
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 18 ISSUE 1

DEC 03/JAN 04

Winter Meeting, February 7, 2004 at the Columbus Grange

**It will be held at the same
location as last year.
Mark your calendars!!!**

**The final program, as well as
the directions, will be published in the
next issue, which will be published
towards the end of January.**

Right now the program is still taking shape. It looks like there will be an update on mite-resistant bee breeding programs in the US and talks on biopesticides for mite control and the implementation for a NJ Master Beekeeper Program.

If you need to know the cost per person before the end of January, call Bob Hughes.

Dues for 2004 are due

The NJBA memberships run out with the calendar year. Therefore this is the time to send your dues for 2004.

It makes it much easier on the hard working volunteers serving as Treasurers if you don't delay.

Please make them a favor, fill out the form on page 15 and mail it with your check tomorrow.

They will thank you dearly!!!

Bee Research and Extension Update from Rutgers

Greetings, fellow beekeepers. In the five months I've been working at Rutgers, I have had the chance to meet many beekeepers and look forward to meeting the rest of you in the coming seasons. My appointment is a 50-50, research-extension split. I have started to build a large-scale research program to address, by priority, the following aspects of beekeeping: (1) alternative control strategies for tracheal and varroa mites, (2) control and trapping of small hive beetles, (3) tactics to reduce stress on bee colonies used for crop pollination, and (4) pollination dynamics of NJ's leading crops, such as blueberry and cranberry. My goal is to have around 200 bee colonies scattered around the state in 10 or so experimental apiaries. For extension, I am here to develop and deliver beekeeping information, and have started a good working relationship with the NJBA, the NJDA, and other agencies. Below are brief summaries of my activities so far:

Research: In September, Jeff Pettis (USDA), Paul Raybold (NDJA), Walter Wilson (Freehold beekeeper), and I evaluated the effect of different feeding regimes on the health of bee colonies set for cucumber pollination in Cumberland County using Bob and Dottie Harvey's hives. As you know, commercial pollination of certain crops (e.g., vine

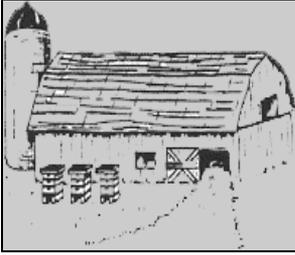
crops) takes its toll on the colony, often

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I look forward to the end of the season and of 2003. It would appear to be the only time we pause for a brief moment to look back or peer ahead. For most of us, our lives are a constant swirl of daily chores, change of plans, and catching up. There seems to be scant time for reflection, leisure activity, and planning. This is the current American way of life. I intend to change that for myself in the coming year. That annual pause may become monthly, weekly, or (gulp) daily. Maybe it won't happen but I'll pencil it in my schedule anyway.

Looking at the past year, the big issue was the weather. Lots of snow and plenty of rain greatly affected our bees. Plant bloom times were off by weeks in many regions. Many late laying queens were superseded. But populations did catch up only to find nectar sources washed away. Following years of

depressed honey prices, New Jersey beekeepers finally have what they wished for - higher prices and increased demand. Beekeepers also prayed for rain after years of drought, but forgot to stop praying. As a result, most beekeepers do not have surplus honey for sale as a result of lost bee forage. Many of us will be hard pressed to keep our colonies from starving this winter.

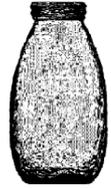
Our organization had a very busy 2003. Dr. Marla Spivac, University of Minnesota, highlighted our Winter Meeting. Both the Essex and Sussex Branches did fabulous jobs hosting our Spring 2003 and Fall 2003 state meetings. Our Short Course held at Cook Collage was well attended. Bob Hughes gave us his usual standout performance for the Picnic & Auction and we welcomed Dr. Mike Stanghellini, who assumed the apiculture position at >> to page 9

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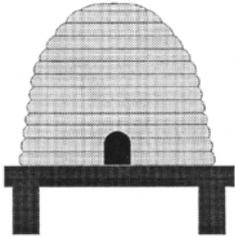
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New Food Regs take effect soon. Honey is on the list

Registration of Food Facilities
Under the Public Health Security and
Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response
Act of 2002; Interim Rule

The U.S. Food and Drug
Administration (FDA) has issued an
interim final regulation for the
registration of food facilities. Domestic
and foreign facilities that manufacture,
process, pack or hold food for human or
animal consumption in the United States
are required to register with the FDA by
December 12, 2003. Registration is one
of several tools that will enable FDA to
act quickly in responding to a threatened
or actual terrorist attack on the U.S. food
supply. In the event of an outbreak of
food-borne illness, registration
information will help FDA and other
authorities determine the source and
cause of the event. Registration will also
allow FDA to more quickly notify
facilities to protect themselves against
terrorist activity.

All facilities processing food
regulated by the FDA are subject to this
regulation. Section 305 of the Public
Health Security and Bioterrorism
Preparedness and Response Act
(Bioterrorism Act) of 2002 defines a food
processing facility as any establishment,
structure, or structures, such as a factory
or warehouse, which manufactures,
processes, packs, or holds food. The
registration requirement does not apply if
a facility is a private residence, farm,
restaurant, retail food establishment,
nonprofit food establishment, and fishing
vessel. A facility is exempt from
registering only if all of its activities are
included in one or more exemption. As an
example, a farm that raises vegetables
and sells the produce to consumers as its

primary function, i.e. retail, is exempt from registration. However, a farm that raises vegetables for packing and sale to a distributor must register.

