DEAR BEEKEEPING FRIENDS,

As I type this newsletter, the noise of a leaf 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 a lot to do between now and April. I hope all of you are careful in selection of Queen Breeders. If in doubt please call Joe Francke 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 Frey’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 hobbyist 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
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 him 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.

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.
The Foreword
By Troy H. Fore, 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 Steiner 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-be in the Department of Agriculture. It was USDA policy, the proposers were told, that 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, it threatens to undermine support for the program. Some refunders have been vocal, virtually threatening to other who are not releasing 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 the can 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 refunding forces the NBH management to spend more on the paperwork, which would otherwise go into arranging honey promotions. In 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. Repealing the Department line, the NBH 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 one thing, 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 imitation 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 prospect 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 would also renew the program for five more years -- or even longer. There has also been talk of changing the law to do away with the "amnest" 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 assessment 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 not sufficiently confused, please attempt to collect your thoughts and record them on the questionnaire. If not, I will 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 NBH and these industry leaders pondering assessments and such matters.
SPREDDY 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. 8]
   - 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. 9]

2. If you favor ending the refunds, rank these possible scenarios that would end the refunds (Number them 1 to 3, 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.
   - Let the refunds continue through the 1979 vote, then end the law as the renewed program will not include refunds.
   - Have two votes in 1979: 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
   - As much as they collect from producers, ______.
   - Equally as much as they collect from producers, ______.

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 operation:

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 surveys 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 elsewhere 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 for U.S. producers was 5.1 million colonies producing 372.4 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1987. There were 3.2 million colonies producing 212 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1987. Colies that produced in more than one state were counted in each state, and yields may be understated. Producers 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 pound, 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 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 69 cents per pound, up 11 cents from 1987. The value of Missouri's honey production was $1,418,000 compared to $936,000 in 1987.

## HONEY PRODUCTION, 1988

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Colonies of Bees</th>
<th>Yield per Colony</th>
<th>Honey Production</th>
<th>Stocks Dec. 15</th>
<th>Average Price/Lb</th>
<th>Value of Production</th>
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## HONEY PRODUCTION, 1987

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<th>Stocks Dec. 15</th>
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<td>33,084</td>
<td>50.7/1</td>
<td>115,356</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1/ Weighted by sales.

BEESWAX USED TO SOFTEN SKIN


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 stainless 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.
Honey Producers Hold 20th Annual Convention

With about 250 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 J. Smith, St. Mary's, Minn., and vice-presidents were Ray Chambless, Dayton, Texas, and Jerry Cole of Bosque Farms, N.M., who was re-elected vice-president.

In its business meeting the AHPPA approved inspection and collection policies, including a statement of goals, which outlines the officers and members to establish support with members of Congress and with the Administration to provide the necessary funds for the AHPPA program.

Other resolutions were as follows:

1. WORKING for a good and wholesome honey prices support program.

2. REQUESTING USDA - ASCS to work with the industry to correct any regulations that cause a hardship on beekeepers who feel that honey is too expensive.

3. RECOMMEND the removal of the specific quantity and percentage of the honey loan program, leaving the decision of the loan rate to the Administration.

4. RECOMMEND the correction of the inequities and violations that exist in the pricing of honey among the beekeepers.

5. REQUESTING to allow domestic honey to be competitive in the open market, reducing the cost of the price support program.

6. WORKING to obtain a fair price for honey to enable producers to make honey through the Los Angeles program in the form of bookkeeping on USDA-CSC.

7. RECOMMEND that USDA-ASCX purchase the honey that is currently being sold to domestic honey.

8. SUPPORTING the removal of the United States and having specific market knowledge of each of the constituent groups in the export marketing organization of the National Honey Board, to consider a position the USDA-ASCX.

9. SUPPORTING changes in the Honey Board's legislation:

- To limit each importer's refund to the same percentage of the total amount of the importation.
- To assure effective competition with foreign producers and importers.
- To prevent any effort to report or change the 5-year information program.

10. RECOMMEND strict enforcement of the specific quantity and percentage of the honey loan program, leaving the decision of the loan rate to the Administration.

11. RECOMMEND that USDA-ASCX investigate the market for honey in the United States and the domestic market for honey.

12. REQUESTING EPA to make a study of the impact of the honey loan program on the price of honey, its production, and marketing.

