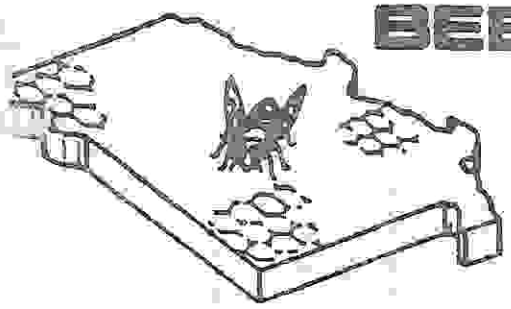
MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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VOLUME 27 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1
MARCH 1989

DEAR BEEKEEPING FRIENDS,

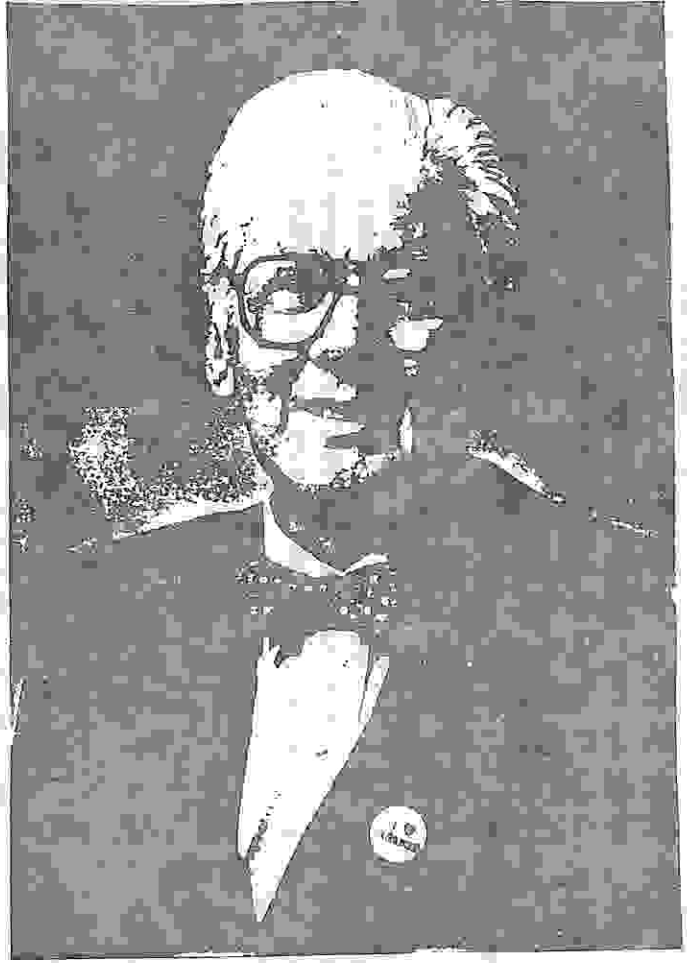
As I type this newsletter, the noise of sleet falling on our metal roof of the farm house, makes our 70 degree weather in January seem so long ago. What a strange combination of weather patterns we have to contend with in Missouri! Yet the birds are singing of spring, and by the time you read this, we all will be thinking of; or in the midst of our spring beekeeping chores. Most of us have our queens arriving in four weeks, so there is alot to do between now and April. I hope all of you are careful in selection of Queen Breeders. If in doubt please call Joe Francka at 314-751-2462

In this issue, please take time to read the reprinted article from Speedy Bee concerning the requests for refunds of Honey Board assessments. Troy Fore's article has explained the legislation that created the National Honey Board in such a way that I can understand it better. I do not want to see the operation of the Honey Board jeopardized in any way. I feel that we have available an inexpensive way for the sales of honey to increase for both the commercial beekeeper and the hobbiest beekeeper, in the National Honey Board..-If the Honey Board's operating income is taken away by the refund system now allowed, we all will loose. Please read the article and make up your own mind; then fill out the questionnaire.

If you believe in the National Honey Board, write them and let them know that you support their work. Better yet, if you want to be on their mailing lists, a small contribution of $5 or $10 would cover their mailing and printing costs. For any honey producer who puts their honey in the USDA loan program, an assessment of 1¢ a pound is automatically sent to support and fund the National Honey Board. About 11% of these people are requesting refunds of their assessments. I'd like to know if the other commodity groups, such as The Dairy Board and the Potato Board had problems with refunds of assessments.

HAPPY EASTER!!

Artwork compliments of The National Honey Board



We are proud that one of our own members received this award. Francis has taken photographs at the State meetings, and furnished prints for use in the newsletter at no cost to MSBA. He is one of the most energetic promoters of honey and beekeeping in the St. Louis area. He is well-known for his potted Golden Rain Trees that he gives away to anyone who wants one. He collects the seeds and grows them in his photography studio.

City of Kirkwood

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Jan 3, 1989

Francis Scheidegger, professional photographer and Kirkwood Council Member, has been named 1988 Business Person of the Year by the Kirkwood Area Chamber of Commerce.

Scheidegger has lived in Kirkwood all his life. He attended St. Peter's Elementary School and graduated from Kirkwood High School. His first wedding assignment was on Thanksgiving Day in 1939, which makes his the oldest continually operated business in Kirkwood. In May of 1989, he is scheduled to photograph his first third-generation wedding.

Scheidegger has been a beekeeper for more than 12 years. He has received blue ribbons for his honey. He takes pride in serving the public in catching bee swarms and sometimes giving them to other beekeepers to get them started. He was honored by the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association by being named Champion Swarm Catcher of 1987.

He has become well known for his recycling and environmental efforts in Kirkwood. In recognition of his efforts, the Kirkwood Recycling Center has been renamed "The Francis Scheidegger Recycling Center."

He and his wife, Viola, live in Kirkwood. They have one daughter, Joan, and one grandson, Steve Todd.

The Foreword

By Troy H. Ford, Jr.

Many persons closely connected with the National Honey Board are becoming increasingly concerned about the requests for refunds of Honey Board assessments.

In Indianapolis, Dwight Stoller told the business meeting of the Federation that "refunds are the biggest threat" to the Honey Board. The remarks of Dwight, who is secretary-treasurer of the Honey Board, came in the midst of a debate on a resolution that gave support to legislation to end the refunds.

The refunds have been a bone of contention from the beginning. The original drafts of the legislation that would eventually see the Honey Board created did not include refunds. The refund provision was inserted to satisfy the powers-that-were in the Department of Agriculture. It was USDA policy, the proposers were told, that the assessments be voluntary. A decision was made: go along with USDA policy to get the Department's support for the legislation. Now, apparently, USDA policy has changed.

Now, second thoughts are developing about that decision. Refunds for 1988 are expected to amount to about 11.5 percent of the year's assessments. Worse, they threaten to undermine support for the program. Some refunders have been vocal, virtually bragging to others who are not reclaiming their assessments. More than one of the loyal supporters must be wondering if he is being played for a sucker: "Why should I leave my money in, when so-and-so got his refund and is buying a new truck?")

In addition, the refunding process is a paperwork nightmare, we are told. Processing the refunds is extremely time-consuming and requires shuffling an immense amount of data. Further, the threat of growing refunds forces the NHB management to spend a lot of time politicking, when the efforts could go toward arranging honey promotions. Along this line, in Indianapolis, one loyal assessment-payer complained: "I pay my assessment to promote honey; I don't want my money used to administer refunds for someone else."

At one time, publicity about the refunders was thought to be at least a partial answer. Repeating the Department line, the NHB has held that the refund information is confidential. The details about individual refunds are not released, except in the aggregate. Since the enabling legislation itself doesn't protect the information in this manner, I filed a Freedom of Information Act request, as a journalist, for the refunders names and amount of refunds.

After a lot of hassle, it seemed I would finally be given the information. Then several points surfaced to cloud the waters. For some reason, as yet unclear to me, the Department was holding that information on importer refunds was different than information on producer refunds. There was no way I would publicize one and not the other.

Another point was more disconcerting: Several people, whose opinion I respected, began to wonder if publicizing the refunds might have an effect opposite to the desired effect. Would some producers, who would otherwise not request a refund, do so in the face of the "threat" to publicize their names? Would they assume an "I'll show you!" attitude?

(Quite naturally, the leadership of the Honey Board was less than overjoyed at the prospects of my gaining access to this information. They had been telling the refunders this was all confidential. "These people will feel the Honey Board misled them," worried. I tried not to be concerned about this; USDA had done the misleading, if any was done.)

What really caused me to withdraw my Freedom of Information request was the talk of dealing with the refunds through legislation. Discussions began to take this turn late last year. I decided that to pursue the request at this time would further complicate an already complex issue. I backed off to give the process time to incubate.

I hoped a clear directive would come from the annual conventions as to what should be done about the refunds. Instead, the Honey Producers, who adopted a "hands-off" attitude during the birth of the Honey Board, came out against a change in the refunds, while the Federation, largely the creators of the Honey Board, voted to support a change.

What the Federation resolution did not do was to say how the refunds should be ended. Should an attempt be made to effect an immediate change? Or should the change come at referendum time?

I think this subject needs broad input; so, I am giving you all this background. I also want you to give me your feelings on the refunds by filling out the questionnaire on this page.

MORE CONSIDERATIONS

Before you go to the questionnaire, more explanations are in order.

First, the Honey Board law requires a referendum at the end of five years to renew the program. Unless producers and importers re-approve the program, it will stop in 1991. Barring any changes, the vote to renew will probably be held in early 1991.

Now, the Congress has the legal authority to change the law before 1991. A change could become effective with a referendum, or it could become effective immediately, without a vote. Some other commodity boards have ended their refunds, are holding the requested refunds in escrow, and will vote after a period of time. If the vote is negative, the refunds will be released; if positive, they will be used for promotions.

We could follow this same process. Assuming Congress would authorize it, the Honey Board could stop paying out refunds after this year. The final decision could come with the 1991 referendum.

Alternatively, we could seek legislation that would call for an early referendum, perhaps even this year, on the refund question. This referendum could also renew to the program for five more years -- or even longer. There has also been talk of changing the law to do away with the "sunset" provision, leaving on the petition method of ending the program.

ASSESS PACKERS?

To further complicate matters, there is talk of assessing packers along with producers and importers. The Honey Producers resolution called for this; the Federation didn't formally consider this option.

