsibilities. Preliminary calculations indicate each of the department's seven divisions would have to cut approximately 35 percent from their budgets. This would mean spending cuts of \$6.6 million, or about a third of the department's total budget. These cuts could force the elimination of entire programs because the funding would not be available or because the remaining money would not be sufficient for efficient and effective operations.

Not only would we probably have to abolish important services that protect Missouri consumers, but also programs that allow Missouri agricultural companies to compete at home and abroad. Specifically, we anticipate having to cut staffing and programs that:

- inspect the quality of fuel, eggs, milk and grain;
- conduct safety checks of facilities that dispense and distribute propane gas;

- ensure the integrity and financial viability of grain operations;
- protect the livestock industry from the spread of deadly diseases;
- ensure truth-in-labeling on agricultural feed and seed;
- enable authorized use of herbicides and pesticides while restricting unauthorized and dangerous uses.

In addition, events of one of the oldest, most prestigious benchmarks of Missouri agriculture--the Missouri State Fair--would have to be curtailed or discontinued. A new effort--the international trade office in Guadalajara, Mexico--would be closed.

The possibility also exists that some federally funded programs would become the responsibility of the respective federal agency to administer. For instance, the Environmental Protection Agency might assume the duties of the department's pesticide program. Even commodity checkoff funds could be considered in total state revenue calculations under the amendment's language, subjecting them to elimination.

Furthermore, it is likely our programs would be deemed nonessential compared to education, corrections or public safety. Therefore, we could suffer a disproportionate share of budget cuts compared to agencies that provide critical state services.

Rural Missouri Could Bear the Brunt

Rural Missouri communities and their citizens most likely would be adversely affected by the Hancock II proposal. Not only do these communities stand to lose valuable state services, but it is likely that other costs would be shifted to rural Missourians.

Because this amendment would place a limit on state revenues, including gas taxes, income taxes and sales taxes, money for rural schools, roads and bridges would probably be cut. The amendment also would

consider revenue from the Proposition C sales tax for public education in total state revenue calculations, subjecting those funds to the \$1 billion to \$5 billion budget cut predicted. As a result, the local property tax rollback required of school districts by Proposition C would potentially be eliminated. Property taxes, therefore, would increase almost immediately. With a loss of state funds to support public schools, there will be increased pressure to pass the burden to the local level through increased property taxes, as well as to identify other sources of tax revenue.

In addition, the state's soil and parks tax could be threatened by Amendment 7. It could be subject to the same cap as all other state revenue and thus also to annual voter approval, if continued at all. Missouri farmers who depend on that assistance for measures required for Soil Conservation Service compliance could find their participation in federal farm programs in jeopardy.

Status of Amendment 7

Currently there are several lawsuits pending that challenge the constitutionality of Amendment 7. If placed on the November 8 ballot and passed by voters, this amendment is expected to have a grave impact on state programs and services, as well as rural communities and their citizens. All Missourians are encouraged to research this issue and cast their votes.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSBA has about 120 cookbooks left. We have decided to design a new cookbook. Kelly Bergman will be chairman of this committee. If you are willing to help, please write to Kelly. Her address is elsewhere in this newsletter.

MSBA dues have been changed to \$10 per year. Check membership in other organizations, and you will find out what a bargain this is. For example, the Blueberry Growers' dues are \$50 per year.

MSBA will be selling, along with co-owner Eastern Mo. Beekeepers, a collator. The price is negotiable, but we would like to get \$500 for it. Eastern also has two offset printers for sale for \$2,000. Please contact Larry Hensley at 314-355-6935.

The recipe brochures for our 1994 Mo. Honey Queen, Rachel Nabors, are available for use by beekeepers in the sale of their honey. Rachel has chosen not to participate in the American Honey Queen contest because she would lose some of her scholarship money. As a result, we have extra brochures. A donation to the Queen Fund to offset the cost of printing would be appreciated. The cost is around \$.025 each. There is a supply of them in the K.C. area, St. Louis area, and in Portageville.

