

# MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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DEAR BEEKEEPING FRIENDS,

At the Spring Meeting, the Missouri State Beekeepers Association named DR. FLERNOY JONES as the 1986 MISSOURI BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR.

This year makes Dr. Jones' seventh year as an officer of the State Association. From 1980 to 1983 he was the Second Vice President of the Association, responsible for the slate of candidates for each office at the annual Fall elections. As in all organizations, the work-up of a slate requires time, tact, and friendly persuasion. Dr. Jones never failed to present the membership with a complete slate of candidates for each election.

In 1984 Dr. Jones was persuaded to take one of the most difficult and time-consuming offices in the Association - the office of First Vice President in charge of Programs. This office requires a continual search for new speakers and topics that will appeal to both the new and the experienced beekeepers. Endless hours of letter writing and telephone calls are necessary to contact individuals, coordinate schedules, and make travel and accommodation reservations. Also all expenses must be kept within a limited budget. And the endless details must be attended to - such as, reserving a room for the meeting at little or no cost to the Association, making sure that adequate parking is available, finding exhibit areas for bee suppliers, and making sure the coffee and donuts are ready and hot for the morning break.

Dr. Jones has brought such nationally known speakers to our State meetings as

Dr. Norman Gary  
Dr. Richard Taylor  
Mr. Joe Graham, the editor of the American Bee Journal  
Mr. Troy Fore, the editor of the Speedy Bee

along with our local favorites!!

However most of Dr. Jones' work in beekeeping is not known to the general membership. As professor of entomology at the University of Missouri - Columbia, Dr. Jones is responsible for the beekeeping program and courses for the students. Also, he travels extensively and often around the State giving short courses for active and potential beekeepers. As a result of these short courses, several of our local beekeeping associations have been formed!

Dr. Jones is a man ever willing to give of his time, energy and knowledge to help the association, his students and the individual beekeeper. We wish to extend to Dr. Jones our CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING CHOSEN THE 1986 MISSOURI BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR!!!

\* \* \* \* \*



Dr. Flerney Jones (right) receives the 1986 Missouri Beekeeper of the Year award from Mr. Truman Hardin, a past recipient of the award.

Photograph by Francis Scheidegger.

# Missouri State Fair

## Sedalia, Mo.

### August 15-24

This year Jim Hausam of Lincoln, Jim Thaxter of Moberly, and John Walther of Jefferson City have volunteered to head the Apiculture section of the State Fair. Volunteers are needed to help in the honey booth and to answer the many questions of the Fairgoers.

The Fair is open each day from August 15 through August 24 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Four to six workers are needed each day. Week-ends usually fill up first. Select a date and make your reservations immediately with Jim Hausam, Fair Coordinator, Rt. 2, Lincoln, Mo. 65338, phone 1-816-668-4954. PLEASE HELP!!!

By the time you read this, hopefully your bees will be storing honey. Now is the time to think of setting some of your best aside for entry at the State Fair. A large display of entries really draws attention to the fact that Missouri is number 11 in the nation in honey production. After judging, your name is displayed with your entries to the thousands of people who pass through the Agriculture Building during the Fair.

The regulations for entry, the categories, class descriptions, score sheet and deadlines are found in the State Fair premium book. Since no changes in the regulations, categories, etc. have taken place in the past several years and since this information has been published in full the past three years in the June newsletters, please refer to these past newsletters or contact Mr. Hausam concerning the new 1986 Fair book.

**Note:** The Fair begins on Friday, August 15, so that entries will probably have to be in place by Thursday, August 14, at 5:00 p.m.

We owe THANK YOUS to the speakers at the Spring meeting — Mr. Joe Graham, Mr. Ray Nabors, Mr. Joe Francka, and Mr. Francis Scheidegger. Those of you who did not attend missed a good day!

Mr. Francis Scheidegger began the day with a lively presentation on the subject of bee pollen. The merits of bee pollen for human consumption has a long tradition among beekeepers but is still a controversial topic in the scientific field. Mr. Scheidegger made a fascinating case for the use of bee pollen. One item that he stressed was that bee pollen should be collected twice a day. If left in the tray, it can ferment, get moldy, etc.

Mr. Joe Graham, the editor of the American Bee Journal, addressed the topic of "Honey Promotion and Marketing". He discussed how to promote and sell your honey while in stiff competition with the 140 million pounds of less expensive, imported honey and the government subsidized sugar industry. Beekeepers should emphasize that their honey is local honey, Missouri honey, U.S. honey — in that order.

