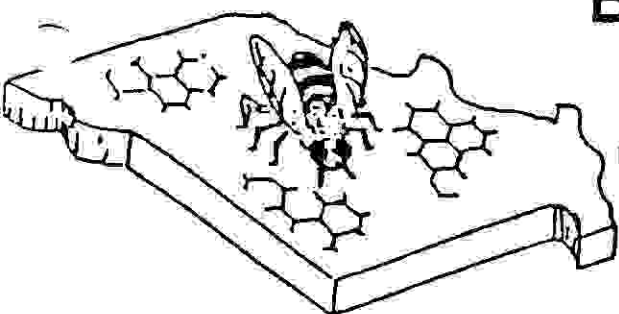


# MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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## SPRING 1993

### FROM THE EDITOR

This is the first entire issue of the MSBA newsletter that I have put together myself. The last issue you received was mostly done by Sharon Gibbons as a last minute project to get a newsletter out to you. I don't know how she has time to do all she does; Vice President of MSBA, activities with the Missouri Honey Queen, managing several hundred colonies of bees in two different areas of the state, teaching beekeeping classes, promoting honey at the Evening with AgriMissouri and Governor's Conference on Agriculture, helping other beekeepers, and having a family life. She has my admiration and appreciation. She also helped on this issue by feeding me articles and information from other states' newsletters. This is how much of our beekeeping information gets passed around, from beekeeper to beekeeper and state to state. For the last several years, this association's activities have had a heavy emphasis on both kinds of mites. I think this is still an important issue and all beekeepers need to stay informed of new mite control methods. Most of our members should be aware of Varroa and tracheal mites by now either through personal experience or experiences of their neighbors and certainly through our association's meetings, this newsletter, and national beekeeping publications. In

this issue you will see an editorial by Dr. James Tew. I think it is time we regained our sanity and got on with beekeeping, doing what we now know we need to do to maintain strong healthy colonies of bees, but let's not forget the basics. If you know a beekeeper in your area who does not belong to this or any local association, encourage him or her to join, if only for the information to be had from these groups. Membership is not limited to those who make a living at keeping bees. If it were, Missouri's would be a small association indeed. Our emphasis is on the small beekeeper and what he or she needs to know to get enjoyment out of beekeeping. This can only be done by staying informed of the latest news that affects us and our bees. There is no satisfaction in having dead bees and not knowing why.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a busy year. So far in January we had the American Beekeeping Federation meeting in Kansas City. This was really a great opportunity to meet a lot of nationally known beekeepers. The programs were really good and the workshops were great. If you missed it your priorities aren't right when it comes to honey bees.

The snow has really been deep around my house this year. I hope the bees make it alright. I have had some losses, but the weather is starting to look better.

The honey price support is getting hit from a lot of different directions. Again a lot of legislators and congressmen don't think we need price support. Big names like President Bill Clinton, Senator Hank Brown, Congressman Dick Armey, Professor Melissa Line, all these people get their kicks bashing the honey loan in the national media. It just ain't fair. The honey loan program has to be one of the smallest agricultural programs (estimated cost \$6 million in 1993) with one of the best paybacks for agriculture and the American consumers (\$20+billion). This cost to the taxpayer is very small compared to \$34 million spent on the President's coronational and other government waste programs.

Even if the honey loan was a complete and utter waste of money, it's hard to understand how it can command such media attention. I think some of these politicians, columnists, and reporters have a hard time telling fantasy from reality. They think their food comes from boxes in the grocery stores and that the food chain is something they put across the checkout line when it's closed.

I have written letters to my Senator and Representative letting them know the beekeeper's problems on this subject. It would be a lot better if more people would write them too. If anyone needs a sample letter we can help on that too. Please contact me.

*Glenn Davis*

(Editor's note: A lot of numbers have been kicked around that purport to give a true picture of the number of beekeepers who participate in the honey loan program. Opponents of the program claim that only 2 percent of the nation's beekeepers use it and get rich at the taxpayers' expense. Two percent sounds like a small number, but may actually represent a large number of beekeepers when compared to the total number in the country. Loss of the program could have an effect on all beekeepers if several commercial keepers go out of business. A large supply of honey helps hold honey prices steady for the rest of us, and ensures that equipment and chemical manufacturers stay in business to keep us all supplied with the necessary items for keeping healthy bees.)

## AG HALL OF FAME

The Agriculture Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas includes a beekeeping display. Many of the items included in the display were contributed by Karl Kalthoff, a long-time Missouri beekeeper. Regrettably, Karl has since passed on. Keith Ostermeyer of Kansas helps maintain the exhibit. He is searching for information about Karl to be included in the display. Anyone having any biographical information about Mr. Kalthoff should contact Keith at 24091 Haigwood, Tonganoxie, Kansas 66086.

## MISSOURI HONEY QUEEN NEWS

It's been a busy year so far and I'm looking forward to meeting all of you in the future.

My reign as the Missouri Honey Queen began last August when I was crowned in Columbia at the Boone County Fair. Several weeks later I attended 2 weekends at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. At the fair, I worked at the honey booth, gave a cooking demonstration, passed out honey straws to children, and presented country singer Sammy Kershaw with some Missouri honey.

In September, I attended the first annual St. Louis County and Air Show. While promoting honey and passing out honey straws, I also got the opportunity to see an exciting air show. The show even included a pass-by of the Stealth, a fighter jet used in Desert Storm. Unfortunately, a sudden rainstorm brought the day to an early end.

In October, I attended the joint MO/KS meeting held in Kansas City. At the meeting, I helped judge honey, met some Missouri and Kansas beekeepers, and helped crown the 1993 Kansas Honey Queen.

In November my mother and I traveled back to Kansas City so I could participate in the American Royal Parade. Below-freezing temperatures and an inch of snow didn't stop the daily activities. After the parade, the Kansas queen and I went back to the American Royal Building to promote honey and answer questions about the observation hive.

January came and I attended the 50th Anniversary of the American Beekeeping Federation National Convention in Kansas City. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to meet various beekeepers from all over the U.S. including the Furberts from Bermuda and the Sheriffs from England.

Meeting the candidates for the American Honey Queen and Princess was also a lot of fun. I am really looking forward to the National Convention in Orlando in January 1994. The tour of the Osage Honey Farm and the meal cooked with honey really topped off the weekend.



I have enjoyed my reign thus far and I'm looking forward to visiting elementary schools in the near future to teach children about the beekeeping industry and the honey bee.

I am available to help promote honey in your area. Contact Glenn Davis or Sharon Gibbons to make any necessary arrangements. If I haven't met you already, I hope to have the opportunity to meet you soon.