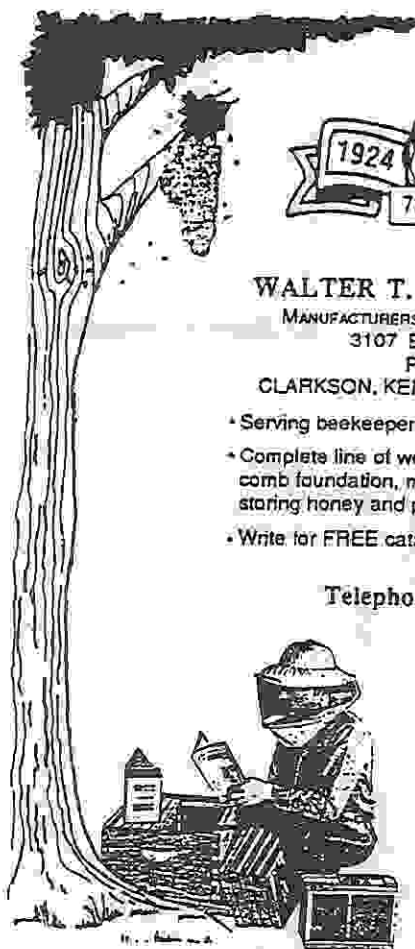
Anyone who has interest in changing the honey or wax entries for the Missouri State Fair must contact Sharon Gibbons before November 15, 1994.

The MSBA received a membership award from the American Beekeeping Federation. The ABF will continue its membership drive in 1995. Please support your local, state, and national beekeeping organizations. A good beekeeper is an informed beekeeper. Anyone interested in joining the ABF, please call Sharon Gibbons for information.

As a result of the apitherapy program presented at our state

meeting by Kathy Oliver, President of the Ok. Bee Venom Therapy Society, there is interest in starting an organization in Missouri. If you have an interest, please contact: Bonnie Hiatt, 643 Highway AB, St. Clair, MO 63077.

MSBA has had our logo put on a computerized disc for an embroidery machine. You can now have hats and jackets made with the logo on them. Please look for the order form in this newsletter. The profits will be put into the Mo. Honey Queen Fund.



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HARD TO BELIEVE THERE ARE STILL BEEKEEPERS WHO CAN OVERLOOK A PROBLEM LIKE THIS.



Missouri State Beekeepers

For the period of March 11, 1994 thru September 27, 1994

Cash in Jacomo Bank as of March 11, 1994

3,658.55

Income:

Commercial Ads	407.00	
Cookbooks Sold	345.00	
Dues from Members	875.00	
Fall Meeting Receipts	0.00	
Spring Meeting Receipts	915.00	
Funds Transferred from Central Bank - Sedalia	5,500.00	
Missouri State Fair Receipts	551.35	
Sale of Ice Cream since State Fair	134.80	
Miscellaneous Receipts	34.50	
Total Receipts		8,762.65

Expenses:

Spring Meetings	1,148.69	
Donations	100.00	
Bad Check	10.00	
Video Education	94.07	
Honey Cookbooks Purchased	125.00	
Newsletter Costs	454.45	
Postage	7.54	
Promotions	420.96	
Purchase of \$2500.00 CD	2,500.00	
Missouri State Fair Expenses	4,341.40	
Miscellaneous Expenses	6.00	
Total Expenses		9,208.11

Total Cash Increase

(445.46)

Total Cash in Bank as of 09/27/94

3,213.09

Cash in Central Bank Savings Account as of March 11, 1994

2,223.20

Add - Interest Income to 8-19-94

27.64

Add - State Fair Sales Deposits

5,565.93

5,593.57

7,816.77

Less - Withdrawal made by Treasurer

5,500.00

Total Cash in Bank as of 09/27/94

2,316.77

Memorial Fund Established by vote of membership at Spring, 94 Meeting

100.00

Add - Spring Meeting Receipts

76.00

176.00

Less - Flowers for George VanArsdall

37.97

Balance as of 09/27/94

138.03

OKLAHOMA BEE VENOM THERAPY SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Fill out form and mail with dues to:

Kathy Oliver

P.O. Box 3391

Bartlesville, OK 74006

Questions? Call 918-534-1439

1 Year Dues \$25.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

DATE: _____

Apitherapist? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Apitherapy patient? ☐ Yes ☐ No Your Diagnosis _____