The following points are the highlights of an excellent presentation.

1. A local association or a state association can develop its own label for its members to use that will stress the local nature of the honey.
2. Sell honey by flavor if you can keep your nectar sources separate.
3. Set up honey displays in grocery stores.
4. Give out leaflets, such as "Cook It Right with Honey", to help increase sales.
5. During Honey Week in October, make a special display in your area grocery stores.
6. Gift pack your honey for sale along with another product, such as fruit, cut flowers, honey-baked goods, beeswax candles, molded beeswax figures, etc.
7. Appeal to the gourmet market.
8. Stress honey as a superior sweetener with trace minerals.
9. Make gift coupons for your honey.
10. Make up holiday leaflets for cars or grocery stores, advertising your holiday gift packs.

11. Make up your own creative, eye-catching honey sign.
12. Set up a self-serve honey stand.
13. Use bumper stickers, caps, jackets, and magnetic signs to advertize your honey.
14. Possibly set up an arrangement with an organization, such as the Boy Scouts, by which they can sell your honey at a profit for both you and them.

Mr. Graham also indicated that Dadant's COOKING WITH HONEY is available to associations and individuals free plus postage in the following formats: VHS VIDEO TAPE, BETA VIDEO TAPE, and 16 mm MOVIE. Just write to him at Dadant and Sons, Hamilton, Illinois 62341.

Also please note the article reprinted from the MISSOURI FARM magazine on the honey promotion program undertaken by the newest local association "The Little Dixie Beekkeepers Association" in Mexico, Missouri. (See page 15 of this newsletter.)

Mr. Joe Francka updated the Association on the honeybee tracheal mite infestations. At present at least 20 states report varying degrees of mite infestation. (See page 11 of this newsletter for the list.) Some states are attempting to control the mite but others, such as Florida, are taking no action.

The situation seems to suggest that eventually the honeybee tracheal mite will come to Missouri. The Executive Board of MSBA has issued a recommendation to the local associations to be on the watch for the mite through cases of queens, packages, or migratory movement that havenot been certified as disease-free. In such cases, the local association or individual member is asked to notify Joe Francka. (See page 10 of this newsletter for the details.) In case of infestation, the area will be quarantined but it will be left to the owner to depopulate or not the infested hives. No plans for mandatory depopulation in the State.

The suggestion is made that local groups might volunteer to replace the hives of a small beekeeper if the hives have been killed due to mite infestation.

"Area beekeepers working together will be the most effective means of monitoring for mite entry into Missouri."

Mr. Ray Nabors, an area entomology specialist from Portageville, presented his comb honey production system. He prefers the round comb honey instead of the section comb honey. He considers it easier to set up and better in appearance for marketing.

A few of the points Mr. Nabors made concerning comb honey production are

1. A strong, uniform honey flow is necessary.
2. The beekeeper must know when the flow begins and notice how long it lasts.
3. Only use strong, overwintered colonies. The colonies must have been a two-hive body colony coming out of winter.
4. Always use a queen excluder to keep the brood out of the super.
5. Requeen every colony every year.
6. Always super next to the brood chamber for better filling of the super and less travel stains on finished supers.
7. Take off the super as soon as it is full to prevent travel stains.
8. Bees have a tendency to fill the back of a super before the front.
9. Place outside frames to the inside as soon as the inside frames are full.
10. Cut out queen cells every week.
11. If a swarm issues from a hive, section comb honey is impossible that season.
12. Work poor quality frames to the outside and replace some each year.
13. Always use 10 frames.
14. Never use smoke or Bee-go to remove comb honey. Instead, Mr. Nabors recommends an inner cover with screening and four bee escapes.
15. Store comb honey in a freezer.
16. If you put round or square sections on top of a two-story hive, the bees will never fill the sections. You must use a single brood chamber packed with bees.





Again, THANK YOU to Mr. Graham, Mr. Nabors, Mr. Francka and Mr. Scheidegger for their time and presentations!!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ATTENTION: LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

All local associations who took the MISSOURI HONEY COOKBOOK on consignment, please send all the money that you have collected so far on books sold to Mr. Truman Hardin, Treasurer, 1829 W. Washita, Springfield, Mo. 65807. Make the check payable to the Missouri State Beekeepers and indicate the number of cook-books sold.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE MISSOURI CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORTING SERVICE is requesting that beekeepers help in a survey of the state's beekeepers and the honey and beeswax produced in 1986 in Missouri. The survey will be conducted in December and the data compiled in January 1987. The individual data will be kept confidential and the information used only to help with production and marketing decisions and to administer the farm program requirements.