Originally, the assesasment was to be one-half from the producer, one-half from the packer. It was thought this would greatly complicate the collection procedures, and the feeling was that the packers would take their assessment out of the price paid to producers anyway, so it was dropped. Now the idea has resurfaced.

Theoretically, the Honey Board is producer-dominated. There is some consideration to increasing the packer representation in exchange for the packer assessment. Some feel this would not be necessary; some would oppose any increase in packer representation.

If you are sufficiently confused, please attempt to collect your thoughts and record them on the questionnaire. It won't be scientific, by any means, but it will be food for thought. We will compile your responses and prepare an article. We will also make the results available to the NHB and those industry leaders pondering assessments and such matters.

SPEEDY BEE POLL

What about those Honey Board refunds?

Complete and return this questionnaire to make your views known. If you wish, you may use a photocopy. NOTE: if you want to remain anonymous, remove your mailing address from the reverse of this form.

1. Which of these statements most nearly states your feelings about the National Honey Board and its program of promoting honey through assessments on domestically-produced and imported honey?
( ) I do not support the Honey Board program because _____ _____. [Go to Question No. 2]

( ) I support the Honey Board program, but I feel the refund provision should be removed from the Honey Board law.

( ) I support the Honey Board program as it is with producers and importers able to file for refunds because _____ _____ [Go to Question No. 3]

2. If you favor ending the refunds, rank these possible scenarios that would end the refunds: (Number them 1 to 5, most acceptable to least.)

( ) End the refunds as soon as legally possible -- without a vote.
( ) End the refunds as soon as legally possible -- but not before a vote.
( ) End the refunds as soon as legally possible, but hold them in escrow pending a vote -- in 1991?
( ) Let the refunds continue through the 1991 vote; change the law so the renewed program will not include refunds.
( ) Have two votes in 1991: One to continue the program as is. One to end refunds.

3. Do you favor assessing the honey packers (handlers) on some basis?( )No. ( )Yes, I favor assessing them ( )50% as much as they collect from producers, ( )Equally as much as they collect from producers, ( )Or _____.

4. If the packers are assessed, should they be given more seats on the Honey Board? ( )Yes ( )No

5. Should the Honey Board program continue to be brought to the producers and importers for a renewal vote every five years? ( )Yes ( )No

6. Do you feel publicizing the names of those who are getting refunds would discourage refunds? ( )Yes ( )No

7. Do you favor publicizing the names? ( )Yes ( )No

Answer these questions about your operations:
8. I am primarily a ( )Producer ( )Packer ( )Importer ( )Other:_____

9. My annual Honey Board assessment is about $_____.

10. Over the past two years (1987 and 1988), I have requested refunds of about _____% of my assessments.

11. I plan to request refunds amounting to approximately _____% of my 1989 assessments.

12. If you have requested refunds, or plan to request refunds, why: _____

Name (optional)_____State_____

Mail to The Speedy Bee, Box 998, Jesup, Ga 31545

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Joe Solt has been ill for the past month. He is recovering from surgery and is doing well. We expect to see him presiding at the MSBA Spring Meeting on March 11th. He was unable to write an article for this newsletter, but will give you "double coverage" next issue;plus the results from the two survey's we conducted in 1988.

He would like you to start planning for the State Fair this summer. Income from the honey booth supports the programs for this organization and keeps our dues low. We always need beekeepers to work at the honey booth . A new issue of the Honey Producers' Directory published with funds from MSBA and AgriMissouri will be printed this summer. The deadline for corrections and additions for this directory is April 1, 1989. Please contact Joe Solt.

Joe would also like to know of anyone willing to give some time to MSBA this next year as an officer. There will possibly be two positions open next year. We will need candidates for Vice-President and possibly Secretary. Secretary Jim Thaxter would like to retire after giving about 8 years of his time.

* *

AGRIMISSOURI LEGISLATIVE BUFFET

Missouri State Beekeepers Association takes an active part as a commodity group in Missouri. In the past we have provided honey for the Governor's Conference in December, and the Legislative Buffet in March. Our purpose is to promote honey and favorable legislation for beekeepers. This year we decided to combine efforts with the Commercial Rabbit Growers of Missouri. We will provide honey for Rabbit Bar B Q, and a sauce for Rabbit Nuggets. Some recipes will be included else-where in this newsletter. The National Honey Board is helping us with table signs and posters.

U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 7 PERCENT

honey production in 1988 from U.S. producers with 5 or more hives totaled 212 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1987. There were 3.2 million colonies producing honey, down slightly from 1987. Yield per colony averaged 66.4 pounds, down from 71.1 pounds in 1987. Colonies that produced in more than one state were counted in each state, and yields may be understated. Producer honey stocks were 31.2 million pounds on December 15. Some states had excellent production while production in other states suffered from drought and disease.

Prices for the 1988 honey crop averaged 50.1 cents per pounds, down 0.2 cents from the 1987 price of 50.3 cents per pound. Honey prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales made to private processors and co-ops. Prices for each color at the U.S. level are derived by weighting state average prices by state quantities sold. Lower prices for amber honeys contributed the most to the slightly lower all honey prices in 1988. All government payments and loans made to producers are excluded from the honey prices published in this annual report.

Honey production in Missouri totaled 2.4 million pounds for 1988, up 23 percent from last year. Missouri producers received an average price of 59 cents per pound, up 11 cents from 1987. The value of Missouri's honey production was $1,416,000 compared to $936,000 in 1987.

HONEY PRODUCTION, 1988

Area	Colonies of Bees	Yield per Colony	Honey Production	Stocks Dec. 15	Average Price/Lb	Value of Production
	-thous.-	-lbs.-	-thousand lbs.-		-cents-	-thous. dol.-
Arkansas	25	67	1,675	168	51	854
Illinois	28	69	1,932	638	77	1,488
Iowa	49	129	6,321	1,580	48	3,034
Kansas	42	69	2,898	319	44	1,275
Missouri	30	80	2,400	1,008	59	1,416
United States	3,186	66.4	211,511	31,172	50.1 1/	107,161

HONEY PRODUCTION, 1987

Area	Colonies of Bees	Yield per Colony	Honey Production	Stocks Dec. 15	Average Price/Lb	Value of Production
	-thous.-	-lbs.-	-thousand lbs.-		-cents-	-thous. dol.-
Arkansas	29	69	2,001	200	45	900
Illinois	28	75	2,100	777	82	1,722
Iowa	44	103	4,532	1,314	58	2,629
Kansas	46	51	2,346	621	64	1,501
Missouri	30	65	1,950	156	47	917
United States	3,190	71.1	226,822	33,094	50.7 1/	115,356

1/ Weighted by sales.

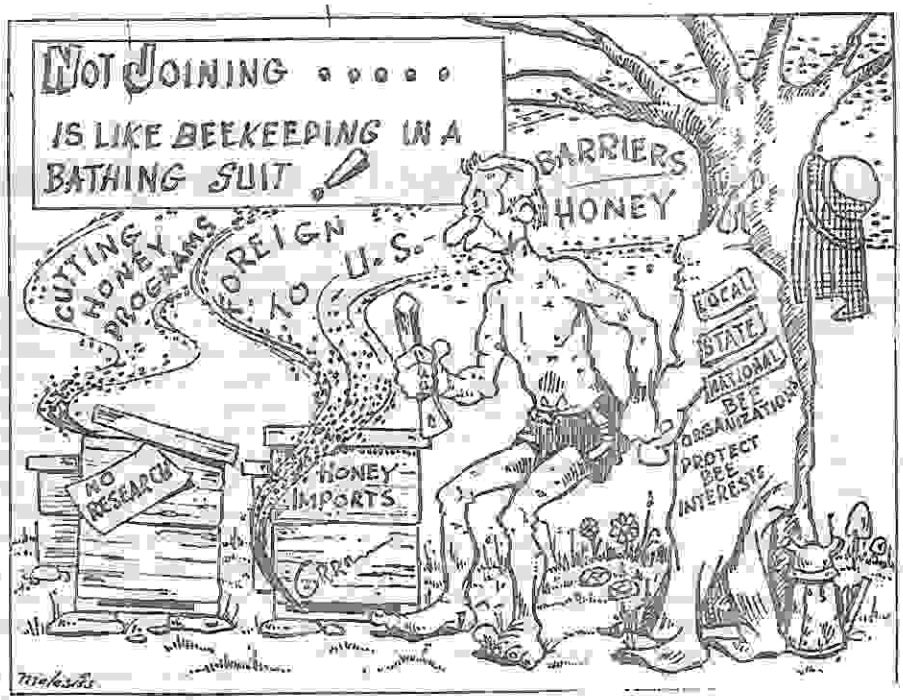
BEESWAX USED TO SOFTEN SKIN

From *Organic Gardening*, October 1988.

If a hands on approach to gardening, housework or beekeeping leaves your skin stained or dry, treat it with a moisturizing cream:

4 tablespoons of strained, freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 tablespoons of liquid lecithin
2 tablespoons of olive oil
1 tablespoon of beeswax.

Put the lemon juice in the top part of an old stainless steel double boiler, or in a stainles steel bowl inside a kettle containing a few inches of water, not enough to submerge the bowl. As the kettle warms over low heat, shave the wax into the lemon juice. When the wax has melted, slowly add the lecithin, stirring all the while (be sure to use a stainless steel spoon). Slowly add the oil as you continue to stir. Then remove the mixture from the heat and continue stirring as it solidifies. Cover and refrigerate, using the same stainless steel container.



1989 MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL TIME

On the last page of this newsletter is an application form. May 1st is the cut off date for this year. It is alot of work to delete a name from the newsletter roster, and then add it back a month or two later.

Honey Producers Hold 20th Annual Convention

With about 200 people on hand, the American Honey Producers Association held its 20th annual convention in Little Rock, Ark., Jan 10-14.

Re-elected president was Richard Adee of Bruce, So. Dak. Jerry Cole of Basque Farms, N. M., was re-elected vice president.

Ray Chancey of Dayton, Texas, was named secretary of the organization, taking over duties which had been handled by Mr. Adee's secretary.

In its business meeting the AHPA approved its resolutions and policies, including a statement of goals, which directs the officers and members to establish rapport with members of Congress and clarify with them the honey bee pollination story, to open up lines of communication with the Administration, to provide the funds necessary for the 1989 AHPA program, and to work with other organizations.

Other resolutions or policies include:

WORKING for a good and workable honey price support program.