Will you accept referrals? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you answer questions from interested parties? ☐ Yes ☐ No

STATE FAIR REPORT: by Sharon Gibbons

Attendance at Missouri State Fair was down from last year. The people who attended, however, spent more money. We had several very hot days. The heat was great for ice cream sales, and we did sell more than we have ever sold before. The dairy at Odessa, was not open, and we had to find a new place to have the honey ice cream made. As a result, we had to have a minimum of 150 gal. of mix made which translated into almost 300 gallons of finished product. We sold 3000 6oz. cups of ice cream, and over 75 1/2 gallons of ice cream. Quite a feat! Just goes to show you that anything is possible if you try hard enough.

Exhibits were down for apiculture although the honey exhibited was some of the best and lightest I've seen. The moisture content was lower than last year. I just wish that we had more beekeepers interested in exhibiting.

Thanks to all who came to help out at the fair. It is our main money raising activity, and even if we didn't make money, the honey promotion has a benefit that increases all of our sales. Every year I seem to forget the name of someone who volunteered their time, so if you worked at the fair, and I missed putting your name in print, please let me know.

I was pleased with the last minute turnout of workers for the fair. Monday was one of the best weekdays this year. On the 1st weekend, we had Mo. Honey Queen Rachel Nabors, who promoted honey in our booth. On the 2nd weekend, American Honey Princess, our own Julie Batton, was helping us.

We once again used our bee skep that we made two years ago, for the center of attention. We also added an educational area, which included pictures of Missouri beekeepers at work, an observation hive, extractor, etc.

Here is a list of all the volunteers for the 1994 Fair.

Bob McCarty
Glenn & Joann Davis
Linda Holder
Bob & Elizabeth Harrison
Sharon Gibbons
Helen & Wilbur O'Neill
Jim Thaxter
Ed & Jeanne Fisher
Wayne & Maxine Thomas
Jerry & Janet Nichols

Carol Kjelshus
Louise Pruitt
Shirley & Ray Batton
Marie & Don Hendrickson
Charles Schwartz & family
Julie Batton
Ian & Pam Brown
Deron Snow
Ryan Cooper

Ron Vivian
Mickey & Gerry Lee
John Hartmann
Ted Marlene Jansen
Ruth & Ervell Hoover
Rachel Nabors
Russell Rainey
James Heagy
Walter Bigelow

Publicity and interviews were numerous this year for our exhibit. Honey Queen, Rachel Nabors did several interviews, as did Honey Princess Julie Batton.

On three days of the fair we presented cooking classes in the home ec. building. Thanks to Julie Batton, and Rachael Nabors for helping with the classes.

STATE FAIR WINNERS

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

Grand Champion

Joanne Davis

Display of Apiary Products

Joanne Davis

Store Display

Joanne Davis

Disp. of Lt. Extr. Honey, 25-50 lbs.

1st Dolores Vivian

2nd Edward Fisher

3rd Joanne Davis

Cut Comb Honey-Plastic Boxes

Joanne Davis

Round or Square Section Comb Honey

1st Joanne Davis

2nd Edward Fisher

3rd Robert McCarty

Light Bulk Comb Honey

1st Edward Fisher

2nd Steve Moeller

3rd Joanne Davis

Dark Bulk Comb Honey

Joanne Davis

Light Extracted Honey

1st Edward Fisher

2nd Dolores Vivian

3rd Steve Moeller

4th Bob Finck

5th Ted Jansen

6th Micky Lee

7th Norm Grosche

8th Joanne Davis

Dark Extracted Honey

1st Ted Jansen

2nd Edward Fisher

3rd Joanne Davis

Sealed Honey, White, Brood size frame

Joanne Davis

Sealed Honey, White, Shallow frame

1st Joanne Davis

2nd John Steffens

Candied Honey

1st Evelyn Sanford

2nd Edward Fisher

3rd Joanne Davis

4th Dolores Vivian

Yellow Beeswax

1st Bob Finck

2nd Joanne Davis

Queen & Bees

Joanne Davis

Art Designs in Beeswax

1st Joanne Davis

2nd Barry Davis

Beeswax Candles

Joanne Davis

GROUP COMPETITION

Store Display

Midwestern Beekeepers (Ed Fisher)

Disp. of Lt. Extr. Honey, 25-50 lbs.