Mr. Bay, the State Statistician, assures us that this has nothing to do with the Health Department or with the Tax Departments. But it is very difficult for him or anyone else to put forth a case for the beekeepers of the State of Missouri when there is no record that the beekeepers exist or that any honey was collected.

If you wish to volunteer, please fill in your name, address, and phone number on the form found on the last page of this newsletter and mail to Mr. Donald M. Bay, State Statistician, P.O. Box L, Columbia, Missouri 65202. If you wish further information, call (314) 875-5233.

If you volunteer, you will be contacted in December. Thank you!

\* \* \* \* \*

State Health Inspectors are taking samples of honey from the store shelves and shutting down beekeepers if they have not been inspected. Sellers need a State Health Inspection Certificate. The State Association will propose Missouri Laws to allow "HOBBYISTS" to sell honey under certain conditions.

\* \* \* \* \*

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Spring Meeting  
March 22, 1986

The business meeting commenced following the conclusion of the day's program.

The first item of business concerned the regular Saturday afternoon business meeting. President Curt Dennis offered several suggestions: should we let the executive board handle all business and eliminate the Saturday afternoon business session; should we conduct all business on Saturday afternoon; should we conduct business Saturday night after the program, or should we leave business the way it is. Clayton Johnson made a motion for the Executive Board to meet two or three times during the year to conduct business, to consolidate this business on the Friday evening before the scheduled state meeting for presentation to the general membership the following day. Motion was seconded and passed.

An announcement was made concerning bees for sale by Harry Herman of Columbia.

The minutes were read by the Secretary. A motion was made for approval, the motion was seconded and approved.

The Treasurer gave his report. A motion was made for approval, the motion was seconded and approved.

The President made an announcement about a Nevada, Missouri, beekeeper who has been barred by the State Health Department from selling honey. The Health Department's regulations need to be modified and applied equally across the state. The Executive Board will work on this matter.

John Walther made a motion to approve the Executive Board's position on the honeybee tracheal mite (Board recommendation attached). The motion was seconded and approved.

There was a discussion concerning the pricing of the MSBA cookbook, the reorder form found in the back of the book, and the ordering of a second printing of the book. The President presented a motion that the State Fair committee set a price for State Fair sales and that the reorder page state a price of \$7.95 plus shipping with Jean Tohtz named as the contact person. This motion was seconded and passed. Jay Tohtz has suggested that the MSBA present each legislator with a copy of the cookbook in appreciation for their consideration of recent apicultural legislation and to make them aware of the existence of the honey industry in Missouri. This would require about 200 books. A motion was made to leave it up to the cookbook committee to order books as they see necessary. John Walther seconded and the motion was approved.

There has been a need expressed for a handout with information about MSBA and honey. Carol Boeckmann has printed up a sample handout which is being evaluated by the Executive Board. There was also a suggestion to have a small handout similar to



one by Dadant with information about honey and recipes to promote Missouri honey. The Board recommends having 5-10,000 of the first printed for use at the State Fair. John Walther and Joe Francka will work on the smaller information handout, to be discussed further at the fall meeting. A motion was made to print the handout for use at the State Fair. The motion was seconded and passed.

Jim Hausam, Jim Thaxter, and John Walther have volunteered to cover the State Fair but they will need accommodations for that period. Several people have offered to sell camping trailers to the MSBA. A discussion followed concerning buying versus renting a trailer.

The fall meeting was scheduled to be held in Poplar bluff. No date was set at this time.

The Executive Board plans to conduct a contest for a slogan to promote Missouri honey. Cash prizes may be awarded. This was referred to a committee.

Also sent to committee was the idea of having more full-time beekeepers as speakers at meetings and the feasibility of moving the meeting dates to accommodate them.

Truman Hardin would like to be replaced as Treasurer. Anyone interested in the job should contact Second Vice President Louis Smith. Carol Boeckmann is willing to continue as newsletter editor but she would be glad to step aside if anyone else would like that job.