REQUESTING USDA-ASCS to work with the industry to correct any regulations that cause a hardship on beekeepers who forfeit their honey to USDA-CCC.

RECOMMENDING the removal of floral source as a determining factor for eligibility for the honey loan program, leaving only color to determine the loan rate.

RECOMMENDING the correction of inequities and violations that exist in international trading of honey among our most favored nation trading parties.

ASKING the appointment of a member of the honey industry to the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade.

RECOMMENDING import duties and quotas for honey that would allow domestic honey to be competitive in the open market, reducing the cost of the price support program.

WORKING to obtain a freight allowance to enable producers to market honey through the buy-back program in lieu of forfeiting honey to USDA-CCC.

RECOMMENDING that FDA use the same rules on imported honey that are currently being applied to domestic honey.

RECOMMENDING that individuals based in the United States and having specific market knowledge of each of the countries targeted for export marketing by the National Honey Board be considered for a position on the NHB Export Committee.

SUPPORTING change in the Honey Board legislation:

-To limit each importer's refund to the same percent ratio of producers' refunds to domestic assessments.

-To assess packers equally with producers and importers, provided the packers' refunds are limited in the same manner as importers'.

-Strongly opposing the removal of refund provisions.

-Opposing any effort to repeal or change the 5-year referendum provision.

RECOMMENDING stricter enforcement of the specific country or origin labeling of honey and prominent display on the label and urging beekeepers to monitor honey in stores and bring a civil suit against non-complying packers if necessary.

ENCOURAGING the appointment and funding of a USDA chemist to conduct primary research on the properties of honey.

RECOMMENDING that USDA-ARS give research on varroa mites and tracheal mites the highest priority designation and that these programs be fully funded.

REQUESTING EPA to immediately license fluvalinate or comparable chemicals for general use registration and that the registration include appropriate mite-free certification after prescribed treatment.

RECOMMENDS that USDA-ARS commence research immediately for wax moth control.

OPPOSING any depopulation programs for the control of tracheal or varroa mites, but requesting adequate indemnification if depopulation is used by an agency.

RECOMMENDING that states work aggressively to rescind all laws, rules and regulations that would restrict the free movement of bees and bee equipment because of a mite infestation.

ENCOURAGING USDA to bring in experimental bee stock from foreign countries, if found to be resistant to varroa and tracheal mites, and release it to the bee industry for breeding.

URGING state and federal governments to collect baseline data on their current bee stocks in areas of possible Africanized honey bee infestation to determine the potential impact of AHB on pollination, honey production, and environment.

RECOMMENDS USDA, other agencies, and the media discontinue the use of the term "killer bee" for describing AHB.

URGING USDA-APHIS to continue to work with the Technical Committee for Africanized Honey Bees and Parasitic Mites to develop and implement procedures that will allow continued interstate and international commerce in bees with minimal disruption due to varroa mites and the expected arrival of AHB.

RECOMMENDING strict enforcement of the label guidelines for applying hazardous pesticides such as Penncap-M, Furidan, etc., to reduce bee kills.

OPPOSING the clearing or burning of honey plants such as tamarisk and mesquite by government agencies, resulting in loss of bee pasture.

ENDORSING the honey bee as the national insect.

SUPPORTING the Competitive Research Grants Program and the addition of a "beneficial insects" category so that independent bee researchers can apply for funds.

RECOMMENDING that the Federal Extension Apiculturist position continue to be fully funded at the Washington level.

* * * * * * * * * * *

HONEY FACT KIT

The National Honey Board's full-color factual honey kit is now available. The kit features four pages of art work of the many products that use honey as an ingredient. The kits are available for $4.00 each from:

The National Honey Board
421 21st St. #203
Longmont, Co. 80501

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION
Contact: Troy Fore - 912-427-8447

500 Attend Federation's Indianapolis Convention

Blessed by a week of unseasonably mild weather, the American Beekeeping Federation's 45th annual convention was attended by over 500 people as it met in Indianapolis, Jan. 20-25.

The Federation returned it full slate of officials to office: Reg Wilbanks of Claxton, Ga., was re-elected to his second term, as was Vice President Bob Brandi of Los Banos, Calif.

The Board of Directors re-elected Pat Astor of Memphis, Tenn., and David Sundberg of Fergus Falls, Minn., to their second two-year terms on the Executive Committee. They rejoin John Haefeli of Monte Vista, Colo., Alan King of Marion, No. Dak., and Bill Shearman of Wimauma, Fla. on the committee and Past President Randall Johnson of Nampa, Idaho.

Crowned as 1989 American Honey Queen was Naomi Gunter of Towner, No. Dak. She is the daughter of Jane Gunter and the late Larry Gunter, a former president of the Federation. Named 1989 American Honey Princess was Jill Mathias of Hummelstown, Pa. She is the daughter of Stewart and Carol Mathias.

In its business meeting, the Federation took a stand in favor of legislation that would end the refunds of the National Honey Board assessments. After hearing that "refunds are the biggest threat to the National Honey Board," the annual business meeting approved a resolution that put it on record to "support legislation to abolish refunds of assessments."

The resolution included no specific direction to the officers as the desired means to carry out the resolution, but in its session the following morning, the Board of Directors directed the executive committee to begin developing plans to carry out the resolution, but the Directors said that the executive committee was to use judgement in the timing of their action.

In adopting another resolution along the same lines, the Federation called for changes in the Honey Board's enabling legislation to spell out how refunds could be made to importers. The promoters of the legislation had intended that each importer could get a refund of that portion of his assessment equal, as a percentage, to the percentage of total domestic assessments paid as refunds to producers.

However, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has ruled that the legislation says that the percentage of domestic refunds must be applied to the importer assessments as a whole and that the resulting "importer refund fund" must be made available to those importers requesting refunds. The result is that the importers requesting refunds are able to get more of their assessments back than they would have under the other interpretation.

In four resolutions adopted, the Federation seeks to improve the position of the U.S. honey producer in international trade. One calls for continued efforts to obtain relief from imported honey through increased import duties, quotas, and/or non-tariff barriers and through cooperation with other agricultural commodity groups fighting imports.

The high tariffs on honey imports to other countries was the subject of a second resolution, which called for work through the GATT talks to get them reduced. The third trade measure asks the appointment of a member of the honey industry to the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade.

The fourth resolution seeks the inclusion of honey on the Foreign Agriculture Service's list of commodities encountering unfair trading practices, making available Commodity Credit Corporation stocks of honey for export assistance.

In a resolution dealing with bee trade, the Federation is calling for talks about the Canadian ban on U.S. bee imports as part of the Canadian/American Fair Trade Agreement. The resolution held that the ban would be in violation of the FTA if the proposed federal varroa quarantine is put into place.

A resolution seeking to liberalize the U.S. rules on imports of bees into this country was defeated, but proponents indicated they would be back next year with a more palatable approach to the importation of stock for breeding purposes.

Other resolutions adopted, included:

SUPPORTING continuation of the honey loan program in the new farm bill.

URGING members to contribute to the legislative fund.

OFFERING to host a meeting of the Tri-Country Committee of Africanized Honey Bees and Parasitic Mites in 1990 or 1991.

THANKING the Extension Service for its Federal Extension Apiculturist post and asking that it be give permanent funding and fulltime status.

RECOMMENDING that the affected beekeepers be indemnified fairly and justly for any colony depopulation carried out as a means of pest control and recognizing that the Federation is opposed to depopulation.

WORKING with USDA to improve the blends of honey being distributed through the commodity programs.

RECOMMENDING that USDA appropriate funds for a "Beneficial Insect" category in the Competitive Research Grants Program.

REQUESTING USDA-ARS to conduct research aimed at the control or elimination of the wax moth.

URGING rapid action from the Environmental Protection Agency on general use labeling of chemicals for control of varroa mites, including Apistan and Amitraz.

SUPPORTING the rules developed by the Varroa Mite Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee for APHIS and urging APHIS to add an experienced apiarist to its staff and to have an experienced apiarist involved in all honey bee projects.

REQUESTING USDA-ARS to maintain, as much as possible, a broad apicultural research program which includes varroa mite, Africanized bees, tracheal mite, chalkbrood, pesticide toxicity to bees, integrated pest management, wax moth, and crop pollination.

CONTINUING to study the feasibility of establishing a "National Bee Act" aimed at eliminating the confusion and disparity which exist between the various states' bee laws.

SUPPORTING the designation of the honey bee as the national insect and urging members to communicate their support to Congress.

SEEKING the cooperation of the American Farm Bureau and others in calling together a panel of experts in various fields to examine the likely impact of the arrival of African bees of various aspects of American life.

ASKING USDA to continue supporting and funding the U.S./Mexico Integrated Project on Africanized bees.

ASKING USDA-ASCS to delete herbicides from its list of acceptable practices for the control of non-noxious weeds on set-aside land.

ENCOURAGING USDA to appoint and fund a chemist to conduct primary research on the properties of honey.

WORKING with USDA-ASCS to establish a blue ribbon panel of honey packers and producers to evaluate the list of floral sources of honey eligible for honey loans.

SUPPORTING the production of a video to educate grammar school students on the honey bee and honey bee products.

As has been its practice of several years, the Federation approved a list of Continuing Objectives for the organization and its membership, including:

-Working to stop honey adulteration.

-Conducting beekeeping operations to minimize unnecessary public exposure to honey bees.

-Maintaining the highest standards of maintenance and sanitation in honey production and handling.

-Cooperating with other organizations to further the goals of the beekeeping industry.

-Promoting the use of legumes on set-aside land, marginal farm land, land subject to erosion, and land for wildlife habitat.

-Working through the ABF Research and Technical Committee with USDA to determine and accomplish research needs.

-Maintaining and expanding honey promotional efforts through the American Honey Queen Program.

The complete resolutions and Continuing Objectives are available from the office of the Federation, P.O. Box 1038, Jesup, GA 31545.

NEW BOOKS

A Book of Bees . . . and How to Keep Them

By Sue Hubbell
Random House, 168 pages, $17.95
Reviewed by Frank Levering
A writer and orchardist
in Orchard Gap, VA

"I have never counted entries in a major research library catalogue," Sue Hubbell writes, "but I suspect more has been written about bees than any other animal with which we share the planet."

Hubbell is a former university librarian who for the last 15 years has been a beekeeper, on a 100-acre farm in the Missouri Ozarks. An omnivorous reader who harvests and sells honey from 300 hives, Hubbell is stranger to neither books nor bees.