1st Midwestern Beekeepers (Ed Fisher)

2nd Eastern Mo. Beekeepers (Bob Finck)

3rd Midwestern Beekeepers (Glenn Davis)

4th Midwestern Beekeepers (Ron Vivian)

Cut Comb in Plastic Boxes

1st Midwestern Beekeepers (Ed Fisher)

2nd Midwestern Beekeepers (Richard Scott)

Round or Square Section Comb Honey

1st Midwestern (Ed Fisher)

2nd Midwestern (John Steffens)

Light Bulk Comb Honey

1st Midwestern (Ed Fisher)

2nd Midwestern (Steve Moeller)

Light Extracted Honey

1st Midwestern (Evelyn Sanford)

2nd " (Richard Scott)

3rd " (Steve Moeller)

4th Eastern (Bob Finck)

5th Midwestern (Ed Fisher)

6th Eastern (Ted Jansen)

7th Midwestern (Paul Garrett)

8th Eastern (Norm Grosche)

Dark Extracted Honey

1st Eastern (Ted Jansen)

2nd Midwestern (Ed Fisher)

3rd " (Richard Scott)

4th " (Glenn Davis)

Yellow Beeswax

1st Eastern (Bob Finck)

2nd Midwestern (Ed Fisher)

3rd " (John Steffens)

HONEY COOKERY

Outstanding Honey Cookery

Paula Hampton

General Display of Honey Uses

1st Paula Hampton

2nd Janice Meidinger

Honey Fruit Cake

1st Maxine Griggs

2nd Paula Hampton

3rd Janice Meidinger

Light Honey Cake

1st Sarah Patterson

2nd Faye Hunton

3rd Paula Hampton

4th Janice Meidinger

Dark Honey Cake

1st Sarah Patterson

2nd Faye Hunton

3rd Paula Hampton

4th Janice Meidinger

Box of Assorted Cookies

1st Sarah Patterson

2nd Janice Meidinger

3rd Paula Hampton

4th Maxine Griggs

Box of Assorted Candies

1st Paula Hampton

2nd Janice Meidinger

Honey Whole Wheat Bread

1st Wilma Keightley

2nd Janice Meidinger

3rd Sarah Patterson

4th Paula Hampton

Honey Quick Bread

1st Paula Hampton

2nd Janice Meidinger

3rd Sarah Patterson

4th Maxine Griggs

Consumers Reveal Views on Honey

Honey says it all—all natural, flavorful and nutritious. A 1994 study conducted on behalf of the National Honey Board revealed interesting consumer attitudes on honey.

HONEY—KEY SELLING POINTS

- Honey is thought of as a natural product. Ninety-four percent of consumers (both honey users and non-users) see honey as "natural." Honey users give the product a 99 percent all-natural rating.
- 45.6 percent of consumers see honey as "very" nutritious as opposed to only 10.6 percent who see corn syrup as nutritious.
- "Nutritious," "tasty" and "an alternative to sugar." These three expressions lead the list of consumer views on honey when it is used as an ingredient—a product that tastes good, is good for you and is an alternative to sugar.
- More than 49 percent of consumers indicated a preference for a honey-added product. Health and well being as well as taste and flavor are the key reasons cited for this preference. Less than two percent of respondents would select a product with artificial honey added.
- Honey is seen as an extra value compared to corn syrup or sugar. To almost half of consumers, honey-added products are seen as being of extra value.
- Consumers are willing to pay 13 percent more for a honey-sweetened product compared to the same product sweetened with other sweeteners.
- When a label says "honey added," nearly 5 percent of consumers expect at least 60 percent of the sweetener to be honey.
- The National Honey Board's honey bear logo conveys important product attributes and strengths. Consumer views on products which carry the honey bear logo include:

DRAPER'S SUPER BEE - We offer fast and courteous service to all beekeepers. We sell all the supplies for beekeeping, plus bees, queens, and honey for those who run short. Order is shipped the same day as received in most cases. Free catalog available on request. Hours: Mon-Fri. 8-5; Sat and evenings by appointment. Address: **DRAPER'S SUPER BEE; RT. 3 BOX 87; AUBURN, NE 68305** Phone: [402] 274-3725

"...good taste/flavor...moist and tasty...extra good for you...must meet higher standards...is an extra quality product...offers an extra value...fresh..."