Carolyn Gooch, Commodity Marketing Specialist with the Mo. Department of Agriculture, spoke on AgriMissouri workshops. She encouraged producers of Missouri products to use the Agri Missouri logo. She also informed the meeting of upcoming workshops in which honey producers could participate and promote Missouri honey. At the State Fair, commodity groups will be allowed to give two presentations at the Homemaker's Showcase in the Home Economics building. Volunteers are needed to do this. The President suggested that local associations represent themselves and the MSBA at these workshops.

There was a discussion concerning door prizes given at the meetings. Tradition has been for locals to provide these prizes and the State Association will also contribute.

As there was no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed that the meeting adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Thaxter*

Jim Thaxter, Secretary

From: Executive Board, Missouri State Beekeepers Association  
 To: All local associations  
 Subject: Honeybee tracheal mites

Missouri does not yet have the honeybee tracheal mite, but they could be brought in at any time in a number of ways. We would like to keep them out of Missouri bee hives as long as possible, but we will probably get them eventually.

The Executive Board encourages local associations to monitor their own areas for possible entry of the honeybee tracheal mite into Missouri. If you know of bees that have come into the state— for example, queens, packages, migratory movement, etc. — without disease-free certification, notify Joe Francka, State Entomologist. He will quarantine areas where mites are known to exist and survey hives within a two to three-mile radius to determine the degree of infestation. If infestation is at a low level, the quarantine will remain in effect and subsequent action left up to the beekeeper.

The Executive Board recommends that local associations work with their area beekeepers who may have tracheal mites in their hives and encourage them to depopulate those so infested. The Board further recommends that beekeepers with only a few colonies have any depopulated hives restocked by other beekeepers in the area through frame exchange, shook packages, or whatever means they may decide on. Restocking need not necessarily extend to queen replacement and should not be restricted to association members. The cost of restocking hives will not be reimbursed by the State Association.

This recommendation does not give any association or individual police powers over other associations or individuals.

The Board feels that area beekeepers working together to maintain mite-free colonies will be the most effective means of monitoring for mite entry into Missouri.

Editor's Note: Mr. Joseph E. Francka, Superintendent  
 Apiculture Department  
 Division of Plant Industries  
 P.O. Box 630  
 Jefferson City, Mo. 65102  
 phone: (314) 751-2462

11  
HONEY BEE TRACHEAL MITE INFESTED STATES & COUNTIES

**\*\* CALIFORNIA**

Aniador  
Madera

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Hyde

**\* FLORIDA**

All counties (67)

**NORTH DAKOTA**

Adams  
Benson  
Bottineau  
Cavalier  
LaMoure  
McHenry  
McLean  
Mercer

Morton  
Mountrail  
Ramsey  
Rolette  
Stutsman  
Towner  
Ward  
Wells

**GEORGIA**

Thomas  
Lanier

**ILLINOIS**

Champaign  
Douglas  
Iroquois  
Piatt  
Vermillion

**OHIO**

Ashtabula  
Trumbull

**LOUISIANA**

Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Martin  
Vermillion

**\*\*\* OREGON**

Jackson

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Mifflin

**\*\* MAINE**

Hancock  
Waldo  
Washington

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

Gregory

**MINNESOTA**

Itasca

**TEXAS**

Bee  
Cameron  
Chambers  
Floyd  
Hale  
Harris  
Hildago

Live Oak  
Motley  
Nueces  
Reeves  
Starr  
Swisher  
Willacy

**NEBRASKA**

Boyd  
Cedar  
Keyapaha  
Pierce  
Wayne

**VIRGINIA**

Charlotte

**\*\* NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Hillsborough  
Rockingham

**\* WISCONSIN**

Barron  
Buffalo  
Burnett  
Dunn  
Pierce  
Polk

Rusk  
St. Croix  
Sawyer  
Trempealeau  
Washburn  
Waukesha

**\*\* NEW JERSEY**

Atlantic

**\* NEW YORK**

Genesee	Steuben
Livingston	Wayne
Monroe	Wyoming
Ontario	Yates
Orleans	

\* NO STATE REGULATIONS

\*\* INFESTED COLONIES WERE FROM OUT OF STATE

\*\*\* DEPOPULATED

**MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPER ASSOCIATION**  
**Financial Report**

BALANCE on HAND October 12, 1985

\$7895.06

**INCOME**

	11 Ind.	
Dues - Oct. 15 thro Mar. 17, 86 146 @ \$3	\$482.00	
Interest - Checking Account	23.56	
Farm & Home M.M.A.	124.52	
Book Sales - Fair account	15.30	
Dr. Richard Taylor donations	214.00	
Cook Books (274)	974.10	
Postage	<u>.85</u>	