*Julie Batton, 1993 Mo. Honey Queen*

### Caramel/Peanut Dip for Apples

1/4 C. boiling water  
15 large Brach's caramels  
1 T. honey  
1/4 C. chunky peanut butter  
4-5 Granny Smith apples, cored and cut in thick slices

In 2 cup microwaveable container, bring 1/4 cup water to a boil. Add caramels. Return to microwave until melted, stirring often. Add honey and stir. Add chunky peanut butter and stir well. Allow to cool before dipping apple slices.

## HONEY QUEEN FUND as of March 5, 1993

### Receipts:

Donations	312.50
Sale of Honey Pin	20.00
MO/KS auction	<u>604.25</u>
Total receipts	946.75

### Expenses:

Copies & postage	46.95
Sash & Crown	59.25
Brochures	122.58
ABF Registration	91.50
Mileage	<u>286.88</u>
Total expenses	607.16

Queen fund balance \$339.59

## HONEY QUEEN FUNDING

The Missouri State Beekeepers' Association's honey queen program is up and running. Queen Julie Batton has been buzzing around the state helping promote honey and beekeeping (see her report elsewhere in this newsletter), but this activity takes funding. Up to this point no association general funds have been used for Julie's travels and expenses. Her program has been supported by volunteer donations to the honey queen program. As a challenge, Neil Bergman has donated three cents per hive he owns to the honey queen fund. For most of us that would not be a large contribution, but for Neil it represents several hundred pounds of honey production. Neil challenges other beekeepers to make similar contributions, based on colony numbers, honey production, generosity, or whatever. If \$.03 per hive seems like an insignificant amount, feel free to contribute whatever you think will help--\$5 would be a good start.

Julie has been actively involved in the queen program since her instal-

lation as queen in August, 1992, making contacts with queens from other states and learning what it takes to do the job. She will be Missouri's candidate for American Honey Queen at the American Beekeeping Federation convention in January, 1994 and should have a very good chance of success.

## FINDING THE HONEY QUEEN

Queen Julie Batton's reign as Missouri's honey queen will come to an end in 1994. A new queen will then be selected to supersede her. Missouri's queen program follows the rules established by the American Beekeeping Federation for the American Honey Queen. This is to ensure that our queen will meet the eligibility requirements for competing at the national level.

The purpose of a honey queen program is to promote honey and educate the public on all aspects of the beekeeping industry, that is, various uses of honey, production of honey, pollination, problems of the industry. A queen is called upon to present programs to all ages, pre-school to senior citizens, to assist at fairs, store promotions, and cooking demonstrations, and to promote the industry through civic organizations and news media.

The honey queen should be knowledgeable in all aspects of the beekeeping industry and must be aware of the concerns of beekeepers in the area she represents. The honey queen must be capable of handling newspaper and radio interviews as well as television appearances. Through these interactions, beekeeping receives thousands of dollars worth of free publicity.

If you or your local association knows of a young woman who would



like to compete for the title of Missouri Honey Queen, contact your local association or Sharon Gibbons or Glenn Davis for information about contest rules and guidelines.

## AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN CROWNED IN K.C.

Gena West, Tennessee Honey Queen was crowned American Honey Queen at the American Beekeeping Federation Annual Convention, held in Kansas City, MO, January 20-23, 1993. Gena is 19 years old and is attending Volunteer State Community College. Heather Pomeroy from Iowa was selected as American Honey Princess. She is 18 years old and is currently attending Messiah College in Pennsylvania majoring in International Business.

The first national honey queen was chosen in 1959. Some of the past American Honey Queens and Princesses attended and spoke at the Saturday evening banquet which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the American Beekeeping Federation.

Joanne King, American Honey Queen chairperson for the past 18 years, was given special recognition for her dedication and tireless efforts in working with the Honey Queen Program. Charlotte Randall, Umatilla, FL consented to chair the 1993 Honey Queen Program. Gena and Heather will have a full and exciting year ahead of them as they tour the country promoting honey for the industry. If you would like to involve them in promotions in your area, please contact Ellen Sundberg at (218) 736-3930.

## FORMULA FOR TREATING AMERICAN FOUL-BROOD WITH TERRAMYCIN

Terramycin powder comes in several different forms, the most common being the foil 6.4 ounce package which contains 10 grams of TM. This is commonly referred to as TM 25 because it is a formulation of 25 percent terramycin.

### Powdered sugar mixture:

For one colony: Mix 1 level teaspoon of TM 25 with 5 level teaspoons of powdered sugar. Feed 2 level tablespoons of this mixture to each colony. Six teaspoons equal 2 tablespoons.

For 48 colonies: Mix 1 level cup or 1 package (6.4 oz.) of TM 25 with 5 cups of powdered sugar. Feed 2 level tablespoons of this mixture to each colony.

Antibiotic extender or grease patties: For 2 patties mix 1/3 pound vegetable shortening with 2/3 pound granulated (table) sugar and 2 tablespoons TM 25.

For 20 patties mix 3 pounds vegetable shortening with 6 pounds granulated sugar and 1 package (6.4 ounces) of TM 25.

Form the mixture into 1/2 pound patties.

When using any chemicals in or around the beehive, be sure to follow all label directions. Do not feed medications within one month of a honey flow when supers will be on the hive.

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## BEE SKEPS

What is a skep? A skep is a hand-crafted, coiled, dome-shaped, straw or grass honeybee hive. Honeybees are not native to North America. The early colonists brought honeybees to the "New World" in skeps. They had been in use in Europe for hundreds of years. As a result, skeps were used for many years by the European settlers, particularly in the eastern states. Gradually, skeps were replaced in favor of the hollow log "gum" because of the plentiful supply of hollow trees. Invention of the present day movable-frame beehive in the mid-1800's has, for all practical purposes, replaced skep and gum beehives as a home for the honeybee. Skeps are still in use in Europe.

American skeps are rare and "skeppists" (skep makers) even more so. Most people are familiar with the traditional image of a skep, but few have seen one, and even fewer have had the opportunity of owning one. Traditionally, skeps were made from rye straw which is now in very short supply. That being the case, many types of native grasses, and even cattail and bulrush (Tule) leaves make a fine traditional type of skep.

A typical decorative skep is about 12 to 13 inches in diameter and about the same height, weighing 3 to 5 pounds. Being sturdy and well-made, it will endure for many years, but skeps must be kept dry. If placed outdoors, it would be well to place the skep on a stand or post with a roof over it to shed rain. Several coats of good spray lacquer, both inside and outside, would also provide waterproofing. It should be taken indoors when the fall rains start. Before bringing in, several days in a plastic bag, with mothballs, will eliminate any insects that might be inside.