Research results indicate a positive consumer attitude toward honey. Not only is honey regarded as "good for you," it is also an all-natural alternative, in sync with today's healthy lifestyles and consumer preferences.

Honey Hotline No. 2, 1994

Weaubleau Bee Incident

An incident involving what one woman termed "killer bees" was reported at Weaubleau early this week. They reportedly killed one dog, stung a Weaubleau resident and stung several other nearby dogs.

Some bees had apparently taken up residence in a hive on the David Kain property in Weaubleau then became angry when Kain attempted to take honey from the hive.

"We've had bees for years," said Mrs. Nora Kain, "but nothing like these."

She said the bees "just went crazy" and stung anything in sight and continued to search throughout the community for anything to sting.

She said the bees attacked their large dog, a mixture of pit bull and springer spaniel, and stung it to death before her husband could get it released from its chain.

Mr. Kain, who was wearing a protective hood and had a smoker, tried to scrape the bees off the dog, but to no avail. It died within a few minutes after being stung by "thousands of bees."

Another dog was stung several times and had to be taken to the local veterinary clinic for treatment, and another one became very ill and passed blood for two days, Mrs.

Kain said.

"The bees just went wild looking for something to sting," she said. "We put the dogs inside the garage, and the bees went through the cracks in the garage and stung the dogs inside."

She said she contacted University of Missouri officials about the bees, and MU officials asked for some samples of them. The Kains have sent some of the bees to MU for identification. The rest have been destroyed.

"I don't want any more bees," Mrs. Kain said. "I'd hate to think what they would have done to a toddler, or even to an adult, if they had taken after them. I called the neighbors and told them not to let their kids ride by on bikes. And we live here right by the school; they could have attacked some school kid."

Mr. Kain tried to drag away the dead dog, but the bees would attack him each time he went to the dog's body. So he had to wait until after dark to bury the dog. He suffered several stings through his clothing, and those stings caused extraordinary swelling, he said. He has had to take medication to reduce the swelling.

He said the bees didn't react to his smoker like normal bees. These bees just became exceptionally aggressive. He also tried to kill them with pesticides and sulphur smoke, but they survived each time. Each time he would go outside, the bees would become aggressive again and would attack him.

Their aggressive activities continued for a couple of days until he finally plugged up the bee hive entrance hole late at night, then poured kerosene on the hive and burned it. He also burned all his other hives in case a few of the bees survived. He also took his torch to the area where the hive had been located and attempted to burn any other bees that came back to the area.

"We've got a little three-month-old granddaughter," Mrs. Kain said. "So we don't want any more bees. We can buy honey if we want it."

Article from "The Index" of September 1, 1994, Hermitage, MO. Does this article give you any thoughts on how to handle the media, what types of things to say and not to say, different aspects of beekeeping and bee behavior to emphasize or minimize. The article is long on sensational news (the Kain's have my sympathy for the loss of their pet) and short on investigation into the cause for the bees' reaction. There could have been more information on Africanized bees and their current location in the United States and what the bees were being identified for by MU. We need to be very aware about what kind of image we are projecting, not only of the bees, but of ourselves as beekeepers as well when talking to radio, television, or newspaper people. It should also give us some thoughts on how to handle a similar situation in our own neighborhoods.

Producers File Antidumping Petition Against China

Seeking Tariff Over \$.50/pound

The American Beekeeping Federation and the American Honey Producers Association have joined together to charge that honey from China is being dumped into the U.S. market at prices 170 percent lower than the cost of production in China and that this dumping is injuring domestic honey producers.

In a petition set to be filed on Oct. 3, the U.S. beekeeper organizations are asking the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to initiate an investigation of honey from China to determine if their charges are correct.