1844.23  
\$9739.29

**EXPENSES**

State Meetings	\$515.20	
Newsletters	468.06	
President (past)	13.33	
Treasurer	49.00	
UPS - Slides and mileage	54.94	
Honey Promotion	72.84	
Dues refund	3.00	
State Fair deposit	175.00	
Cook Book - \$378.37 exp. & paid on acct.	750.00	
(Still owe \$1701 balance)	<u>378.37</u>	

-2479.74  
BALANCE \$7259.55  
March 17  
1986

**ASSETS**

Checking Account	\$ 863.88	
Farm and Home - M.M.A.	2895.67	
C.D. May 26, 86 @ 8.25%	<u>3500.00</u>	

\$7259.55

\* \* \* \* \*

	DUES	EXPENSES	BALANCE
83-84 Oct - Mar	\$ 786.00	\$2030.47	\$6645.51
1984 Mar - Oct	1021.50	938.38	7683.38
84-85 Oct - Mar	636.00	1290.59	7280.88
1985 Mar - Oct	943.00	1606.22	7895.06
85-86 Oct - Mar	921.00*	2479.74	7701.55*

\* This amount includes dues received after March 17, 1986 and not listed in the income above.

EXPENSES - for comparison		PROGRAMS	NEWS- LETTERS	PRESIDENT	TREASURER
1984	Mar - Oct	\$410.00	\$229.32	\$11.43	\$ 16.36
84-85	Oct - Mar	329.20	552.60		77.10
1985	Mar - Oct	380.17	581.41	44.00	124.98
85-86	Oct - Mar	515.20	468.06	13.33	49.00
		SLIDE-FILMS	MISC.	COOKBOOKS	TOTALS
1984	Mar - Oct	\$169.19	102.46		\$ 938.76
84-85	Oct - Mar	35.89	92.91		1087.70
1985	Mar - Oct	336.51	103.50		1570.57
85-86	Oct - Mar	54.94	250.84	\$1128.37	2475.74

\* \* \* \* \*

DUES paid by Associations - October 12, 1985 thro March 22, 1986

Boone Regional	18 paid	\$54.00
Central Missouri	15 paid	45.00
Dallas County		
Honey Dippers		
Honey Producers	15 paid	45.00
Eastern Missouri	102 paid	306.00
Jefferson County		
Laclede County	9 paid	27.00
Lincoln County	5 paid	15.00
Mid Missouri	17 paid	51.00
Midwestern	54 paid	162.00
North Missouri		
Ozarks	13 paid	39.00
Ozark Mountain	9 paid	27.00
Prairie Country	8 paid	24.00
Southeast Missouri	13 paid	39.00
Two Rivers	13 paid	39.00
Individuals	12 paid	48.00
	303 paid	\$921.00

\* \* \* \* \*



## CHECK INFORMATION

CHECK NO.	PAYER	PROGRAMS	NEWSLETTERS	PRESIDENT	TREASURER	SLIDES-FILMS	COOKBOOKS	HONEY BOOTH	MISC.
497	Craig Oliver	\$35.55							
498	Jim Prenger	20.15							
499	Dr. Taylor	400.00							
500	Central Church	60.00							
501	Postmaster St.								
	Louis								
502	T.C. Hardin		\$50.00			\$12.72			
503	T.C. Hardin								
504	Postmaster St.								
	Louis								
505	Postmaster St.		50.00						
	Louis								
506	T.C. Hardin								
507	Larry Hensley		38.15		1.67	11.61			\$17.59 bulk recipes
508	Eastern Assoc.		106.20						
509	Carol Boeckmann		24.76						
510	Jean Tohtz						\$324.50		
511	Jean Tohtz						10.00		
512	T.C. Hardin				18.79	13.79	43.87		
513	John Walther			\$13.33					12.00 honey promotion
514	Circulation Service						750.00		
515	Prairie Country refund								
516	Missouri State Fair							\$175.00	
517	Larry Hensley		38.15						
518	Eastern Assoc.		110.80						
519	T.C. Hardin					16.42			
520	John Hartman								43.25 honey promotion

The following article is reprinted from the March/April 1986 issue of the MISSOURI FARM magazine, Vol. 3, No. 2. Each month at least one article on beekeeping appears in the MISSOURI FARM along with others that are particularly geared to the small farmer and rural communities. An excellent magazine!