As this book demonstrates, this "middle-aged woman in baggy white overalls," called "Bee Lady" in her community, is an engaging writer. She adds an informed, often eloquent voice to the swarm of writers, from Aristotle to E. B. White, who have celebrated bees. Yet one enters this book as most would enter a beeyard, with considerable misgivings. Save for the entomologists among us, the prospect of reading 168 pages on bees and beekeeping is not likely to stir up much of a buzz.

Her piquant style, however, is as enticing as blackberry blossoms to her bees: "For a long, long time, for nearly 40 years, I never had any bees. I can't think why. Everyone should have two or three hives of bees. Bees are easier to keep than a dog or cat . . . They can be kept anywhere. A well-known New York City publisher keeps bees on the terrace of his Upper East Side penthouse, where they happily work the flowers in Central Park."

She has our attention. She is able to hold it because the truth is, keeping bees is certainly not easier than keeping a dog or cat. Her own evidence underscores this odd contradiction in her book. Aside from being wild, bees are remarkably complicated creatures, and what beekeepers do is a good deal more involved than the simple word "keep" suggests.

With our famous American passion for experts, even those readers who never have done anything more with bees than swat them will find this book a honeycomb of information. In four chapters that cover the seasons, Hubbell writes lucidly of such beekeeper basics as how to distract bees with smoke, how to capture a swarm, how to handle queen bees, and how to extract honey from combs.

On the subject of honey, she is characteristically wry:

"There are other animals who like honey in addition to bees. Ants, cockroaches and wasps get into beehives to eat it when they can. So do pigs, bears or any other animals with a sweet tooth. Humans are the most skillful at taking the honey from the bees — and they like to spread it on hot biscuits."

This is a writer who knows the beauty as well as the logic of husbandry, whose attention to one place and one animal magically suggests the whole big hive of life. As the saying went in the 20's, Sue Hubbell is the bee's knees. (From *Chicago Tribune*, 10/13/88)

Botulism and Honey

By Andrew Matheson
MAF Apicultural Consultant, Tauranga

Botulism has again been linked to honey as a health risk for infants. This latest scare has affected some New Zealand exporters, especially those shipping honey to Japan.

The link between botulism and honey was made in the late 1970s, although until now we haven't heard much about it in New Zealand.

Botulism is a type of food poisoning that is very rare but also very serious: depending on the exact strain of the disease up to 50% of affected people may die. The poisoning results from a toxin produced by the bacterium Clostridium botulinum. This toxin is said to be one of the most poisonous substances known; one gram of it could kill over 14,000,000,000 average-sized humans.

The bacterium Clostridium botulinum is very common and occurs nearly everywhere, including on the raw vegetables we eat. The spores have been regarded as harmless to humans, as they can't germinate inside our intestinal tracts. We only contract botulism when we eat foods in which the bacteria have survived cooking, then produced toxin before being eaten. Botulism is usually associated with faulty preserving or canning, especially of vegetables, meat or fish. (The word comes from the Latin botulus for sausage.)

In 1976 all these ideas changed. It was found that the botulism toxin could be produced after spores were ingested, but only in infants less than six months old. Their gut flora is less developed and the digestive tract is less acid than in adults. It is fortunate, though, that toxin production in infants after spore ingestion takes place only slowly, so the condition can be treated fairly successfully. Mortality rate is low.

When this story hit the airways in the US in the late 1970s a lot of detective work was put into finding a link between the affected infants. Quite a few had been fed honey, and some honey samples were found to contain Clostridium botulinum spores.

This caused a great stir in the US honey industry, with suggestions being made that honey containers should have health warnings about infant feeding.

Since then further studies have shown that:

- Very little honey contains spores of Clostridium botulinum (about 10% of retail packs);
- The spores can be found in plenty of other food (including the honey substitute corn syrup). Spores are also common in other substances eaten by babies, such as soil and household dust.

The types of botulism found in honey do occur in this country, but no botulism has yet been found in New Zealand honey. If you are asked for documentation about Clostridium botulinum for any of your exports your should contact MAF's Lynfield office for sampling and certification.

News Release

National Honey Board
421 21st Street #203
Longmont, Colorado 80501-1421
303.776.2337
Facsimile 303.776.1177

February 10, 1989

For more information, contact:
Mary Humann
(303) 776-2337

BUSY BEES
CORNELL STUDY ANALYZES HONEY BEE POLLINATION

The value of increased U.S. agricultural crop yield and quality achieved by honey bee pollination was $9.7 billion in 1985, according to a research study conducted by Cornell University. The study was conducted under a trust fund established by the National Honey Board with the USDA's Economic Research Service.

The value of honey bee crop pollination is 68 times the combined sum of all pollination fees paid to beekeepers (estimated at $60.9 million per year) and the cost of the federal honey price support program ($80.8 million in 1985), the study reported.

According to the study, more than two million colonies of honey bees are rented annually for crop pollination, a number which is considerably higher than any previously published estimate.

"Many of the colonies are used on two different crops in the same year, and a small number even pollinate three," the study reported. "Thus, about one million colonies are involved, almost one-third of all beekeeper-managed colonies in the United States."

Many U.S. agricultural crops, including almonds, apples, melons, alfalfa, plum/prunes, avocados, blueberries, cherries, cucumbers, pears, sunflowers and cranberries, are dependent upon or derive increased yields from honey bee pollination. The study notes that acreage and/or production have been increasing markedly over the last 20 years for many of the major crops that benefit from honey bee pollination.

The study, conducted by Willard S. Robinson, Richard Nowogrodzki and Roger A. Morse of the Department of Entomology at Cornell University is the most current effort quantifying the value of pollination services.

According to the USDA's Economic Research Service, approximately one-third of the human diet is directly or indirectly benefited by honey bee pollination.

The National Honey Board helped to fund the study to gain current information on the value of beekeeping to society. "The beekeeping/honey industry provides a critical link in U.S. agriculture," said Dan Hall, manager of the Honey Board. "We want American consumers to understand the importance of honey bees and beekeepers."

Extension Service UPDATE

Cooperative Extension System
Investing in America's Future

United States Department of Agriculture

Apiculture Awareness

FEBRUARY, 1989 VOL. 2, ISSUE 2

ABSTRACT OF A REPORT ON U.S. HONEY IMPORTS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NOVEMBER, 1988. (In Compliance with Section 4503 of the Agricultural Competitiveness and Trade Act of 1988)

Domestic honey production, honey bee colony numbers, and the availability of pollination services have not declined despite the significant increase in U.S. honey imports in the 1980's. These imports were used largely by packers and food manufacturers to replace the supply of domestic honey which was forfeited to the U.S. government under the honey price support program. Honey imports began replacing consumption of domestic honey in the early 1980's because domestic honey prices, supported by high price support loan rates, were no longer competitive with imports. During this time, the honey price support program maintained producers' income and domestic honey production, but with increasingly large program expenditures. Total U.S. government outlays from 1980 to 1987 to acquire and dispose of nearly 500 million pounds of honey forfeited under the price support program are estimated at $425.5 million. With the inception of the lower loan repayment option for the 1986 through 1988 honey crops, which made the domestic honey market more competitive, honey imports have been reduced considerably. Even though loans made under the honey price support program increased from about 6,300 in 1985 to 11,300 in 1987, forfeiture rates have dropped from a high of 98% of loan collateral for the 1984 honey crop to 24% for the 1986 crop. Thus, under the program provisions put into place in 1986, imports have declined, U.S. government outlays have been reduced, and production and colony numbers have been maintained.

Technical questions about this study, or requests for copies of the report should be addressed to:

Dr. Frederic L. Hoff
USDA ERS, Room 1240
1301 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005-4788
(202)786-1883

December 12, 1988

Missouri State Beekeepers Assn.
314 Twinmoore Drive
Lallwin, MO 63011

Dear Sirs:

As a member of the Missouri Beekeeper's Association, I would like to invite the Association to the 1989 Small Farmers Gathering. One of the purposes of this event is to expose small farmers to ways that they can increase their income. As a small farmer, the honey bee is certainly helping us.

I am of the opinion that this event would provide an excellent place to promote beekeeping. Should you elect to come, I would be willing to donate some honey for resale.

The Small Farmer's Gathering will be held in Holden, Missouri on October 21 and 22. Should you have questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Counts
Rural Route 2
Warrensburg, MO 64093
816-747-8929

Action?

Posted: Thu Jan 5, 1989 11:03 AM EST Msg: MGIJ-2735-8449
From: PPQ.NAPIS.CHAMPAI.IL
To: ALL.PPQ.USERS
Subj: VARROA MITE IN ILLINOIS

Illinois has completed the statewide Varroa mite survey and plans to conduct an on going survey. To date, six northern counties have been found to be infested. They are as follows: Cook County, 3 apiaries (44 colonies); Lake County, 1 - 18 colonies; LaSalle County, 9 - 263 colonies; McHenry County, 2 - 60 colonies; Will County, 1 - 7 colonies; and Winnebago County 5 - 48 colonies. Plans are to treat the 440 infested colonies with Apistan strips.

Eugene Killion

Action? purge

Year of the Africanized Bee?

To take a quick break, Dom Martinez left his station counting shipping cargo on the state-run docks at Mobile, Alabama, and stepped outside the warehouse. He looked up at a wall and saw about 200 bees.

Since officials are always checking the docks for imported insects, Martinez called the local office of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Two minutes later, Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer Glen Landau, who was doing a routine ship inspection not far away, got a call over the radio attached to his belt. The message: possible Africanized bee infiltration.

Within 5 minutes, he was there. He took his bee suit, insecticide, and nets out of the back of his car and suited up for action.

As had happened the previous 8 times Africanized bees were suspected to be in Mobile, Landau collected 100 of the bees in his net and killed the rest with spray—in case they were Africanized. The difference between this case and the others, however, is that this time—September 26, 1988—Africanized bees *had* found their way into the United States. Over the next few weeks, Landau and colleagues would set up traps in a 2-mile radius of the docks and alert beekeepers in a 10-mile radius of the infiltration—all to be on the lookout for other bees.

But how did he know these were Africanized bees and not the average domestic European honey bees already here? After all, the bees look the same.

He knew because he had sent the 100-bee sample, preserved in alcohol, by overnight express parcel service, to the Beneficial Insects Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland. That laboratory, part of the Agricultural Research Service, provides expert identification of Africanized bees 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.