13. RECOMMEND that USDA-ASCX consider the establishment of a honey loan program.

14. REQUESTING to allow the labeling of honey as domestic.

15. OPPOSING the clearing of honey plants due to increased production and a decrease in the number of beekeepers.

16. ENDORSE the honey bee as the national insect.

17. SUPPORT the Competitive Research Grant Program and the addition of a "beneficial insects" category so that independent bee research can apply for funds.

18. RECOMMEND that the Federal Extension Service provide technical assistance to beekeepers.

19. ENDORSE the honey bee as the national insect.

20. SUPPORT the Competitive Research Grant Program and the addition of a "beneficial insects" category so that independent bee research can apply for funds.

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 a lot of work to delete a name from the newsletter roster, and then add it back a month or two later.

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 $1.00 each from:

The National Honey Board
421 21st St. #203
Longmont, Co. 80501
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 to full slates of officers to office: Reg Wilbanks of Clinton, Ga., was re-elected to his second term, as was Vice President Bob Brands of Las Vegas, Calif.

The Board of Directors re-elected Pat Ator of Memphis, Tenn., and David Sumberg of Fergus Falls, Minn., to their second two-year terms on the Executive Committee. They join John Haseltine of Monte Vista, Colo., Alan King of Marion, N.D., and Bill Shearmur of Winona, Minn., on the committee and Past President Randall Johnson of Nampa, Idaho.

Crowned as 1989 American Honey Queen was Nancy Greaves of Novato, Calif. 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 Mathis of Hummertown, Pa. She is the daughter of Stewart and Carol Mathis.

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 abolishing refunds of assessments.

The resolution included no specific direction to the officers as to the desired action 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 judgment 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 it to offer a refund of that portion of his assessment equal to a percentage, to the percentage of total domestic assessments paid as refunds to producers.

However, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has ruled that it is illegal to accept refunds for 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 asked 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 sales about the Canadian bee or U.S. bee imports as part of the Canadien/American Fair Trade Agreement. The resolution held that the bee industry was in violation of the FDA 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 try to get an amendment to the importation of stocks for breeding purposes.

Other resolutions adopted included:

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

OFFERING the opportunity to have members contribute to the legislative fund.

OFFERING to host a meeting of the Tri-County Committee of Africanized Honeybees and Parasitic Mites in 1990 or 1991.

THANKING the Extension Service for its Federal Extension Agriculturist post and asking that it be given 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 quality 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 wax moth.

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

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 bee, mite, beetle, and bee, 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 Africanized bees on various aspects of American life.

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

ASKING USDA-SCS to delete herbicides from its list of acceptable practices for the control of non-toxic 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-SCS to establish a blue ribbons 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 backyard 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 the beekeeping industry.
- Promoting the use of leguminous on set-aside land, marginal farm land, land subject to erosion, and land for wildlife habitat.
- Working through the AFB Research and Technical Committee with USDA to determine and accomplish research needs.
- Maintaining and expanding honey promotional efforts through the American Honey Program.

The complete resolutions and Continuing Objectives are available from the office of the Federation, P.O. Box 1036, Jesup, GA 31545.
NEW BOOKS

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

By Sue Hubbell
Random House, 168 pages, $17.05
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 li-
brarian 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 beehive, with consider-
able misgivings. Save for the entomolo-
gists 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 lives 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 pent-
house, 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 under-
scores 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, Hub-
bell 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 ex-
tract honey from combs.

On the subject of honey, she is char-
acteristically wry:

"There are other animals who like
honey in addition to bees. Ants, cock-
raches, and wasps get into beehives to
eat it when they can. So do pigs, bears
or any other animal with a sweet
tooth. Humans are the most skilful 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 hus-
bandry, whose attention to one place
and one animal magically suggests the
whole big hive of life. As the saying
went in the '20s, 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 poison-
ing that is very rare but also very serious:
depending on the exact strain of the
disease up to 50% of affected people
can die. The poisoning results from a
toxin produced by the bacterium Clo-
sidium botulinum. This toxin is said
to be one of the most poisonous sub-
stances known; one gram of it could kill
over 14,000,000,000 average-sized
humans.