If interested in a subscription, write to MISSOURI FARM,  
c/o Ridge Top Ranch, Route 1, Clark, Mo. 65243.  
1 year (6 issues) \$15 -- 2 years (12 issues) \$27 -- 3 years \$36

### COMMUNITY EFFORT BRINGS SWEET SUCCESS

By Jim Thaxter

While it looks like U.S. beekeepers are beset with problems—foreign imports, mites, reduction of government aid—the Little Dixie Beekeepers Association of Mexico, Missouri, is hard at work taking advantage of opportunities. In fact, they are working with merchants in the area who also seem to have problems. With a coordinated effort, the two groups hope to find a mutual solution to their separate, but similar problems.

Beekeepers in the Mexico area are looking at falling retail honey prices in grocery stores—\$1.75 for a two pound jar, \$.93 for a twelve ounce squeeze bear. This is honey from commercial packers in the mid-west and from the store's warehouses with house labels. The market for local honey is good, but competition from the less expensive supermarket honey is being felt. Merchants in the Mexico area are feeling the competition from nearby Columbia which has a new shopping mall and has shown a general expansion over the past few years. This is putting pressure on Mexico businesses, so they are looking for ways to keep area residents' trade at home.

### ***"Mexico—A Honey of a place to Bee"***

The two groups are promoting the aspect of buying locally. The Shop Mexico merchants association is using the slogan, "Mexico—a Honey of a Place to Bee." They are incorporating the bee into their

generic advertising campaign, for example, "Bee smart—shop Mexico." When the trade group originated this idea, they also thought it would be a good idea to give away honey to their customers. Used baby food jars were suggested as containers for these honey samples. This was reported in the Mexico daily newspaper and noticed by Don Collop, president of the LDBA.

Collop is a hobby beekeeper with an intense interest in promoting honey and beekeeping. Throughout the year he gives talks to area schools and attends local fairs and community gatherings where he displays honey, an observation hive and a hand-cranked extractor for public education. Don immediately saw a new honey marketing avenue to explore, but he knew there had to be a better container for honey than baby food jars. After checking with several out-of-town glassware suppliers, he found a suitable container made right in Mexico by the Quality Plastics Company. They make a clear plastic tub which holds four ounces of honey, large enough for a good sample, yet small enough to be affordable by merchants.


At the same time, Don was talking to the Shop Mexico trade association and the Mexico Chamber of Commerce. He convinced them that honey looks much nicer in new containers, all uniformly filled and labeled. He also stressed the idea of community involvement and informed the two groups of the Little Dixie Beekeepers Association's existence. From there Collop went to the individual merchants, who responded positively to the whole idea.

The members of the LDBA were polled, the honey promotion kept picking up momentum. Some honey was initially donated to the Chamber of Commerce for

their use. A price was struck which was agreeable to the business people and LDBA members. The sample tubs have been filled on equal shares by those beekeepers with excess honey. The label mentions the Shop Mexico association, Quality Plastics Co., and LDBA.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, about 500 pounds of honey were sold to Mexico area merchants and given to the Chamber of Commerce by the LDBA. That's 2,000 tubs of honey, some undoubtedly given to people who don't ordinarily use honey, and to some people who do use it, but didn't realize it was available locally. How this will affect future honey sales for area beekeepers remains to be seen. A sustained effort will be needed to hold the public's awareness.

The merchants are hoping for the "Honey of a Place to Bee" promotion to continue. This will keep them in the shoppers' minds and the honey producers will also benefit from the exposure. A walk through town shortly before Christmas showed a variety in the way businesses are using their honey. Some were giving it to all shoppers on certain days, some to preferred customers, some with a specified minimum purchase, and some were saving it for after the Christmas rush to entice customers to shop during their future promotions.

All of the merchants interviewed were pleased with the promotion and community involvement shown by the LDBA. Opportunities are there for groups who will look for and take advantage of them. Local and statewide associations of producers often have trouble reaching agreements, but working together, progress can be made toward common goals. 

QUEEN EXCLUDERS . . . . .

Taken from Bee Talk by Charles W. McKellar.

"The purpose of the excluder is to keep the queen out of the honey supers. In extracted honey production it is not as big a problem as with comb honey production where it is absolutely necessary to keep the queen below.

"I add a queen excluder to each hive when I add the first super, leaving the excluder in place until the bees have partially filled the center four or five frames. When I next go into that hive to work it or to add a super, I generally take the excluder off. The queen will not generally cross honey to lay. The frames of honey now serve as the queen excluder. Once I remove the honey supers and replace them with dry supers, the excluder goes back on.