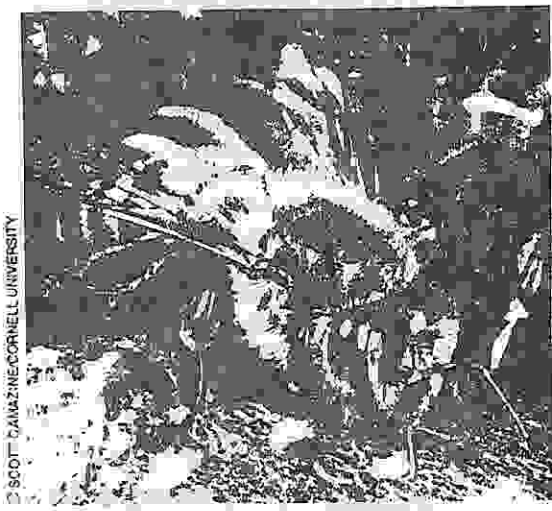
DAVID MACE

Juan Aranda, an ARS student trainee at Weslaco, Texas, scans magnified images of honey bee body parts into a computer. The computer then calculates the probability that the bee was Africanized. (88BW2140-34)

At the lab, Steve Sheppard and Robyn Glass used FABIS (for Fast Africanized Bee Identification System) to check the sample. FABIS was developed by ARS' Thomas E. Rinderer and colleagues at the Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Laboratory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

They mounted the forewings of 10 randomly selected bees on slides and projected them, enlarged, onto a screen. They measured the wings and checked the results against a chart of standard wing specifications for each kind of bee. The result: probably Africanized.

So they went on to step 2: a complete morphometric (body measuring) analysis. They measured forewings, hind wings, hind legs, and abdominal sternums in many different places and angles, for a total of 25 separate measurements. Then they entered all the data into a computer, which gave them a figure indicating probability of Africanization—in this case, 99.4 percent. "That's pretty close to a definite yes," Sheppard says. He alerted Landau that the bees were Africanized.



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Practically indistinguishable from their European cousins, Africanized honey bees are noted for savagely defending their hives.

The scientists at the lab have a research plan to develop new methods of distinguishing between the two kinds of bees—methods that analyze molecular, chemical, and immunological differences.

In fact, ARS has 4 locations with 11 scientists conducting research on the Africanized bee. The goal of that research: to stop or slow the spread of the bee northward into the United States from Mexico and if that's not possible, to learn how to cope with it.

Research Gone Awry

The Africanized bee situation can be traced back to a research project that went awry. In 1956, a Brazilian geneticist imported African varieties of *Apis mellifera* and bred them with European varieties in Brazil. His purpose: To improve tropical honey production by creating a honey bee [illegible] to hot climates.

But the experimental colonies were accidentally released before the geneticist could assess the hybrid bee's characteristics.

Unfortunately, those characteristics, according to scientists at the ARS Baton Rouge lab, include less honey

production and less efficient pollination. Research showed that compared to European bees, Africanized bees collect nectar with less sugar, carry smaller loads, make longer trips, and don't communicate as much with fellow bees about good nectar locations.

Since these bees threaten to come to the United States, beekeepers and farmers fear for their businesses. And with reason: Bees produce $150 million worth of honey and pollinate $20 billion worth of crops every year.

But perhaps more frightening to people is the Africanized bees'

"People sometimes refer to these bees as more aggressive, but that's not really an accurate term. What they are is more defensive."

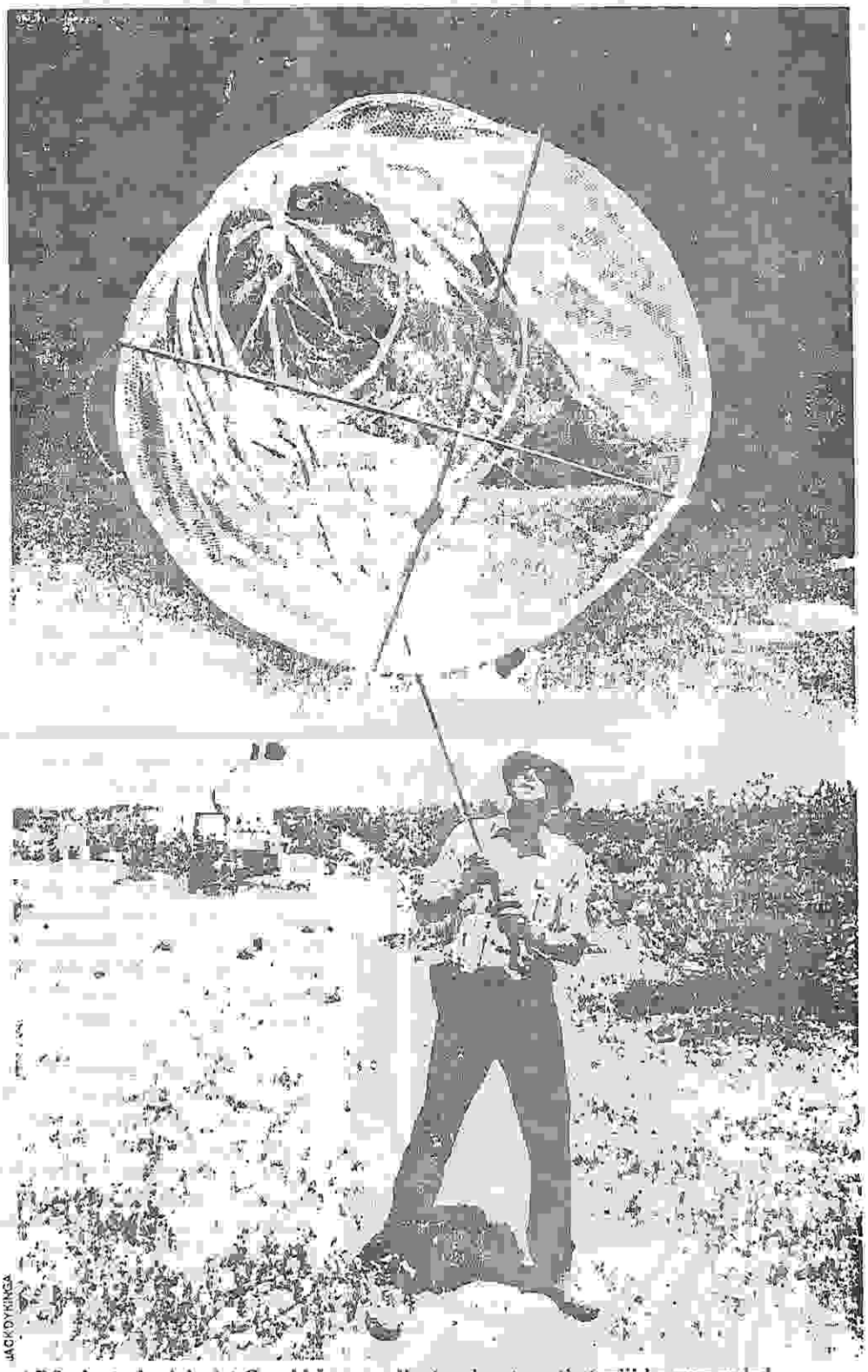
Thomas Rinderer, ARS geneticist, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

reputation for stinging in greater numbers and with less provocation than European bees. Although their venom is no more poisonous than that of their European counterparts, the greater number of stings can lead to shock and possibly death in a victim.

When provoked, the bees will also chase a suspected hive molester a lot farther—up to a mile; the European type generally gives up after a few dozen feet.

"People sometimes refer to these bees as more aggressive, but that's not really an accurate term," says Rinderer of the Baton Rouge lab. "What they are is more defensive." He explains that the bees are simply defending their hive. European bees do so, as well, but not as fiercely.

And he adds, there is some good news to the story. Interbreeding with native European populations has made each generation of the Africanized bees gentler. "The bees in Mexico are not the same as the ones in Brazil and certainly not the same as those in Africa." What that means is that the



JACK DYKINGA

ARS plant physiologist Gerald Loper adjusts a bee trap that will be suspended from a balloon tethered 25 to 50 feet above the ground. Once the drones have been drawn near by a synthetic queen bee pheromone, cigarette filters dyed to look like queens lure them into the trap. Radar trailer in background is used to track groups of drones in flight. (0587X431-24)

more desirable characteristics of European bees have softened the negative ones of the original Africanized hybrids.

USDA officials are taking full advantage of this definite—albeit slow—tendency to change genetically with interbreeding. Two USDA groups about 500 miles south of the U.S. border—at Veracruz in the east and Oaxaca in the west—have been importing and releasing gentle European bees to interbreed with Africanized bees there. They also trap swarming bees in bait hives and destroy them with suffocation by sealing the hive in a plastic bag.

ARS research at the Baton Rouge lab contributed to the knowledge necessary to implement the program, and scientists there continue to support control efforts

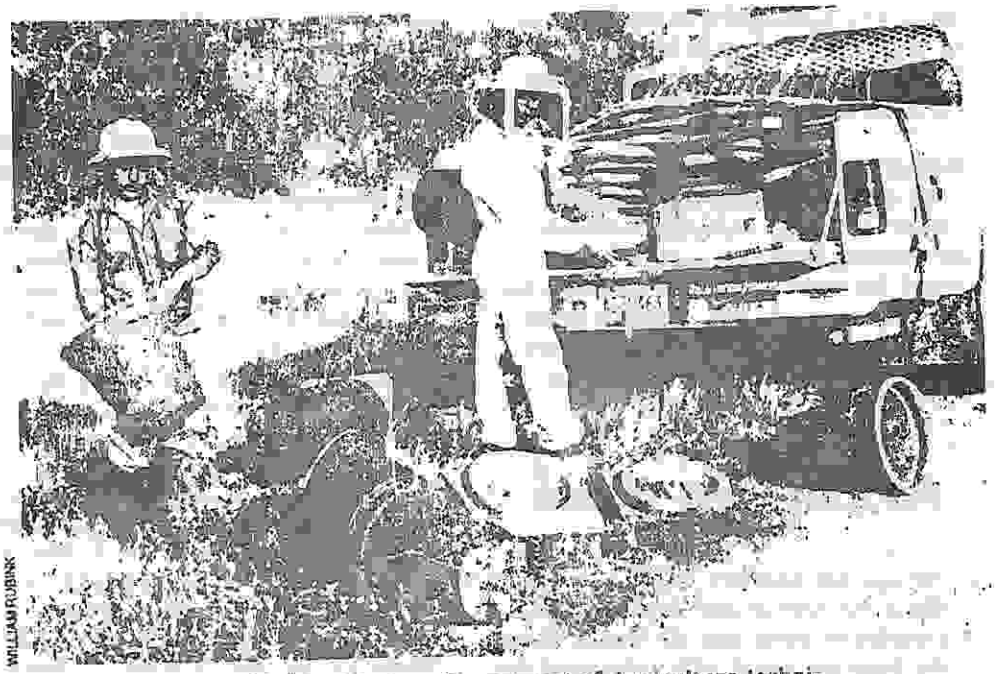
The two units started as a project between the Mexican government and USDA to trap and kill the bees in 1986. That has slowed the bees some; by expert projections, they could have arrived in south Texas in 1987 or 1988, Rinderer says. But they're still 500 miles south of the border.