Skeps in this day and age are a most unusual Colonial and early American type of decorative item, being displayed in home kitchens, dining rooms, family rooms, dens, and offices, and such places of business as craft shops, herb shops, natural food stores, antique shops, florist shops, and herb gardens. They would blend nicely into almost any setting where Colonial, early American, or "country" furniture and furnishings are used or are on display. They look best in an elevated setting such as a corner shelf, on top of a cupboard, bookcase, stove, refrigerator, file cabinet, on a display case, among baskets, and the like. A skep is a conversation piece wherever it is situated.

Missouri is fortunate to have a skeppist among its populace. This skep information comes from Rolla Chandler, skeppist, who can be contacted at 28 Grigsby Street, Sullivan, MO 63080. Mr. Chandler has given demonstrations at the 1992 Spring MSBA meeting in Columbia and at the American Beekeeping Federation convention in Kansas City in January of this year. He has been a beekeeper for over 40 years. Skeps are not recommended as hive structures for honeybees due to the difficulties in inspecting for diseases and mites.

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## REPORT FROM VICE PRESIDENT: SHARON GIBBONS

Some of the activities our association has been involved in, I can personally report on. In December, a honey salad dressing was served at the 1992 Governor's Conference on Agriculture. Close to 1500 people were served foods prepared by the various commodity groups in Missouri Agriculture. We also handed out recipes to promote honey. Glenn & Joanne Davis, Ron & Delores Vivian, Norm & Shirley Groesche, helped John and myself prepare and serve this salad. On the home front, my helpers to prepare the salad and dressing were Dave & Norma Nolting, with some materials donated by Bob Finck.

On March 3, 1993, we made this salad again, and served nearly 600 invited guests from the Missouri Legislature at Jefferson City. My helpers this time were John Hartman and Jim Thaxter. The beekeepers helping me prepare the salad were; Norma & Dave Nolting, Marlene & Ted Jansen, with Bob Finck supplying the ingredients for the salad dressing. We certainly get a lot of exposure with these two activities, and I appreciate all of the help I have received. I welcome anyone's assistance with these two Agri-Mo projects, and would welcome someone taking over the responsibility next year.

In January, several of us were involved along with Kansas Honey Producers in hosting the 50th anniversary convention of the American Beekeeping Federation. The total attendance was unofficially 550 people. This was about 150 more than the past two conventions. I was disappointed in that as few Missouri beekeepers attended as did. It was a great learning experience and it will be a long time before we will be able to listen to so many programs with nationally prominent leaders in our industry.

Kansas City weather was not very nice for our opening day, with a sleet storm which delayed the arrival of Dean Kleckner, the Keynote speaker. After that, everything quickly improved. The Mo-Kan Host Committee was very active throughout the convention, helping where needed. Vera Young and myself worked at the registration desk. Keith & Melissa Ostermeyer had a group scheduled to work the booth to sell 50th Anniversary items. The profit will be divided between Missouri and Kansas associations. The Mid-western Beekeepers stuffed all the convention packets prior to the convention. Although I'm not from Kansas City, I graciously accepted all the comments and praise we received from many beekeepers throughout the United States; about the hospitality of the KC area. The Crown Center complex was perfect for a convention with questionable weather forecasts. The evening entertainment was well attended, especially the evening at Benjamin Ranch. We were so pleased that so many people had a good time.

My favorite parts of the program were the panel discussions, especially the one on building better producer-packer relations; and the Friday afternoon workshops. Joli Winer, Cecil Sweeney, and myself gave a beeswax workshop; which we had a full room for both sessions. I know it was the most popular workshop there. We ended the convention with a beautiful sunny day and a tour of Osage Honey Farm. George & Laura VanArsdall, along with their family, went out of their way to make this event the very best to close a successful meeting. We thank them for all the work and time they put into the tour. Over 200 people visited the farm and had a wonderful lunch (with plenty of honey in the food). George even directed a little western melodrama in which Troy Fore was to be lynched. We all had a lot of fun, and so many visitors left Kansas City with very positive memories.

Julie Batton, our Missouri Honey Queen, was there to help us for the entire convention. She was not eligible to compete in the American Queen Contest at this meeting, but will compete in 1994. The Queen Banquet and 50th Anniversary Banquet were celebrated together. It was a very long evening, but showed me what a rich history our American beekeepers have. A separate article is included about the crowning of the 1993 American Honey Queen which I clipped from the Minnesota Honey Producers Newsletter.

## STATE FAIR PREPARATIONS

Your bees probably have not made any honey yet when you receive this newsletter, but it is time to start planning for this year's state fair. As usual, volunteers will be needed to man (or woman) the honey booth. This has always been coordinated by one or two dedicated people who donate their time for working long hard hours at the booth. To make the fair a successful money-making event requires the assistance of three or four people each day helping out in the booth. If you like to talk about bees and honey, this is a great opportunity to meet people from around the state and promote Missouri honey and beekeeping.

Sharon Gibbons and Glenn Davis will be coordinating workers this year. Sign up early to be sure of getting your first time slot at the fair.

Bids will be taken for supplying honey to be sold at the fair. Obtaining honey from only one beekeeper assures that it will be of uniform color and quality. A bid sheet is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

## AGRIMISSOURI HONEY PRODUCERS BROCHURE

Your state association is again requesting financial assistance from the state's department of agriculture to reprint the honey producers brochure. The money is already appropriated, so is available. These brochures have been distributed to consumers at the state fair for several years. To have an updated list for distribution at this year's state fair, those desiring to be included on the new printing should send their names and addresses to Sharon Gibbons no later than May 1.

## HELP WANTED

As a dues paying member of the Missouri State Beekeepers' Association, this is your newsletter. What information would you like to see covered on these pages? What types of articles would benefit you? Who is doing something unusual or successful, or helpful? Articles may be contributed to the editor. Pick any subject you feel comfortable writing about, or contribute a honey recipe. What has your local association been doing that is interesting or that you feel might benefit other local associations? Read any good beekeeping books lately that you would like to share with other beekeepers? It doesn't have to be long or technical or even correctly spelled or grammatically correct. I can help with that, so help me out. How can we make this newsletter the best newsletter you get?

## ADVERTISING INFO

The MSBA newsletter is published 4 times per year, with an average mailing of 460 newsletters. Advertising requests should be sent to Larry Hensley, 13520 Old Jamestown Rd., Florissant, MO 63033, phone (314)355-6935.