"If you did not put a queen excluder on when the honey supers were added, it will be necessary to wait until all the brood hatches before removing the super for extracting. In that case the excluder should be added about three weeks before extracting. Since all the brood does not hatch at the same time, an upper opening may be necessary for the drones cannot pass through the excluder.

"Almost all commercial operators use excluders. The Aebe brothers who hold the record for production from a single colony (404 lbs. or 13 supers) established in Sept. '74) uses excluders and find that their largest crops come from hives with excluders, this despite the logic that excluders restrict the bees and obviously require greater effort on their part."

Taken from Mississippi Department of Agriculture Beekeepers News-Letter, July/August 1985.

"An article in the August 1985 issue of the ABJ, by G. W. Hayes, Jr., entitled "Queen Excluders or Honey Excluders?" indicates indeed that when used as normally done on top of the brood chamber with no upper entrance, excluders do inhibit honey production. On the other hand, if instead of the lower entrance, an upper entrance just above the excluder is used, honey production is not altered. The bees tend to use this entrance and rather than carry the load of nectar down through the excluders the bees will store it above the excluder in the supers. This leaves more room below for brood rearing and the brood chambers do not become congested."

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The following article was taken from the June 1976 THE SPEEDY BEE, page 10. This article was sent in by Truman Hardin.

## EASY WAY TO RAISE QUEENS, INCREASE COLONIES

by Fred Ellis

When you use a strong colony to raise queens by removing the existing queen, you have to stay on your toes to catch and remove the queen cells when they're ready. You can cut them off and fasten them to comb in a nucleus. Or you can move an entire frame, with the queen cell attached, out of the colony.

This is one way to raise queens, but you interfere with your honey producing colony by doing this. You disturb the morale of the colony. And you put the bees in the mood for swarming by having them raise queen cells.

Dave Prudden of Long Valley, N.J., avoids these disadvantages in what he calls his easy way of raising queens and increasing colonies. Dave, a veteran beekeeper of many years who has helped many fellow beekeepers, described his method at a meeting of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association. He starts each Spring by making six or eight nucleus hives - boxes just big enough to hold four standard deep frames.

"In each box I put two drawn-out combs, one on each side. And I put two frames of foundation in the center. Then, at the last of March or first of April, I put them in the car and take them to the out-apiaries," Dave explained.

"I go to those colonies that did well last year and put up a lot of honey. And I take out a frame of brood. I take a frame with as

small a patch as I can get, covered over with a small patch of bees - maybe with a little capped-over brood, maybe with a few eggs around - the smaller the better. If you take a large patch of brood in March or April, they'll get chilled. They won't have enough bees on them."

Next, Dave takes another frame from the hive. This one is filled with pollen and honey and is covered with bees. He puts this frame in the nucleus beside the small patch of brood.

"That way I have at least two frames of bees, and they will cover that little patch of brood," says Dave. "Sometimes I find a lot of young bees clinging on the inner cover so I shake them into the nucleus, too."

Then Dave takes the two frames of foundation that he had carried in the nucleus box and puts them in the colony from which he had taken the frames of brood and stores.

"This gives the bees something to *clean out*. It's good for them; helps *then* use up their wax, keeps them from swarming."

Then Dave brings the new nucleus, which consists of a frame of brood and a frame of stores between two frames of drawn comb, back to his main bee yard and leaves it there. Dave explains that he performs ~~this~~ operation at an out-apiary "because if I did it nearby, too many bees would fly back to their

home colony and not enough would stay with the nucleus to cover that little patch of brood. So I pick them up in one apiary and bring them to another. I generally bring them back home. If I take the brood from my home apiary, I take the nucleus somewhere else."

(NOTE: If you have no other bee yards to work with, you can still use the system. Leave the nucleus hive on the stand where the parent hive had been and move the parent hive a few feet away. Bees from the parent hive that are out in the field when you make the switch will return to the nucleus, adding to the number of bees there. This could be a disadvantage if you don't want to take too many workers from your honey-gathering colony.)

Five to ten days later, Dave looks at the nucleus to see if the bees have started queen cells. If they have, that's good. If they haven't, then he goes back to the parent colony for more eggs.

"If they have queen cells started, I leave the nuc alone until enough time has passed so that the queen should be hatched (16 days from egg). Then I check again to see if the queen has hatched all right."