In case the bees do come to the United States, ARS scientists hope to help beekeepers and the public be ready. Research to do this follows.

Stopping and Controlling Africanized Bees

H. Allen Sylvester and colleagues at the Baton Rouge lab are "mapping," or identifying and locating, the genes of European bees. "We want to genetically engineer a strain of the more gentle domestic bees that will outcompete the Africanized bees in some way," Sylvester says. For example, a bacterium called *Bacillus larvae* causes one of the worst honey bee diseases, called American foul brood. The scientists hope to find a way to modify European honey bees to produce a bacterium-killing protein called cecropin (sakropin). The gene that allows insects to do this has been identified in a moth; now Sylvester and Rinderer are working to find a way to get that gene into honey bees.

Then, beekeepers would have the bacterium-resistant strain in their hive



WILLIAM RUBINK

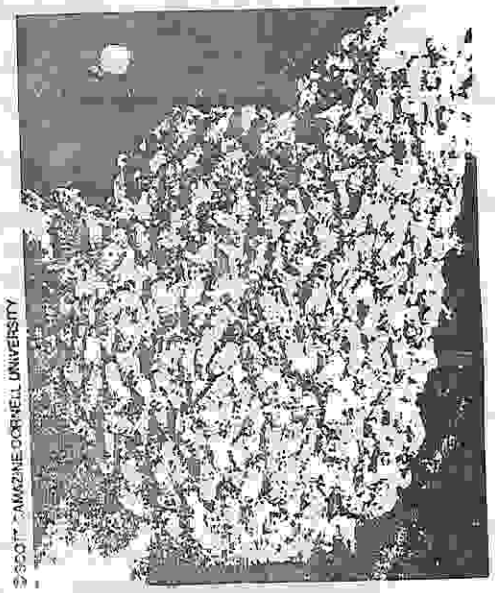
Bait hives are assembled by Mexican Department of Agriculture technicians near Ciudad Victoria in eastern Mexico. The hives provide nesting places for Africanized bees that will later be destroyed. (88BW1395)

yards and could set out honey baits with foul brood spores mixed in. The honey would attract any honey bee that comes along into eating it. The genetically engineered European ones, because of their new gene, would kill the bacterium hidden in it, but nonresistant Africanized bees would die.

Rinderer says his group is also working on finding natural and synthetic compounds to subdue the bees. One winner: a mosquito repellant developed by ARS in the 1950's, called Deet, which is now in more than 30 insect repellants on the market. Deet quickly subdues bees in lab tests. Although the bees eventually recover, Deet makes them stop stinging completely at the moment, giving a victim time to run away. "It's kind of like Mace in that it temporarily debilitates them," Rinderer says.

He points out that Deet would have to be sprayed in the air near the person or animal being stung. In tests, spraying the compound directly on the skin before the attack was not as effective at subduing the bees as was permeating the air with it at the moment of attack.

For national parks and other outdoor public areas, the scientists have developed a system for trapping and killing



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Africanized bees are likely to swarm several times a year, accounting for their rapid propagation. This swarm, near Tapchula, Mexico, was destroyed.

Africanized bees in a way that is environmentally sound. Officials could put out a sugar syrup bait and check to see what kind of bees have responded to it, Rinderer says. If Africanized bees are

there, they would put a couple of drops of poison in the syrup to kill the bees. "Since there is no spraying, risk to the environment is minimal," he says.

Detecting and Attracting Bees

At the Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in Tucson, Arizona, scientists are tracking bees with radar as they search for mates to learn exactly how far and where a queen goes to find a group of males. They hope to fill beekeepers in on how far and in what direction a queen flies to mate. "That way, a beekeeper could check her probable destination for Africanized males before letting her fly to mate," says Gerald Loper. If Africanized males are there, the beekeeper could replace them with European males.

Also, by learning where males gather to mate, areas where Africanized bees may spread could be predicted so that their arrival could be anticipated and they could be destroyed.

Another project is developing the best hives for trapping swarms of Africanized bees. Scientists have worked out exactly which odors attract these hybridized bees and how much room they like when they select a new nest. If Africanized bees arrive, these custom-made hives could be set out to trap bees and monitor areas for spread. If Africanized bees do move in, they could be destroyed.

William Rubink, of the Honey Bee Research Laboratory in Weslaco, Texas, has set up three lines of traps, each 115 miles long, in northern Mexico and southern Texas. Located along the Africanized bees' predicted corridor of travel into the United States, the traps are baited with a chemical that lures both types of bees.

The traps will do two things: Let scientists know if and when Africanized bees infiltrate the area and in what quantity, and provide information about existing European populations in the area.

Monitoring European bees now will tell scientists if Africanized bees spread bee parasites and if they change the native bee's body size and swarming behavior. That will give officials in other areas advance warning of what to expect and how fast.

Africanized Bees

The officials in Mobile, Alabama, haven't had any more Africanized bee trouble, with the possible exception of a couple of stragglers that escaped Landau's spray. The day after Landau collected his sample, a stevedore who works for the same company as Martinez "got the stragglers with a broom and gave them to me," Landau says. Fortunately, beekeepers and the public can rely on research—not brooms—to ready them for the arrival of the Africanized honey bee.

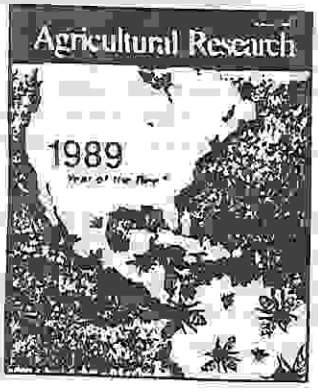
"Honey Bees Abroad"

There's renewed demand for this short brochure, originally intended as a training aid for U.S. civilians and military personnel going overseas. Today, it's proving to be relevant reading for the thousands of Americans who wonder if they'll be affected by an immigration of Africanized bees.

Brief and to the point, the brochure is based on the practical experiences of bee researchers. It tells how to deal with the sting-prone honey bees found in tropical Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Send for your copy of USDA/ARS Program Aid 1425, Honey Bees Abroad, available in limited quantities from the USDA Office of Information, Washington, DC 20250-1300.—By Jessica Morrison, ARS.

[If you are interested in contacting scientists mentioned in this article, write or telephone the Editor, Agricultural Research, Bldg. 005, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-West, Beltsville, MD 20705 (301) 344-3280.] ♦

Agricultural Research



Cover: Starting from an accidental release near Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1956, African-European hybrid honey bees have spread over most of tropical and subtropical South America, all of Central America, and now within 500 miles of the United States' southern border. Cover design by Sandy Henry, ARS.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

JOHN ASHCROFT
GOVERNOR

CHARLES E. KRUSE
DIRECTOR

December 23, 1988

Sharon Gibbons, Editor
Missouri State Beekeeper Association
314 Quinnmoor Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011

Dear Sharon,

Enclosed you will find the results of the 1988 Varroa Mite Survey conducted in Missouri by Missouri Department of Agriculture and USDA personnel.

As you can see, two different surveys were conducted. The first survey I asked Missouri beekeepers to bring in samples of adult bees before we obtained the Apistan (fluvalinate) strips, and the other was conducted entirely by MDA and USDA personnel using the Apistan strips.

I think we did an excellent survey and it couldn't have been accomplished without the fine cooperation of the Missouri beekeepers who participated by bringing samples of adult bees and then allowing us to sample their apiaries using the Apistan strips. Please thank all of them in your newsletter for this fine cooperative spirit. As you can see, we did **not** find any Varroa Mites and hopefully this will keep other states from placing restrictive exterior quarantines on Missouri honey bees. As always, you can count on Missouri beekeepers to do their part in helping this vital industry.

Thanks again and I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Joe Francka

Joseph E. Francka
State Entomologist

JEF/dmb

Enclosure

Telephone (314) 751-2462

DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRIES
P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630

1616 Missouri Boulevard

MISSOURI COUNTIES SURVEYED FOR VARROA MITES DURING 1988

Adair	Greene	Polk
Benton	Howard	Putnam
Boone	Jackson	Ralls
Butler	Lafayette	Randolph
Callaway	Marion	St. Charles
Chariton	Moniteau	St. Genevieve
Clay	New Madrid	St. Louis
Cole	Pemiscot	Taney
Crawford	Phelps	Warren
Dunklin	Platte	St. Francois
Franklin		

Total: 31 different counties surveyed
* 24 different counties were surveyed using fluvalinate strips with 65 Apiaries sampled, with a total of 1,589 colonies, and 216 actual colonies surveyed
* 14 different counties were surveyed using visual examination-- Collected 500 bees per sample in alcohol and examined by USDA personnel. A total of 45 apiaries were sampled.

* *

SLIDE AND TAPE LIBRARY UPDATE

Please add to list published in December, a VHS Video Tape from THE NATIONAL HONEY BOARD "A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY" 11:53 mins.
Order from: John J. Hartmann, Rt. 5, Box 714, 3353 Frog Hollow Road
Jefferson City, Mo. 65109

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

In the last newsletter, I forgot to thank our main speaker from last October's State Meeting. Richard F. Trump was a very interesting speaker, and we were so happy he could come. He has written a funny book, I guess entertaining would be more appropriate, about beekeeping. It is titled "BEES and their KEEPERS". It costs $17.95 hardcover and can be purchased from BEEKEEPING EDUCATION SERVICE, P.O. Box 817 Cheshire, Connecticut 06410

* *

ORIENTAL RABBIT (or chicken) APPETIZERS

To be served at the AgriMissouri Buffet on March 14th

1 cup HONEY
4 tsp. Sherry wine
3 Tbsp. Soy Sauce
2 tsp. chopped ginger root
5 Tbsp. Dijon Mustard

Mix together. Simmer 10 mins. Dip deep-fryed pieces of rabbit or chicken nuggets into sauce.