They are requesting that antidumping duties be imposed on imports of Chinese honey; the requested duty would amount to more than 50 cents per pound at the prices cited by the producers.

The duties could be imposed on a tentative basis as early as March 13--160 days after the filing of the petition.

"What the Chinese are doing to us is outrageous," said AHPA president Richard Adey of Bruce, S.D. "First, China maintains an import duty of 55 percent on honey imports, which blocks all non-Chinese honey out of the market. The U.S. duty on honey imports is only about 2 percent, the lowest of any significant market in the world.

"Second, it is well-known that the Chinese honey industry is extremely inefficient and suffers huge losses each year and could not flood the export market without significant subsidies from the Chinese government," Mr. Adey continued. "Third, Chinese honey imports are being sent here at below cost prices for the sole purpose of earning hard currency. Our industry is very painfully being destroyed as a result."

This will be the second investigation of honey imports from China in as many years. In October 1993 the United States Trade Representative asked the ITC to investigate under Section 406 of the Trade Act of 1974 and determine if the Chinese imports were disrupting the domestic market. The ITC advised President Clinton that the rising volume of low-priced Chinese honey imports was disrupting the U.S. honey market, threatening U.S. honey producers. However, the President rejected the ITC recommendation of a 25 percent tariff and refuses to impose any restraints on Chinese honey imports. He said that import relief for honey would not be in the national economic interest of the United States.

"The President's decision was

2

a severe blow to the industry," said ABF president David Sundberg of Fergus Falls, Minn. "As 1994 has progressed, the industry's overall condition has worsened as extremely low-priced imported honey from China has continued to flood the U.S. market. Our only recourse was to file an antidumping petition against honey imports from China."

The President does not have the discretion to override findings of dumping and resulting material injury. The investigation will have two parts: ITC will determine whether the domestic producers are being, or are being threatened with, injury; DOC will determine whether the Chinese imports are being dumped.

If both agencies find in favor of the domestic producers, a dumping duty will be imposed on honey imported from China in the amount that the honey is being sold into the United States below the cost of production in China.

Imports of honey from China rose from 44.8 million pounds in 1991 to 76.8 million pounds in 1993 and the Chinese share of the U.S. market rose from 14.8 percent to 25.2 percent. Over this same time the U.S. producers' sale prices have fallen. For example, light amber and darker honey prices, as reported by USDA, averaged 52.6 cents in 1991, but only 49.8 cents in 1993.

On Oct. 24, in a public hearing, called a staff conference, the ITC staff will hear testimony from the parties involved in the case--the U.S. producers, the U.S. importers, and the Chinese. The staff will report to the six ITC commissioners, who will decide, in a public vote on Nov. 10, its preliminary determination of whether there is reasonable indication that the U.S. honey producers are being injured or threatened with injury by the honey imports from China. If the ITC preliminary determination is affirmative, DOC will determine the extent to which the imports are being dumped

here.

The producers allege that honey costs about 83 cents per pound to produce in China but is being sold to the U.S. market at prices as low as 30 cents per pound (exclusive of freight, insurance, duties and assessments), or about 170 percent lower than the cost of production. The DOC may determine a different dumping rate, based on its own investigation or on information presented by the Chinese producers.

According to the schedule set by law, the case could be concluded as early as mid-July 1995, if there are no extensions granted, or as late as the first week in November 1995, if full extensions are granted.

The Washington law firm Collier, Shannon, Rill and Scott is representing the ABF-AHPA effort. The lead attorney is Michael Coursey, who, with his team, is Washington's most effective litigator in antidumping cases.

Imports Hurt Local, Help Global

Liberalization of import restraints would result in lost employment and production in virtually all the sectors of the U.S. economy examined by a study conducted by the U.S. International Trade Commission.

In "The Economic Effects of Significant U.S. Import Restraints," Investigation No. 332-325, published November 1993, the ITC found that employment and production in the given sector of the economy would suffer if the import restraint was lessened in 42 of 44 sectors cited. In most instances, imports would increase and exports would decrease, according to the study.