Advertising rate per issue:  
Business card size \$7.50  
Quarter page 25.00  
Half page 40.00  
Full page 75.00

Classified ads, per 30 words:  
MSBA member \$2.00  
Non-member 3.00

Deadlines for advertising:  

Deadline	Publication
February 15	March 1
June 1	June 15
September 1	September 15
December 1	December 15



BID SHEET FOR HONEY FOR THE 1993 MISSOURI STATE FAIR SALES BOOTH

All liquid and comb honey must be bid together. Other items may be bid separately (state quantity and price):

12 oz. bears (24) light honey \_\_\_\_\_

1 lb. jar (24) light honey \_\_\_\_\_

1 lb. jar (24) amber honey \_\_\_\_\_

2 lb. jar (12) light honey \_\_\_\_\_

5 lb. jar (6) light honey \_\_\_\_\_

Comb & liquid together \_\_\_\_\_

Gallons light honey \_\_\_\_\_

Hard honey candy (assorted flavors) \_\_\_\_\_

Cut comb honey \_\_\_\_\_

Section comb honey \_\_\_\_\_

Honey stix (plastic straws) \_\_\_\_\_

Beeswax (1 oz., 1.5 oz., or 1 lb. bar) \_\_\_\_\_

Beeswax candles (dipped or poured) \_\_\_\_\_

Creamed honey \_\_\_\_\_

The supplier will use the label that we will furnish at no cost to you. All bids must be received by July 6, 1993. Please sign the sheet, give your address and phone number. The committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

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Return to: Jim Thaxter, RR 4 Box 60E, Moberly, MO 65270  
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## DESTRUCTIVE PARASITE CONTROL

American beekeepers have a new line of defense against Varroa mites and tracheal mites. Miticur Bee Mite Strips, recently approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, provide the first comprehensive control program for both types of mites.

Varroa mites (*Varroa jacobsoni*) first appeared in U.S. honey bee colonies in 1987. At that time, beekeepers were trying to respond to the threat of another parasite, the tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*). Three years after their introduction in 1984, tracheal mites were already spreading rapidly. Since then, the prevalence of both mite species has exploded in virtually every beekeeping region in the United States. In some parts of the country, beekeepers can blame these mites for the loss of more than 50 percent of their colonies during the winter months.

The mites cause a general weakening of honey bee colonies, resulting in slow spring buildup, reduced honey production and a high incidence of winterkill. Infested colonies often appear normal during summer months, when brood production is high and young bees dominate the hive population. During the winter, however, the weakened colony is comprised mainly of older bees and becomes more susceptible to damage from these mites.

Sharp-eyed beekeepers can sometimes detect Varroa mites with a close visual examination of worker bees or larvae. Laboratory dissection and microscopic examination usually is needed to confirm the presence of the internal tracheal mites. Signs of mite infestation in-

clude general weakening of the colony, patchy brood, lethargic bees with poor flying ability and a large number of pupae and crippled bees ejected from the hive.

The mites spread between apiaries and hives with infested swarms, robber bees or queen introductions from infested stock.

Dr. David Shapiro, a professional services veterinarian with Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet Company, describes the approved procedure for using the Miticur Bee Mite Strips:

- Apply the strips after taking honey from the hives.
- Place three strips in the brood area. Use small nails to hang the strips between the center brood frames to assure maximum contact with clustered bees.
- Leave the strips in the hive for at least six weeks.
- Remove the strips before a nectar flow begins and before replacing honey supers.

Amitraz, the active ingredient in Miticur, is a proven miticide, used in different formulations to control mites on a variety of domestic animals. It works on contact against Varroa mites and tracheal mites.

Because of the rapid spread and destructive potential of these parasites, beekeeping specialists say no one should assume their hives are mite free. Unless they have strong evidence to the contrary, beekeepers should treat their hives for Varroa and tracheal mites.

Parasitic mites present a significant threat to individual beekeepers, the beekeeping industry and some types of commercial agriculture. In addition to honey production, honey bees pollinate 200 commercial crops in the United States, with an estimated annual value of \$20 billion. Beekeepers should consider the risk

of winterkill, the cost of replacing bees and the potential for lost honey production as they evaluate their need to treat for Varroa and tracheal mites.

(Editor's note: This article was received as a news release from Hoechst-Roussel. The "strong evidence" mentioned in the next to last paragraph would be a laboratory analysis for tracheal mites and one of several kinds of visual inspections for Varroa mites. These visual inspections have been described numerous times in this and other publications. Mite treatments will not prevent mites from infesting a hive, and will not eliminate mites when they are found, but are a control measure. As a control, treatments will keep mite populations to a low level that the bees can tolerate and still produce honey.)

## MITICUR STRIPS UPDATE

Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet Company has received a few reports from the State of Florida of adverse reactions in bees following application of Miticur (amitraz). Investigations are under way to determine the cause of these adverse reactions (disorientation and a noticeable increase in mortality rate). As a precautionary measure, Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet is requesting that all beekeepers temporarily stop using Miticur packaged in bags of 300 strips.

These precautionary measures do not apply to Miticur strips originally packaged in bags of 30 by the manufacturer. If you currently have strips from the bags of 300, you may either hold on to them until further notice, exchange them for an equivalent supply of strips originally packaged 30 to a bag by the manufacturer, or return them for a refund. This exchange can be done where the bag containing 300

strips was purchased. If you must treat hives before our investigation is completed, use only strips originally packaged in bags of 30 strips by the manufacturer.

Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet is confident it will be able to quickly identify the cause of the reactions. We will share the results of the investigation with you once it is completed. The results of the investigation will determine the usability of the strips from the packages of 300.

Miticur has been extensively tested in short- and long-term studies. The product is currently registered by the EPA. More than 500,000 strips have been used under Section 18 Emergency Use Permits with no adverse reactions reported.

If you have any questions about the situation or concerns about hives already treated, please call 1-800-723-6516. If you call between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, direct technical assistance will be available. During other times, you will be referred to a number where technical assistance from Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet can be obtained.

We regret any inconvenience this causes the beekeeping industry. We recognize the importance to the beekeeping industry of safely and effectively controlling tracheal and varroa mites. Miticur continues to be an important tool for mite control.

*The above is a letter dated January 15, 1993 from H. Newton Williams, Vice President and General Manager, Animal Health, Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet.*

*Keep your smoker in a large lard can while transporting to prevent fire. A corn cob makes a good plug in the end to smother the smoker.*