FROM THE EDITOR:

A mountain of paper sits on my desk prior to writing this newsletter. I wish all of the beekeeping information was happy news like listening to Gene Killion last Thursday evening talk about the "Joys of Beekeeping". He talked about the joy of smelling new pine supers as you pound nails into them; of the aroma of new foundation, the first dandelion with a honeybee vigorously working it, of gentle honeybees producing beautiful newly-drawn honeycomb and so on... I get to write about the latest in varroa mite control, the dangers of adulterating honey with chemicals, and so on.

Joe FRANCKA wrote a nice letter thanking all of you who cooperated with the varroa mite survey. He did not find varroa in Missouri and we are officially considered a mite-free state. The national quarantine went into effect on March 1st. Joe will talk more about this at the March State Meeting. It is important that you do not use any chemicals for mite control until we actually have the problem.

A special USDA advisory committe on varroa mite has met twice to draw up regulations for interstate mite control. The committee consists of 18 individuals representing government agencies (7), growers(4), bee breeders (2), migratory (1), apiary inspectors (1), the beekeeping industry (2), plus one person speaking solely for the nation's 150,000 or more hobbyist beekeepers. The proposed rules focus on migratory beekeeping and, if passed, will state:

1. they may return only to the areas they visited last year,
2. they may not stop in any uninfested state,
3. they must have a transit visa from APHIS,
4. they must provide an itinerary,
5. they may transport clean or treated bees only,
6. they must net and/or screen their hives,
7. they must travel approved interstate routes only, and
8. they may not acquire new customers or territories.

The varroa mite eventually will come to Missouri, and once here,beekeepers will have to keep informed about contolling it. At the American Beekeeping Federation meeting last month, I learned that the mite could become resistant to the chemicals used. I also learned how upset a group of Indians beekeepers were because the Apistan strips had been incorrectly used. It seemed that the inspectors had failed to remove the Apistan strips from hives infected with varroa mite. The bees had gone into winter cluster with the strips in the hives. Another miticide named Amitraz developed by Noram Chemical Co. is/or could be an alternative. It has not been approved for beekeeping use. When it is, it could be used to control both tracheal and varroa mites. I stopped by one of the booths at the ABF meeting in Indianapolis and talked to a representative from Dewill, Inc. This firm develops non-drug treatments of pests and diseases. He experimented with pipe tobacco smoke as his smoker fuel on varroa infected hives and found that it was as effective as fluvalinate in producing mite drop-off within 2-3 minutes. If tobacco smoke works as a detection tool, would it work as a control? In the current issue (Feb.89) of Gleanings, Dr. Roger Morse mentions that tobacco smoke is used in Europe. "Milton Holmes, Senior Operations Officer with APHIS of the USDA, said he wasn't sure if it was legal for beekeepers in this country to use tobacco smoke to detect varroa. The Environmental Protection Agency has some strange laws regarding how materials that will kill insects or mites may be used. Since tobacco is a carcinogen, its use may not be approved."

What we all need to think about is--What will all these chemicals do to the quality of honey? Worse yet, what will the consumer do if chemicals are found in some honey? Read on...from news articles just printed this week. California is setting the pace!!!

ANTIBIOTICS IN ANIMAL FEED BLAMED FOR SIX U.S. DEATHS A YEAR

The routine use of antibiotics in animal feed is responsible for six deaths and 1,000 cases of food poisoning a year, an expert panel of the National academy of Sciences said Thursday, Feb. 2,1989.

But the panel purposefully undermined its own conclusions, warning that its estimates were unreliable and should not be used to justify regulatory action by the federal government.

The panel's report is thus likely to prolong for several more years an already decades-long debate over whether the government should allow farmers to routinely add antibiotics to feed... to prevent disease rather than to treat disease after it occurs.

Viewpoint

Will Pure Honey Be the Loser?

BY ANDY NACHBAUR
Los Banos, CA 93635

Some of the northern California beekeepers who have been moving out of state for many years are avoiding detection by the use of Amitraz last year and fluvalinate this year. Since, as far as I can find out, no one is looking in honey for anything but sulfa, EDB and terramycin, they will get away with it. I have yet to find any lab that can detect fluvalinate in honey. Amitraz has been recovered in honey from hives treated legally in California one year after treatment.

The beekeeping industry is setting off a time bomb by allowing themselves to be forced to use any chemical. Both the public and FDA are not going to care how or why beekeepers put chemical pesticides into honey. And you can be sure that no government agency will give price support on honey with these chemicals. It will not matter who caused the problem. The cost of checking honey for chemicals is not small and will be passed back to the producer.

It is sad that the negotiated rulemaking committee had no public or consumer representation or FDA and USDA Commodity Credit Corporation, or even a member from the honey packing industry or honey promotion board. My own personal view is that this type of rulemaking may work well in labor-management situations and in communist countries but has not worked for the bee industry.

No hive of bees has been found in California with more than a few varroa mites, and no damage to any hive of bees has been noted. This may come later, and the real question is which will happen first, the loss of pure honey or the loss of bees. My bet is pure honey will be the loser.

Making Safe The Shelves

A debate heats up over pesticides

By Christine Bertelson
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

March 4, 1989

"CAUTION: These vegetables may contain pesticide residues hazardous to your health."

If a local consumer group has its way, fruits and vegetables at the supermarket would be displayed with warnings and information about the amount of pesticide residues they contain.

Pat Sonnecker, a representative of St. Louis Group for Safe Food, said grocers here should follow the lead of California grocery chains that test their fruits and vegetables for pesticide residues and post the results alongside the prices in the produce aisle.

The group also is pushing for state laws requiring certification and labeling of organically grown produce in Missouri.

"People want to know what is in their food so they can make an informed choice and not get ripped off," Sonnecker said.

Will Pure Honey Be the Loser?

March 2 1989 Steelville Star

The Active Consumer

The bounty hunter, a romantic figure in television and novels of the Old West, has been reborn in California.

A new California law could result in higher prices at the check-out counter.

A new California law says a warning label is required on anything containing anything that causes cancer or birth defects, unless it can be proven that the amount poses "no significant risk" (even though Federal law already prohibits harmful amounts of chemicals in products).

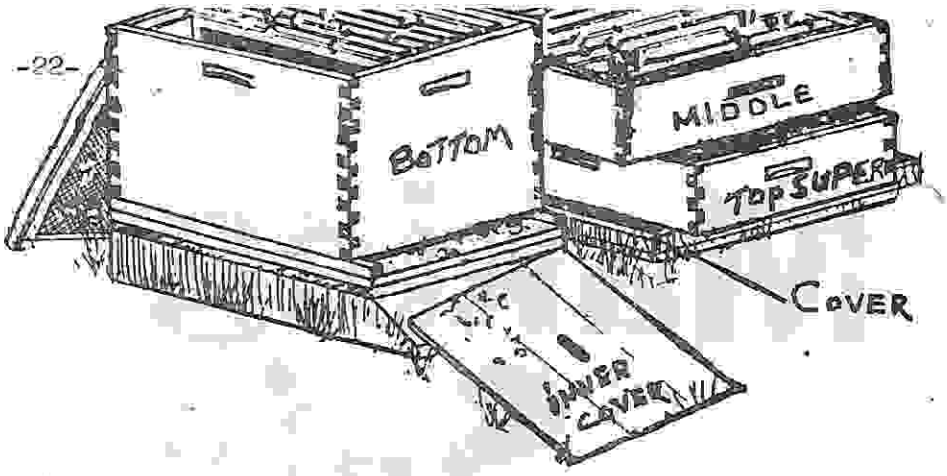
The bounty hunter comes into the picture because the California law—called Proposition 65—says anyone can institute an action. According to the National Center for Policy Analysis that means Citizen John Doe can tell the attorney general that Mac's Deli is selling salami that contains a known carcinogen. If the attorney general has not moved against Mac's Deli within 60 days, Doe can bring his own court action. If he wins, he gets 25 percent of a $2500-per-day penalty levied on Mac's Deli and THE BURDEN OF PROOF (and the cost of proving it) IS ON MAC to prove that his salami is safe.

A Ph.D. isn't required to see that this places great temptation before competitors, disgruntled ex-employees, jealous friends and underemployed lawyers.

The matter is vastly complicated by the fact that almost everything we eat, drink, wear, touch or use contains some amount of some carcinogen or toxic chemical. Almost every food contains them naturally. Chlorinated tap water contains the carcinogen, chloroform.

The upshot is that courts will be deciding what should be decided by research scientists. And if other activists in other states copy California, already a major trend-setter in America, the nation could have 50 different sets of rules for almost everything we consume.

In The Beginning . . .



BEE MANAGEMENT IN MARCH--- do only in good weather with temp. above 55 degrees
Close and remove dead colonies.
Lift top cover to check stores.
Feed weak colonies, if less than 15 pounds of honey.
In place of feeding, unite a weak colony with a strong one, using the newspaper method.
Clean bottom boards.
Inspect for disease and feed drugs as necessary.
Repair and refurbish remaining equipment.
If temperature remains cold, check for dead bees clogging the opening-scoop them out with a stick or coat hanger.
MOVE YOUR HIVE if location isn't a good one. See following instructions and Jim Thaxter's article about choosing a good site.

How to . . . Load and Move Bees

By THURBER

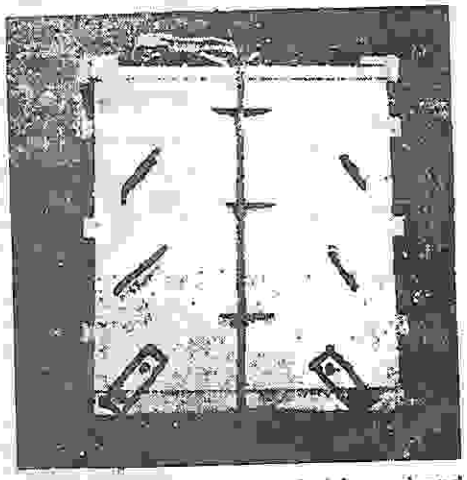
Part III

Fastening Hives Together for Moving

LET'S AGREE THAT if you plan only to move hives in order to escape from pesticides or you move to mollify your neighbors who are mad and threaten to sue because you have bad tempered bees, the standard hive staples you buy at the bee supply are OK. You must remember the staples are used only on the sides of the hives, and each staple is nailed so it slants upward and inward. See photo 1.