In the area of agriculture, the study looked at several sectors of sugar, dairy, meat, cotton, and peanut trade. In each instance, the ITC found there would be loss of

production and loss of employment in those fields if the existing trade barriers were liberalized.

For every protected sector analyzed in the study, removal of import restraints would result in gains to the U.S. economy as a whole. Simultaneous liberalization of all significant restraints was found to result in a \$19 billion gain for the economy.

The study, conducted at the request of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, considered only existing import restraints: tariffs and quantitative restrictions such as quota, voluntary restraint agreements, and voluntary export restraints. Import restraints resulting from antidumping or countervailing duty investigations were excluded.

"While this study did not specifically address the effect of adding import restriction," noted Troy Fore, executive secretary of the American Beekeeping Federation, "it is not a far stretch of logic to see that an industry would show a gain if its import competition were restricted."

Bees, Tracheal Mites, and Vegetable Oil

by Diana Sammataro, Susan Cobey, Brian H. Smith, Glen R. Needham
Ohio State University
from Journal of Economic Entomology, August, 1994

ABSTRACT

Field experiments conducted between 1991 and 1993 demonstrated that treating colonies of honey bees, *Apis mellifera* L., continuously with vegetable oil depressed populations of tracheal mites *Acarapis woodi* (Rennie). In 1992-93, continuous exposure to oil patties, with or without the antibiotic Terramycin, produced significant control of mites. Five of 11 untreated

(control) colonies perished. None of the oil-patty-treated colonies died, and only two of 10 colonies treated with Terramycin patties expired. Oil patties were made from a combination of solid vegetable oil (shortening) and white sugar, with or without the addition of the antibiotic. Two oil patty treatments during the summer of 1991 failed to prevent mite population increases in bees by that fall.

Since 1984, when the endoparasitic tracheal mite *Acarapis woodi* was discovered in honey bees in Texas, efforts to control it have been intense. Migratory beekeeping practices and sale of package bees and queens rapidly spread the mite throughout the United States, and by 1988 it had reached Canada. Normal wintering losses vary widely but average about 11 percent in most states; colony losses attributed to tracheal mites have been reported at greater than 31 percent in Pennsylvania. Nationally, more than \$165 million worth of pollination services, bees, and honey has been lost since the mites' detection, jeopardizing a significant component of U.S. agriculture.

In general mite populations flux out of synchrony with bees during the year. That is, when bee numbers increase in spring and reach their height during the summer nectar flow, mite numbers are at their lowest. This decreased proportion of bees with mites is likely caused by a dilution effect from the rapid emergence of large numbers of young, uninfested bees. In addition, the spread of mites may be hindered because infested forager bees would have less regular contact with uninfested younger bees in the months when outside flight activity is highest. During peak mite populations, colonies with moderate to heavy mite infestation levels rear less brood, have fewer

bees, do not form tight winter clusters, and have increased honey consumption relative to uninfested colonies.

Control of tracheal mites has been difficult because they live in the protected environment inside bee trachea. Initially, depopulation of bee colonies was used until it became impractical. Currently the only registered treatment, Mite-A-Thol or menthol crystals, an extract from the plant *Mentha arvensis*, is partially effective because its beneficial qualities are temperature dependent. The other pesticide, Miticur, has been withdrawn recently from the market. Formic acid, a potentially effective agent, is not registered for this use. The need for expedient and bee-safe control for these mites is imperative.

Vegetable oil has long been used in its solid form (shortening) mixed with granulated sugar as a carrier for antibiotics to treat colonies for bee diseases. Beekeepers are seeking products that can be used inside colonies without contaminating honey, pollen, or wax. Serendipitously, vegetable oil was discovered to keep bees mite-free in laboratory experiments. Also, it has shown potential for controlling mites under field conditions. However, researchers treating bees with vegetable oils or combinations of oil and other ingredients, such as menthol, have found variable success. As a result, it is not yet clear whether oil provides satisfactory mite control. The resolution of this inconsistency was the main thrust of our research. Studies were designed to test whether control of mites could be obtained using vegetable oil-sugar patties and to test if exposure conditions were important.

Additionally, the antibiotic Terramycin was investigated more thoroughly because mite-infested colonies often have associated bacteria and other infections. Terramycin commonly is applied to colonies for American foulbrood disease

control and now is registered for this use.