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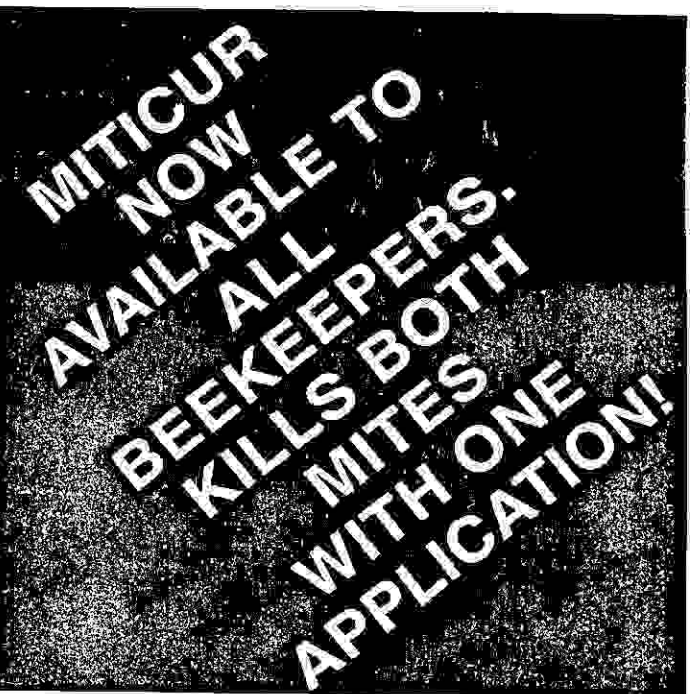
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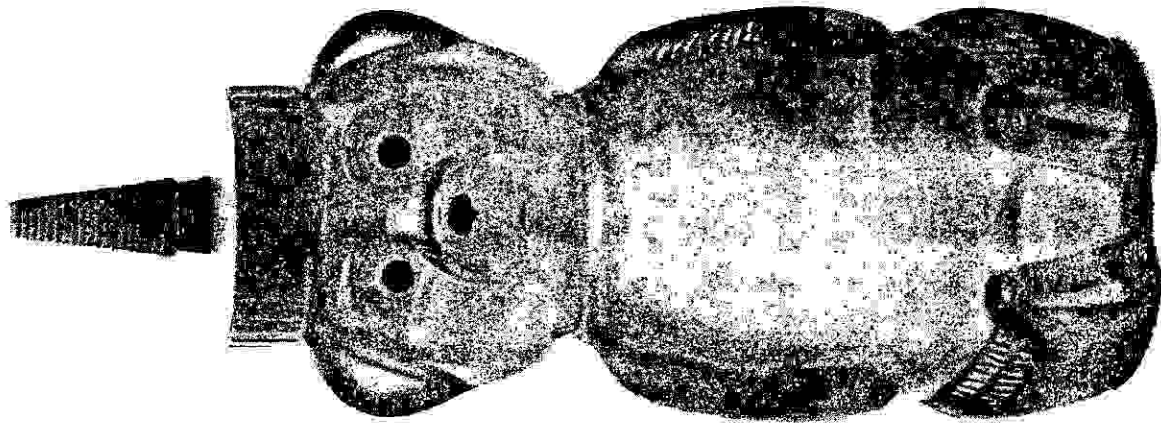
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# "WHEN THE KIDS MAKE A BEE LINE FOR THE KITCHEN, WHIP UP ONE OF THESE EASY SQUEEZY SNACKS."



## HONEY HINT:

If honey crystallizes, just pop it in the microwave in a microwave safe container on high for 1-3 minutes stirring every 30 seconds. Your honey will be back to its smooth sell in no time.

## HONEY FACTS

Because of its high fructose content, honey has a higher sweetening power than sugar.  
A honey bee has to tap over a million flowers to make one pound of honey.  
A worker honey bee will gather just half a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.  
Honey has been eating for over three million years.

until well-coated.  
Press into lightly greased 9" x 13" x 2-inch pan. Cut into squares. Makes 24 squares.

## HONEY-PEANUT BUTTER GRANOLA BARS

1/2 cup honey  
1/2 cup chunky peanut butter  
4 cups granola mix

In 4-cup microwave-safe container, microwave honey at HIGH (100%) 2-3 minutes. Stir in peanut butter; mix until thoroughly blended. Place granola in large bowl. Pour honey mixture over granola and combine thoroughly. Press firmly into 9" x 13" x 2-inch baking pan. Let stand until firm. Cut into bars. Makes 36 bars.

## HONEY BRAN SQUARES

1/4 cup honey  
3 cups butter or margarine, melted  
4 cups miniature marshmallows  
6 cups (1 1/2 cups) cereal  
1 cup peanuts

Blend honey and butter in large saucepan; stir in marshmallows. Cook until stiff over medium-high heat until marshmallows are melted. Mix cereal and nuts; stir in marshmallow mixture.

## BANANA YOGURT SHAKE

1 1/2 cups lowfat milk  
2 medium ripe bananas, peeled  
1 cup plain yogurt  
1/4 cup honey  
1 tsp vanilla  
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

IT'S TIME FOR HONEY



© 1995 Honey Bee Brand, Inc.

## HONEY CARAMEL CORN

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup *each* butter or margarine and packed brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey
- Dash salt
- 1 teaspoon grated orange peel
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon baking soda
- 3 quarts popped popcorn

Melt butter in large saucepan; stir in sugar, honey and salt. Cook and stir until mixture comes to a boil. Reduce heat to medium; boil without stirring about 3 minutes to 265°F. Remove from heat; stir in orange peel and soda. Place popcorn in large oven-safe bowl; slowly pour syrup over popcorn while stirring. Turn onto greased 15 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  x  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch baking pan. Bake at 250°F 45 minutes; stir every 15 minutes. Cool. Break into serving-sized pieces. Store in airtight container. Makes 3 quarts.

**Preparation Time:** About 1 hour.

## HONEY MUSTARD MAYONNAISE

- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup mayonnaise
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup honey
- 2 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard
- 1 teaspoon prepared horseradish

Combine all ingredients; mix thoroughly. Makes 1 cup.

**Preparation Time:** Less than 15 minutes.

**Serving Tip:** Serve as dip for fresh vegetables, spread on sandwiches with meat filling or heat slightly and spoon over cooked vegetables.

## HONEY AND FRUIT SPREAD

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter or margarine, softened to room temperature
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup honey
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chopped dried fruit (apricots, dates, raisins, etc.)
- 2 tablespoons chopped pecans
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon grated orange peel

Combine all ingredients; mix well. Makes about  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup.

**Preparation Time:** Less than 15 minutes.

**Serving Tip:** Spread on English muffins, crumpets, waffles or hot biscuits.

## SPICY HONEY PEANUT SAUCE

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup peanut butter
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh coriander (cilantro)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon crushed red peppers

Combine all ingredients; mix well. Makes about  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup.

**Preparation Time:** Less than 15 minutes.

**Serving Tip:** Serve with poultry, pork or vegetables.



# Honey Tip Sheet

Honey adds beautiful golden color and delightful sweet flavor to bring out the best in so many foods.

## Cooking Tips

- For best results, use recipes developed for using honey.
- When you substitute honey for granulated sugar in recipes: substitute honey for up to one-half of the sugar. With experimentation, honey can be substituted for all the sugar in some recipes.  
reduce the amount of liquid in the recipe by ¼ cup for each cup of honey used in baked goods.  
add about ½ teaspoon baking soda for each cup of honey used in baked goods.  
reduce oven temperature by 25° F to prevent over-browning of baked goods.  
for easy removal, spray measuring cup with vegetable cooking spray before adding honey.
- Honey adds a sweet, smooth and distinctive taste to recipes. Honey also absorbs and retains moisture. These qualities retard drying out and staling of baked goods.
- A 12-ounce jar of honey equals a standard measuring cup.
- Because of its high fructose content, honey has a higher sweetening power than sugar.