If you do not have staples on hand, one by four inches of quarter inch plywood can be cut and drilled. Then you install the strips just like staples. You do not use nails to hold the strips. You use seven eights or three quarter inch roofing tacks. Again, see photo 1.

On the other hand anyone who moves his bees on a regular basis is stark raving mad if he uses staples. Say you move to the blueberries for pollination — then to blackberries then to the thistle or fireweed and then home. Every time you check the hives you have to remove the staples and when you move you have to restaple. The constant nalling and removing of the staples shortly demolishes good supers which are not cheap even if you make your own. So staples are out.



Strips or staples are angled inward and upward on sides only. Wire banded with plastic strapping.

Your alternatives to staples are steel strapping, plastic strapping or nylon-dacron webbing with some kind of tensioning buckle. I do not think steel strapping is appreciated or welcome in the forests or on farms. Deer and domestic livestock have been crippled or killed when they get their feet entangled in steel strapping, and so I think anyone who uses steel strapping is ill advised even if it does not endanger animals. When it gets tangled in farm equipment, your welcome is instantly worn out. So the clear choice as I see it is plastic strapping with metal buckles or the webbing and tensioning buckles.

(Continued on page 124)

Finding hive locations

By Jim Thaxter

One of the beekeeping jobs I like least is moving bees, but it is sometimes necessary. Hives may not be producing enough honey, indicating an overstocked area or crowded yard. A neighbor might complain about the bees' proximity or just be nervous having them nearby. A landlord may have other plans for your current hive location. These are just a few of the reasons that might make bee relocation necessary.

Hive locations are fairly easy to find. There may not be such a thing as a perfect location, but a site evaluation may mean fewer moves. What kind of honey plants are in the area? Is the source reliable? Is there a long or short duration honey flow? Is the area subject to a land use change? Some plants, such as black locust, produce nectar that the bees will work readily, but weather conditions during their blooming period often make them an unreliable source of honey. Cool, rainy days generally seem to accompany the locust bloom, which only lasts for a few days. Gusty winds in the spring can prevent the bees from flying and easily blow the flowers apart. Locust trees make a fine honey, but they are not a source I

Locust trees and alfalfa make good honey, but neither is a reliable source.

rely on for honey production. It may take several years of observation to determine what honey sources might be reliable in your area. Alfalfa reportedly produces good honey, but most fields are cut for hay just as the plants start blooming. A number of honey-producing plants may be in your area, but if they aren't allowed to produce nectar, they won't do you much good.

In some yards, hives may not produce much honey because there are too many hives for the area. Reducing the number of hives from 15 to five or 10 should increase the production per hive. When selecting a new home for those surplus colonies, try to find out if other colonies are already in the area. It won't do much good to move from one crowded area to another, and a fellow beekeeper may not appreciate the increased competition.

A general recommendation in most books is to find a location that gets full morning sun and at least partial shade in the afternoon. This would probably be the ideal situation. I have had bees do well in partial shade all day, full sun all day, morning shade and afternoon sun, but I have never had bees do a good job of producing honey in full shade all day.

Bees also need a source of water for keeping the hive interior cool. Some bees collect water and put it in cells. House bees use their wings to fan air over the water and thus use evaporative cooling as air conditioning. Water within half a mile is close enough, but bees will always seek out the nearest source. If you are counting on the bees to find the creek over yonder, but the neighbor's swimming pool is closer, prepare to find another location.

Hives placed too near a creek may end up taking a float trip during periods of high water.

On the other hand, hives placed too near a creek may end up taking a float trip during periods of high water. Upland locations can also have moisture problems. Watch for depressional areas where water collects during rainy weather. Wet bottom boards for bees are like wet feet in cold weather for people. It promotes the growth of molds and fungi which, combined with the warmth in the brood nest, can lead to health problems.

I have found that living in a house with a southern exposure and protection from the north and west winds is a pleasant and comfortable experience. A bee yard open to the south will be likely to get the sun it needs, too. Sun helps maintain dry conditions in the yard, especially important during the spring and fall rainy seasons. Winter sun helps the bees, too. Its heat during late winter days can warm the bees enough to let them take cleansing flights; regular bees are happy bees. Shaded bees will remain hive-bound on these same days, losing an opportunity to remove dead hivemates and eliminate body waste.

Locating hives near the road will make access much easier for the beekeeper, but may also encourage theft or vandalism. I like to look for areas near the road, but with some cover behind bushes or trees. Placing hives within sight of a house can also afford some protection against people doing things they would rather not be seen doing.

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Ronald E. Macher
Publisher/Editor

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Spring is sprung
by Jim Stokes

When can you safely check your hives for the first time? Old pro's may open their hives at 45 degrees, quickly check the colony condition, and close the hive. If you are just starting or want to examine the interior thoroughly, you may wait until the temperature reaches 65 degrees and the sun is shining. What you do and when you do it is determined by the weather, the soil in your area, and the season, and that changes as you move around the state. Also, when you do it is determined by the time you have available. Fortunately, we beekeepers have some good help running the store when we are away. The bees. They may not read the same books we do but they seem knowledgeable. And they are always on the jobsite.

If you are a beekeeper, you may have made new hives last winter. If you installed the foundation in the frames, check it again before you give it to the bees. It may be very wavy. The experts say the foundation in the brood area is critical and if it leans to one side it won't be deep enough for bees to raise brood. Having a frame only half usable makes a good argument for wiring your frames and embedding the foundation for the brood area. It may not be critical for honey storage units, but the first time or two you extract from supers, the extra strength helps when you spin the extractor too fast. What happens when you give new foundation to the bees far in advance of their needs? It may be 50 degrees outside the hive but the bees are raising brood and the temperature may be near 95 degrees inside the hive. That will make the foundation very soft and it may warp right over into the next frame. You can remove the wavy foundation from the frames, lay it flat, and in a few days it will be just like new.

When to super up? How many supers should you have on the hives? Talk to local beekeepers since they are familiar with nectar flows in your area. I have a hive on a platform scale and measured a 22 pound gain in one day in the St. Charles area. From other reports as much as 43 pounds may come in per day. It is certain that if you don't have the supers on the hive, the bees can't fill them. And you will never know what you missed. If you can only get to your site once a week, three empty shallow supers might be proper. If you rely on seeing new wax on top bars to tell you when to super, watch yourself. During the honeyflow last year my bees filled five shallow supers and never capped a cell. They waited until after the honey flow was over to cap the cells.

Don't forget to use Terramycin early. It prevents foulbrood by killing the spores before they get a toehold. And quit using it a month before the honeyflow.

Do you find it hard to lift a full super? Try installing a one by two wood cleat on your super just above the handhold. It helps. And say thank you, Mr. Langstroth, who did it in 1852.

HD-1

Form approved
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HONEY PRODUCER DONATION FORM
HONEY RESEARCH, PROMOTION AND CONSUMER INFORMATION ORDER

VOLUNTARY DONATION - Exempt honey producers are not assessed under the program but can make a voluntary tax deductible donation to the National Honey Board. Donations from exempt persons/organizations can be of any dollar amount. This money will be used for nationally coordinated honey marketing research, promotion and consumer information programs aimed at expanding markets for honey producers. As a supporter, you will be helping to promote honey use and will receive a regular National Honey Board Update.

I wish to make a Voluntary Donation to the national marketing work of the Honey Board. Enclosed is my donation of $_____($10 minimum suggested—no maximum) to support this work. NOTE: Donation is tax deductible. Make your check payable to: National Honey Board. Thank you for your support.

Return to: National Honey Board, 9595 Nelson Road, Box C, Longmont, Colorado 80501.

(First name) (Middle) (Last) ( ) (Phone)

(RFD or Street) (City) (State/Zip) Date

CHICKEN BAR B Q
WITH HONEY - MUSTARD GLAZE

1 8 oz can tomato sauce
½ cup salad oil
½ cup orange juice
¼ cup cider vinegar
1½ tsp dried oregano, crushed
1 tsp salt
6 pepper corns
1 clove garlic, minced
2 whole chicken breasts, split
4 chicken legs - including thighs
Honey-mustard glaze:

In large screw top jar, combine all ingredients except chicken and glaze. Cover and shake vigorously to blend. In shallow dish pour this sauce mixture over the chicken. Cover and marinate at least 2 hrs at room temperature or over night in refrigerator, turning occasionally. Drain, reserving marinade. Grill chicken over medium coals for 45 to 50 minutes, brushing with marinade and turning frequently. Just before serving brush with Honey-mustard glaze.

Honey-Mustard Glaze: Combine ¼ cup honey and ½ tsp dry mustard.

Serves 6

HONEY-BAKED RABBIT

1 box Pel-Freez Rabbit, thawed
½ cup margarine, melted
¼ cup honey
2 tbls. prepared mustard
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper
1 tsp. curry powder

Arrange rabbit in shallow baking pan. Mix other ingredients and pour over rabbit. Bake at 350° for 1¼ hours, basting frequently until browned.

Serves four.

(Shown at right)

Recipes for rabbit are at least 3,000 years old. Many ancient vases have been found with decorations of long-legged rabbits in running positions. Archestratus, writer of the world's first book on cookery in 350 B.C., simply salted, spitted, and roasted rabbit, serving it hot.

TO MEMBERS

We are interested in each and every one of our members, and although we cannot give each one the individual attention we would like, we try to make your membership meaningful and trust it adds zest, pleasure and profit to your beekeeping endeavor. You may not even have bees, but your interest in bees and what the bees contribute to our nation's economy will lead to prosperity for all.

If you have a few minutes, I would appreciate having a few lines from you, and you may be sure it will make the job of being editor more pleasurable. If you know of any beekeeper who does not belong to Missouri State Beekeepers Association, please pass this newsletter on to them and encourage them to join.

Dues are $4.00 per year. Make check payable to "Missouri State Beekeepers Association". If you belong to a local association, pay $3.00 state dues through your local treasurer.

ENCLOSED IS $_____for_____YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP.

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