DISCUSSION

In our initial study, we placed oil patties in colonies during the summer to determine whether mite infestations could be reduced to nonthreatening levels by fall. Summer treatments failed to prevent mite populations from rebounding when bees clustered during inclement weather. However, mite levels were restricted by an uninterrupted application of oil, never reaching fatal populations. Although the deleterious effects of this mite are questioned by some, there is no doubt that this mite has had a significant effect on honey bee survival in some areas, especially in northern climates where bees are confined for several months. Distinguishing mite-infested colonies from mite-free ones without dissecting bees is impossible. Visible symptoms are unreliable even for highly infested bees but are reported to include bees crawling on the ground in front of the colony, K-winged bees (bees with hindwings held forward of forewings, making a 'K'), and dead hives with large amounts of remaining honey stores in the spring. Some colonies are abandoned outright in midseason when infested bees crawl out, leaving behind brood and food stores. Additionally, a correlation of *Nosema* disease with mite-infested hives has been reported by Jadczyk, but not found by others.

The greatest challenge to controlling tracheal mites is that they virtually live their entire lives within honey bee tracheal tubes. Following development and mating, females exit the trachea in search of new hosts. They climb onto plumose setae and assume an ambush position. Within 24 hours, emigrating mites attach themselves to bees less than four days old. Young bees are selected by the detection of cuticular lipids not abundant in older

bees. Once a host is found, mites enter and lay eggs, and after about 16 days, gravid females again emerge to continue the cycle. A single mite-laden bee can infest an entire mite-free colony within a short time.

Mite populations decline naturally as a result of several factors. An interruption in the brood cycle by swarming reduces infestation levels. Similar reductions are found when older field bees and drones are driven from the colony.

The cause of colony death remains to be determined, but various factors, including microbial diseases vectored by mites, stress, or blocking air flow in the tracheal tubes, have been suggested. Our data suggest that bee health, stress, and interactions between mites may contribute to colony demise. Spiroplasmas or other bacterial or viral pathogens may cause bee death when heavily infested with mites. The addition of an antibiotic appears to be controlling some bacteria vectored by or the result of mites. The effect of spiroplasmas and other pathogens still must be tested in a rigorous manner.

Our study shows that oil treatment interferes with one or more aspects of the mite's life cycle. The continuous presence of an oil patty with or without Terramycin helped lower tracheal mite populations and increased colony survivorship. The application of oil and Terramycin treatments, combined with conventional management practices, may significantly suppress mite populations and thereby benefit all aspects of the beekeeping industry.

(This article was edited for length, omitting the section on Materials and Methods and Results since they were summarized in the Discussion section. A complete copy of the article may be had by locating a copy of the Journal of Economic

Entomology, 87(4): pp. 910-916, 1994, or sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor of this newsletter.)



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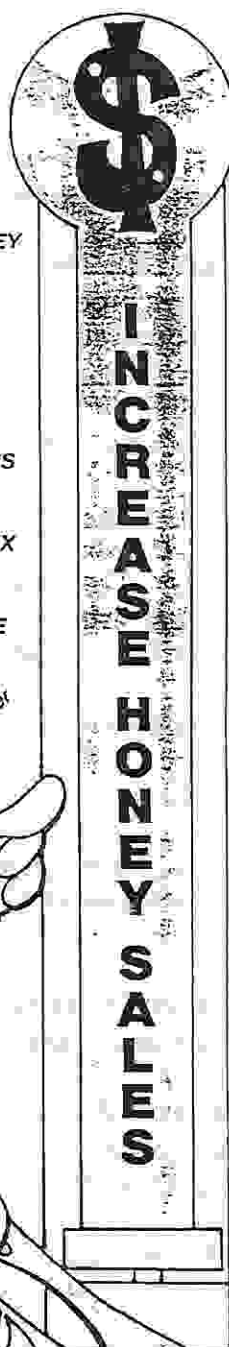
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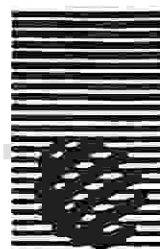
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