## Buying and Storage Tips

- Select mildly flavored honeys, such as clover, for use in cooking where delicate flavors predominate.
- Use strongly flavored honeys in spreads or other recipes where a distinct honey flavor is desired.
- Store honey at room temperature.
- If honey crystallizes, remove lid and place jar in warm water until crystals dissolve. Or, microcook 1 cup of honey in microwave-safe container at HIGH (100%) 2 to 3 minutes or until crystals dissolve; stir every 30 seconds. Do not boil or scorch.

NOTE: Honey should not be fed to infants under 1 year of age. Honey is a safe and wholesome food for older children and adults.

Look for the Honey Bear logo on products containing a substantial amount of honey.

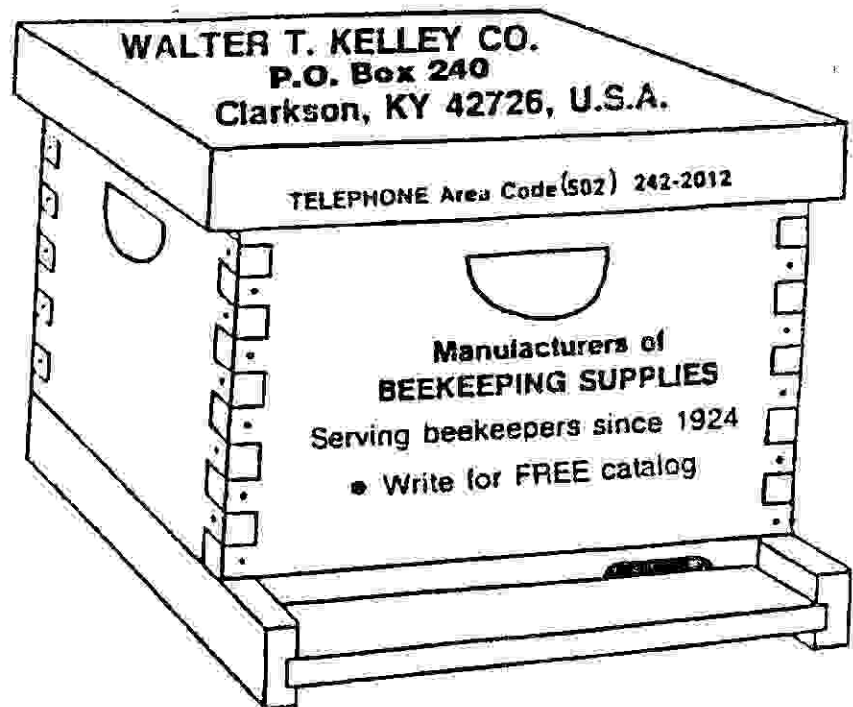


For more information on honey, contact National Honey Board, 121 21st Avenue #203, Longmont, Colorado 80501 (303) 776-2337

## A MITE-Y OPINION

Editorial by Dr. James E. Tew from  
News Digest, Ohio State Beekeepers  
Assn. newsletter

Mites have caused changes within the beekeeping industry and will continue to modify beekeeping techniques. It was only a few years back that beekeeping meetings were consumed with the dire news of entire operations being eliminated. In some instances that was nearly the truth, but most operations have survived the arrival of the mites. All of us were hurt by that arrival, but we are surviving and in doing so, we are taking our place in beekeeping history. In past years, meetings were completely directed toward the control of American Foulbrood. Just as in meetings today, there were dire predictions about the demise of entire operations. Large amounts of equipment were burned. It was a dark time in beekeeping history. No doubt many dropped out, but many didn't. Today, don't we wish that American Foulbrood was our major problem? Antibiotics have made AFB manageable. Right now, there is a kid somewhere in grade school who will grow to maturity and become a bee specialist. One day he or she will write about the difficult times the mites caused beekeepers of our day. Just as our problems seem to us now, the problems of the future beekeeping specialist will appear to be the end of beekeeping (again).



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## HONEY LOAN UNDER ATTACK

One of the nation's leading "Bee Bashers", Dick Armey (24th Dist., TX), has launched a fierce attack against U.S. beekeepers, as well as a member of the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA).

In a series of "Dear Colleague" letters, Armey has chosen the bee industry as his prime example of government waste. In his February 9, 1993 letter, he asked colleagues to co-sponsor his bill to eliminate the honey program—"the only program that President Clinton has pledged to kill."

Calling the honey subsidy "one of the least justified programs around", Armey completely dismissed the role of bees in pollination of America's food supply, referring to the General Accounting Office's statement that without the honey program, farmers would pay for bee pollination just as they pay for fertilizer or fuel or anything else. "GAO concluded that the program no longer serves its intended purpose," Armey said.

Armey justifies the elimination of the program because "only two percent of the nations' beekeepers even bother to participate in the program, and more than half goes to a mere 300 beneficiaries." He calls these beekeepers the "queen bees" of the honey business.

Saying that most beekeepers are unaffected by the program, "a program a Democrat president wants to kill, that Congress's GAO says is pointless, and that only benefits a tiny number of people anyway," Armey adds, "If we can't cut this, what can we cut?"

In his February 11, 1993 letter, Armey attacked AHPA President

Richard Adee and his family. Armey wrote that "In the case of Mr. Adee, he and his family stung the taxpayers for \$191,496.52 in 1991."

Armey said Adee received a marketing loan to provide short-term financing, but did not have to pay all of the loan back, saying "beekeepers are able to repay the USDA less than they borrow, they pocket the difference."

Armey made no effort to explain how the buy-back provision provides for orderly marketing of the honey crop. The program reduces governmental costs by encouraging beekeepers to find the best possible price for their honey. The savings have been great, dropping from \$100 million to \$6 million.

Richard Adee responds by saying that "Congress should use the honey loan/buy-back program as a model for cost reduction in other commodity areas. We have worked hard to lower costs to the government while maintaining the purpose of the program."

Adee, one of the world's largest beekeepers, added that "We think it is unfair that we are being singled out for being successful. In 1992, our total labor ran \$857,094.34—we sent W-2 forms to 125 workers. We have 35 full-time employees. That's 35 families who do not need governmental assistance as long as they work for us. And many of the seasonal help are college students—Adee Honey Farms already provides exactly the kinds of jobs which President Clinton says he wants to create!"