The bacterium Clostridium botuli-
num is very common and occurs near-
ly everywhere, including on the raw
vegetables we eat. The spores have
been regarded as harmless to humans,
as they can't germinate inside our in-
testinal tracts. We only contract botulism when we eat foods in which
the bacteria have survived cooking,
then produced toxin before being eat-
en. Botulism is usually associated
with faulty preserving or canning, espe-
cially 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 ingest-
ed, but only in infants less than six
months old. Their gut flora is less de-
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 airwaves in the
US in the late 1970s a lot of detective
work was put into finding a link be-
 tween the affected infants. Quite a few
had been fed honey, and some honey
samples were found to contain Clo-
sidium botulinum spores.

This caused a great stir in the US
honey industry, with suggestions being
made that honey containing spores
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 sub-
  stitute 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 you
should contact MAF's Lynefield office for
sampling and certification.
To understand the importance of honey bees and manage the honey bees, "the beekeepers' role is critical," according to A. Farkas, "apricot and cherry growers" said in an interview with the National Honey Board. The study conducted by the board's research service shows that honey bees pollinate crops. The study, conducted by the University of California, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the study notes that bees from honey bee pollination can produce crops that grow 20% more than those grown with other pollinators. The study also notes that the use of honey bee pollination can help increase the number of pollinator species and improve the health of crops. The study, conducted under a grant from the National Honey Board, concluded that honey bee pollination can help increase the yield and quality of crops, including almonds, apples, melons, and almonds...
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 1960 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 6,100 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) 786-1823
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?

Processed: Thu Jan 5, 1989 11:03 AM EST
From: PPO.NAPIS.CHAMPAI.II
To: ALL.PPG.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 - 80 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 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 inspection, 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 other, 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.

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.

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 yields by creating a honey bee suited 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

ARS plant physiologist Gerald Laper 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. (0887X3431-24)
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 that follows.

Stopping and Controlling Africanized Bees

II. 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 Rir lerer are working to find a way to get that gene into honey bees.

Then, beekeepers would have the bacterium-resistant strain in their hive 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 repellent 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 on 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 as 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 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
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 Texas and southern Arizona, to test the effectiveness of the hives. He will check them weekly and hope to test his prediction that Africanized bees will arrive in Texas this year.

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 stowaway 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. 505, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-West, Beltsville, MD 20705 (301) 344-3280.]

Africanized Bees

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.

Agricultural Research/January 1989

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.
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 in 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,

[Signature]
Joseph E. Francke
State Entomologist

JEF/dmb

Enclosure
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  Montezuma  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 fluvinate strips
  with 55 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 WHS 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  Mix together. Simmer 10 mins.
4 tsp. Sherry wine  Dip deep-fried pieces of rabbit
3 Tbsp. Soy Sauce  or chicken nuggets into sauce.
2 tsp. chopped ginger root
5 Tbsp. Dijon Mustard
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 FRANKCKA 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 committee 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 not 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 controlling 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 Indiana 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 Novam 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 Gleaning, 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.

Page 4, THE SPEEDY BEE, February 1989

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 said 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 Chrystina Bertolino
of the Post-Delacour 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 price 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 checkout 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

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 tampered 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 nailing and removing of the staples shortly demolishes good supers which are not cheap even if you make your own. So staples are out.

Stripes 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 III 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 134)
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 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 not readily use, 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 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 wind 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 hive mates 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.
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 on 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 45 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 honey flow 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 foothold. And quit using it a month before the honey flow.

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.
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, 5595 Nelson Road, Box C, Longmont, Colorado 80501.

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CHICKEN BAR B Q WITH HONEY - MUSTARD GLAZE

1 8 oz can tomato sauce
¼ cup salad oil
¼ cup orange juice
¼ cup cider vinegar
1 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 1–½ to 50 minutes, brushing with marinade and turning frequently. Just before serving brush with Honey-mustard glaze.

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

Serves 6

HONEY-BAKED RABBIT

1 box Pel-Freez Rabbit, thawed
¼ cup margarine, melted
¼ cup honey
2 tbsls 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 250°F for 1½ 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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ADDRESS _________________________________________

CITY ___________ STATE _______ ZIP ________

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P.O.BOX 151
LINCOLN, MO. 65338

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSN.
314 Quinmoor Drive,
Ballwin, Missouri, 63011

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