If she has, Dave leaves the bees alone for another five or ten days. Then he inspects the nucleus once more to see if the queen has mated and has come back to the nucleus and is laying.

"If she's laying all right, I leave them alone until I need the queen or until the nucleus hive is filled with brood and bees and honey and pollen."

At this point Dave will use the nucleus in any one of several ways, depending on his needs or the needs of his beekeeping friends.

"Once a nucleus has raised a queen, if you need her in a colony, you can remove her from the nucleus and put her in the colony," says Dave. "Then the nucleus will raise another queen." Last year Dave took three queens from one nucleus by this process. "After she has mated and begun laying, you have a tested queen."

To move the queens he uses standard queen mailing cages, which he always keeps handy. The queen goes in one end, then he seals the entrance with cardboard. He puts his own homemade candy in the other end.

"To make the candy," explains Dave, "I use regular powdered 10-X confectioners cane sugar that you use for icing cakes. Take about a half a teaspoonful of sugar and a drop or two of water. Put one drop in at a time."

He makes a ball about the size of a green pea.

"Be careful not to use too much water. You might have to add more sugar, then end up with enough candy for three or four cages instead of just one."

The mixture has to be very dry and solid, Dave warns, working a ball of candy around in his fingers like dry putty.

"You can't have it moist when

you put it in the cage because humidity will be drawn to the sugar and make the cage sticky and messy."

If he hasn't taken the queen away and the nucleus starts getting crowded with a lot of bees on all four frames, Dave takes out two frames of brood that the queen has capped over. He puts that brood into one of his good honey-gathering colonies where there's already a good queen. This builds up the large colony's honey-gathering force in a hurry when the brood hatches.

If he doesn't need the queen for requeening another colony, Dave lets her build up the nucleus into a ten-frame hive for wintering over. If they need it, he brings

extra bees from one of the other colonies to help the new colony make it through the winter. He gives them honey or sugar water as they need it through the winter.

In mid summer, after the swarming season is over, is a good time to go through your colonies to see if they all have good queens, as Dave sees it. Some queens may no longer be laying well, others might have been eaten by birds during swarming, and so on.

You can requeen in the fall. And you can make note of which colonies are robust, good candidates to be source colonies next March to help you make increase - the easy way!

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(Continued from page 16)

"Excluders are good at requeening time. If brood is in more than one brood box, an excluder can be placed between them a week or so in advance. This will help you to pinpoint the queen by the presence of the eggs when you must kill or remove her. You need only look in that box. Also, an excluder can be nailed on the bottom of an empty super and when all the bees are shaken from the combs into it, the queen cannot pass through. She can easily be located. The workers will quickly pass through when the box is placed on top of the brood chamber or supers."



## MISSOURI CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTING SERVICE

P. O. BOX 1, Columbia, Mo. 65201

(314) 875-5233



Donald M. Bay  
State Statistician

March 20, 1986

Missouri Beekeepers:

To provide USDA with the necessary information to administer the 1986 Farm Bill with regard to the government loan and price support program, it is required that the Missouri Crop and Livestock Reporting Service once again conduct a survey of beekeepers and determine the production of honey and beeswax produced in 1986 in Missouri.

In order to provide this data it is necessary that we build an up to date list of beekeepers and honey producers in the State of Missouri. The survey will be conducted in December this year and data released in January 1987.

Examples of the anticipated questions to be asked are shown below.

1. Largest number of colonies producing honey in 1986.
2. Total pounds of honey taken in 1986.
3. Total pounds of beeswax taken in 1986.
4. Honey stocks on hand for sale on Dec. 31.
5. Price per pound received for honey sold in 1986.
6. Price per pound received for beeswax sold in 1986.

You can help in this industry measuring work by filling out the information below and mailing the letter back to us in the self addressed envelope which needs no stamp. Your response is very much appreciated but not required. The data will be kept confidential and information used only to help with production and marketing decisions and to administer the farm program requirements.

Yes, I realize that this data is needed and will be willing to help.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: AE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

For sampling purposes: Average number colonies kept: \_\_\_\_\_

If you know of any other producers that are interested in cooperating, please pass along a letter and envelope or if you wish we would be willing to mail them a letter.

Thanks for your cooperation. The more producers we have on the list and that return the necessary information asked on the survey, the better the results.

*Donald M. Bay*  
Donald M. Bay  
State Statistician