Adee noted that a large operation has large expenses. In 1992, his firm spent \$214,000 on syrup for bee feed. "Think of the amount of corn that represents," Adee noted.

Beekeepers like the Adees help beekeepers everywhere. For example, in 1980, Adees Honey Farms and several other commercial beekeepers purchased the Starline breeding program and annually support the company which selects the stock and produces breeder queens.

"Take away the commercial beekeepers and the Starline breeding program would be forced to close its doors. This shows how all the industry will suffer if commercial beekeepers are forced out of business," Adees said.

## HOW TO RESPOND

If there was ever a time to write Congress, now is the time, or call the congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121. Most phone books list your Congressperson and Senators.

Use your own words when you write or call Congress. If you need something to mention, here are a few items for you to consider:

- \* Dick Armey is wrong when he says that bees are not important to Americans. Suggest your congressperson request a copy of the report just finished by Dr. Fred Hoff, Econ. Research Service on the consumer benefits of bees.

- \* Armey is misleading Congress with his statistics. He has added all beekeepers together. Jane Phillips states that 95 percent of all commercial beekeepers use the honey loan program. Many would be out of business without it.

- \* Hobby beekeepers benefit from the stability of the honey loan program which supports commercial beekeeping in the United States. In countries without strong beekeeping

industries, hobby beekeepers pay \$150-300 for a basic bee hive and \$25 or more for queens, if they can get them. Hobby beekeepers must contact Congress too.

- \* Commercial beekeepers who go after honey crops provide free pollination in areas which may not have enough bees to pollinate fruits, nuts and berries which feed wildlife.

- \* Bee mites and pesticides have killed hundreds of thousands of bee colonies, including wild swarms. Pesticides kill many other pollinators. Mention how many bees you have lost due to tracheal and Varroa mites. Include the costs you have incurred while treating and replacing these bees.

- \* Honey bees are highly effective pollinators. They do not survive in all areas of the United States without beekeeper help. George Will's article was highly misleading because it assumed there will always be plenty of bees. Beekeepers are an essential part of American food production.

- \* Call all the growers who use your bees. Tell them about the importance of the loan program. Remind them that the program's elimination will undoubtedly lead to two things--fewer bees and higher rental fees. Ask them how many years they can miss a crop without bees to pollinate. Show them George Will's quote about the value of bees as pollinators--"Soon airline passengers will not get those little packages of nuts. Gosh."

- \* Be honest and stick to the facts, but state your case clearly and strongly.

## FACTORS OF A HONEY CROP

Although the chief value of honey bees in the national economy is to perform their essential function of pollinating fruit and seed crops, they are usually kept by beekeepers to produce a crop of honey for sale. A beekeeper's profit is influenced greatly by the yield of honey which he receives from each hive. Maintaining beekeepers in the honey-producing business means also maintaining the bee pollinators that are indispensable for the production of many fruit and seed crops. Four major factors may be identified which influence the size of a honey crop.

### THE PRESENCE OF NECTAR-SECRETING PLANTS

Beekeepers normally depend upon extensive acreages of wild and cultivated plants of the area, and a sequence of nectar and pollen sources throughout the season is important. It is not generally practical to plant crops specifically for the use of honey bees, although bees may profitably be considered in the use of land.

The commercial beekeeper is usually at the mercy of agricultural practices in his area and must search the area for best locations. The beekeeper has been hurt by the accelerated trend to cut legumes early for hay and silage before the bees can work them for nectar and pollen.

More intensive care and use of land for cash crops and suburban homes tends to decrease honey yields.

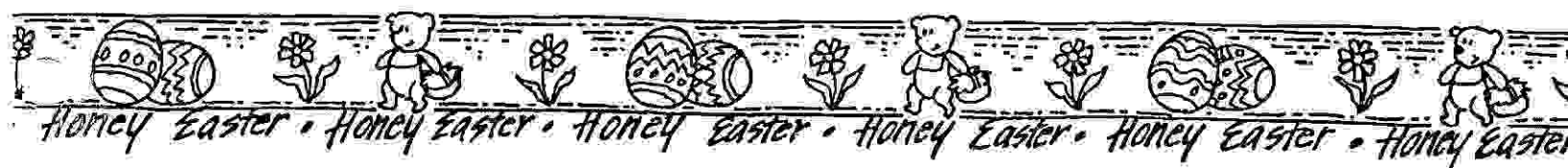
Honey plants can be increased by: a) the use of clovers or other honey plants on roadsides and waste places, b) further study of honey and pollen plants for use during the whole season, c) further study of soil requirements for nectar secretion, d) breeding plants for nectar secretion, e) planting honey plants by beekeeper/farmers.

### WEATHER SUITABLE FOR NECTAR SECRETION AND GATHERING

Weather affects the secretion of nectar and also bee flight. Correlations between weather factors and honey yields have been indefinite because the factors are complex and interrelated.

Sugar is manufactured by the action of sunlight on leaves. (This is the ultimate source of our food, fibre and much of our power). Healthy, vigorous plants produce more nectar than stunted plants. Certain plant nutrients influence nectar secretion. With plenty of moisture available, it appears that maximum hours of intense sunlight is best for nectar secretion in most important honey plants. Adequate water available to the plant is correlated with nectar secretion. The most favorable amount of rain varies with the soil type.

Temperature has a marked influence on plant growth and nectar secretion. Honey flow may be influenced by temperature at the time of flowering and also by the effect of temperature pattern on plant growth throughout the season. Warm days and cool nights favor secretion of nectar as long as the nights are not too cool. Scale records indicate



best results in clover areas at the temperatures of 80 to 90 degrees.

High humidity makes more dilute nectar but apparently does not affect the amount of sugar produced. Bees must do more work to make honey from dilute nectar. Temperatures below 50 degrees or above 100, high wind, rain and threatened storm keep bees in the hive.

The amount and concentration of nectar influences the number of bee visits to plants. This in turn affects pollination, for example bees prefer apple blossoms to pears as apple nectar is more concentrated. Tests indicate that the breeding of plants for high nectar secretions has practical possibilities.

#### PEAK POPULATIONS OF BEES IN TIME FOR THE MAIN NECTAR FLOWS

Providing they work efficiently and for long hours, the more bees there are in a colony during a flow, the bigger the crop. Successful wintering is important for rapid build-up in the spring.

The queen can only lay in the spring in proportion to the buildup of worker bee population. Pollen supplement early in the spring stimulates brood rearing. Feeding sugar water also stimulates the colony. A dwindling supply of honey or pollen leads to reduced egg laying and slow buildup, or bees will throw out drone brood and later worker brood if the food supply becomes nearly exhausted.

It is often practical to divide the strongest colony early in the spring for increase. Introduction of a new queen or queen cell will allow the increase to build up quickly. This is effective swarm control. Improved swarm control is necessary to maintain strong colonies for the flow. Spray poison damage can seriously weaken a colony.

#### PHYSICAL ABILITY OF THE BEES AND THE MORALE OF THE COLONY

Measurable characteristics such as tongue length, size of honey stomach, speed of flight, disease resistance, etc., can be bred for. Plants can similarly be bred for characteristics such as nectar quantity, flower color, plant vigor, and other factors that influence its usefulness to bees and beekeepers. Breeding for increased honey production becomes very much involved with colony morale and the other three factors, for example, out of two hives of equal strength, one gathers more honey. Is this physical ability or colony morale?

Colony morale is affected by the desire to swarm, supersedure, balance of bees of different ages, hive living and ripening space, temperature inside the hive and probably many things still not understood.

Manipulation of the hive to prevent development of the desire to swarm is very important in maintaining good morale. In practice, morale means the maximum number of nectar gatherers making the maximum number of gathering trips every day during honey flows.

*Information compiled by Dr. Dewey Caron*





## MSBA MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Association Treasurer Ron Vivian has membership cards available for those desiring them. Local associations and independent members wishing to obtain them should send Ron a self-addressed stamped envelope. His address is found at the letterhead of this newsletter.

*Good locations make good beekeepers.*

## MSBA NAME BADGES

Thanks to organization member Mickey Lee, a source for name badges has been found. Mickey took orders for badges at the MSBA meeting a year ago and many members have had them delivered already. They are an attractive gold color in the shape of the state of Missouri with a gold bee in the center, the words "Missouri Beekeeper" at the top and the beekeeper's name at the bottom. Badges can be made in lots of any number. Until July 1, 1993 they can be ordered from D & B Engravers, 184 Brigadoon Circle, St. Louis, MO 63137. After July 1 the business will be handled by Don & Lena Highland, 3910 Harvest Meadow Dr., St. Peters, MO 63376, (314)928-7077. Approximate cost of each badge is \$4.00 plus postage.



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Missouri State Beekeepers' Association holds election of officers every year at the fall meeting. In accordance with the association's by-laws, the president and vice-president serve terms of two years. The vice-president succeeds the president. All other officers serve terms of one year, except rotating board members who serve for terms of three years. Vice-President Sharon Gibbons is the nominating committee chairperson. Anyone who is interested in serving as an officer or on the board should contact Sharon to be included on the nominating list in October.



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Financial Statement for the period of October 8, 1992 thru March 5, 1993			
Beginning Bank Balance as of October 8, 1992			4,701.37
Income:			
Advertising Receipts	242.50		
Donation	3.00		
Cookbooks & Disease Books Sold	1,007.00		
Fall Meeting	226.53		
Honey Queen Fund Receipts	876.75		
Membership Dues	700.00		
Missouri State Fair Receipts	265.64		
Total Income		3,321.42	
Expenses:			
Advertising	273.68		
Equipment	528.63		
Honey Queen Expenses	560.21		
Mo State Fair Purchased Merchandise	1,516.67		
Newsletter	437.25		
Phone	200.54		
Postage	38.84		
Promotion	294.47		
Raffle Expenses	81.00		
Supplies	21.18		
Taxes - Annual Registration	1.00		
Total Expenses		3,953.47	
Net Income			-632.05
Ending Bank Balance as of March 5, 1993			4,069.32

## HONEY STATISTICS

The following information comes from the Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service.

Honey production in Missouri totaled 1.95 million pounds in 1992, up 6 percent from the 1.82 million pounds the previous year. Missouri producers received an average price of 64 cents per pound in 1992, 2 cents per pound above 1991. The value of Missouri's honey production was \$1,232,000, up 9 percent from \$1,128,000 a year earlier.

Honey production in 1992 in the United States from producers with 5 or more hives totaled 221 million pounds, up 1 percent from 1991. There were 3.03 million colonies producing honey in 1992, compared to 3.18 million in 1991. Yield per colony averaged 72.8 pounds, up 3.9 pounds from the 68.9 pounds in 1991.

Prices for the 1992 crop averaged 55.8 cents per pound, up slightly from the 1991 price of 55.6 per pound. Higher prices received for extra light amber honey resulted in the slightly higher price for all honey in 1992.

Missouri had an estimated 25,000 colonies of bees in 1992, which produced an average of 77 pounds per colony.

## MITES & QUEENS

Missouri State Entomologist Joe Francka has received the following information from the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture. Each beekeeper listed will be provided with a Certificate of Apiary Inspection with additional declarations as to mite status in their beeyards.

Bill Gafford, 1121 Mobile Rd., Greenville, AL 36037 has been surveyed for the presence of Varroa mites utilizing the fluvalinate detector board technique and has been found to be free of Varroa mites. No tracheal mite analysis was performed in 1992.

The following beekeepers have been found to be free from Varroa mites utilizing the fluvalinate detector board technique, but have at least some beeyards infested with tracheal mites:

Elliott V. Allen  
P.O. Box 684  
Montgomery, AL 36101

Donald H. Benefield  
1907 Carolina Circle  
Hixon, TN 37343

Jim E. Byrd  
P.O. Box 147  
Calvert, AL 36513

Archie Dunn  
Rt. 1 Box 796-A  
Fruitdale, AL 36539

Jimmy Griggs  
Rt. 8 Box 300  
Ft. Payne, AL 35967

Doug Harbin  
8658 Goldmine Rd.  
Mobile, AL 36619

R.V. Harrell  
P.O. Box 215  
Hayneville, AL 35040

Charles O. McNatt  
Rt. 3 Box 629-F  
Red Bay, AL 35582

James E. Sitz  
Rt. 1 Box 251-A  
Attalla, AL 35954

Greg Tate  
Rt. 2 Box 92  
Millry, AL 36558

James C. Tate  
Rt. 2 Box 90  
Millry, AL 36558

Calvert Apiaries  
Andrew L. Webb, III  
Rt. 2 Box 91  
Millry, AL 36558

The following beekeepers have beeyards infested with both the Varroa and tracheal mites:

Joseph P. Berry  
P.O. Box 11113  
Montgomery, AL 36111

Robert T. Hawk  
Rt. 1 Box 750  
Enterprise, AL 36330

Edward Norman  
P.O. Box 727  
Ramer, AL 36069

Thomas Norman  
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## TO MEMBERS:

We are interested in each and everyone of our members. Although we cannot give each one the individual attention we would like, we try to make your membership meaningful and trust that it adds rest, 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 editor more pleasurable. If you know of any beekeeper who does not belong to Missouri State Beekeepers' Association, please pass this newsletter along to them and encourage them to join.

Dues are \$5.00 per year. Make checks payable to Missouri State Beekeepers' Association. If you belong to a local association, you may pay your dues through your local treasurer.

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