The regulation requires the registration of the location of any facility involved in the manufacture/processing of food. It does not require the registration of individuals involved in food production or processing. Information derived from the registration database may be shared with States and other federal agencies. The registration information contained in the database of food processing facilities is not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Any information derived from the list of facilities or registration documents that would disclose the identity or location of an owner, operator, agent, or registered facility is not subject to public review.

If you are an owner or operator of a food processing facility and it is not exempt from the registration regulation, the facility must be registered with the FDA. Failure to register, update, or cancel a registration as required is a prohibited act. The FDA can bring civil or criminal action, cancel a registration, or hold food articles for those in violation of this regulation.

Owners or agents of appropriate facilities may register electronically over the internet (<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~furls/ovffreg.html>), by mail with Form 3537 or a CD-ROM containing multiple submissions, or by FAX. There is no fee for this registration. Registration is a one-time requirement for each food processing facility. Change in mandatory information or cancellation of registration must be submitted to FDA within 60 days of the reason for the event.

Written or electronic comments on the interim regulation may be

provided to the FDA by December 24, 2003. Written comments should be submitted to the Division of Dockets and Management, Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to: <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>. Current information on FDA's efforts under the Bioterrorism Act and an electronic copy of the regulation may be viewed at: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/bioterrorism/bioact.html>.

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What's going on with my hives???

From left an right I keep hearing the same story. The hives look good, with plenty of bees, but upon closer examination you discovered that the

bottom super was totally empty. No bees, no honey and just perhaps some older pollen.

What happened? Was there something I did? Or didn't do?

Well, perhaps what you did, or did not do, did not help them out. But this time around, if the bees aren't doing great is not your fault. At least not only your fault. (Early feeding right after pulling out the super would have helped, and leaving more honey for them, if you actually pulled some out, would have helped as well. But I guess, at the time, we did not know the Fall honey flow was going to be so poor.)

The real culprit was the very rainy Spring which just about ruined the major honey flow. Though the main impact of the rainy weather was the plain lack of sunny days for the bees to fly and work the flowers, there were other problems. I heard that not just in the Spring but even later on through the rest of the season, the sugar content of the nectar was pretty low, due to an excess of moisture in the soil. So low perhaps, that in some cases bees did not even get attracted to the flowers. If that was true, and there is no reason in my mind to doubt it, at least to some extent, it means that if and when our friends were attracted to flowers, they were hauling and unusual amount of water back to the hive. Then that excess moisture had to be evaporated, which must have meant a lot of fanning work at home and less work on the field. You get the picture...

But that was not all. I observed in some of my hives, which I had split early in the Spring, and on which I had not introduced new queens, leaving things for nature to take care of, meaning letting them raise their own queens, that the rainy weather kept the virgin queens form going out in their big dates as early

as they would have done if the weather had

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been good. In a couple of cases I even had to reintroduced frames with fresh eggs after assessing that queen rearing had failed. In one particular hive I even got a drone layer and I tell that story elsewhere in this issue. Of course these delays meant that a strong army of field bees was not ready before the honey flow was over. Meaning they missed the boat.

In any case, our bad luck, or at least bad weather, continued during the Fall, coupled with some early frost that killed a lot of goldenrod in many areas of NJ.

I will not get into predictions of what the Winter will bring along. Let's just hope that for some (unexplainable) reason our bees come out of it in good shape. Make sure you have the mouse guards on though. If your bees were to die of starvation, at least the comb will be safe and ready to receive new bees in the Spring.

Alejandro Berlin



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>> from cover page
 resulting in a cessation of brood rearing, cannibalism of young brood by adult worker bees, and/or queen loss. This is because single crops grown in large monocultures are usually deficient in nectar, pollen, or both. The objective of this study was to determine if supplemental feeding during pollination could stimulate foraging behavior, thereby increasing colony health. Each of 10 colonies (50 total) were fed (1) nothing, (2) sugar syrup, (3) pollen cakes, (4) sugar syrup and pollen cakes, or (5) an experimental liquid protein diet. We found that any supplemental feeding will increase the health of pollination colonies on some level, and that feeding a syrup-pollen combination had the greatest benefit (almost twice as much brood as colonies fed nothing). The liquid protein diet did not perform well; however, this may be due to our difficulties in getting the powder into solution. We plan to replicate the study on cranberry.

In October-November, I have been evaluating different treatments for the fall control of varroa and tracheal mites. The treatments were: (1) ApiLife-VAR (essential oil), (2) formic acid (organic acid), (3) oxalic acid (organic acid), (4) sucrose octanoate (natural plant derivative), (5) Apistan (standard), (6) no treatment, and (7) various experimental products. Data are still being processed at this time (mid-Nov), but the general trends are that ApiLife-Var, formic acid, and sucrose octanoate gave moderate control of varroa; oxalic acid and some of the experimental products gave very good control; and Apistan gives total control. Of these treatments, only formic acid and an experimental product may have activity against tracheal mites as well as varroa. All of these natural-based products (called biopesticides) have potential for reducing the use of hard

chemicals in bee colonies to control parasites. This is important as

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we face increasing troubles with varroa mites that are resistant to chemicals and the possibility of contaminating honey and beeswax with chemical residues. I will have the full results in soon, and will share them at the NJBA Winter Meeting in February 2004.

Extension: I have received numerous calls and emails for information on bees and beekeeping, particularly from homeowners who have stinging insects on their property. About half of the homeowners described their problem as “honey bees that live in the ground” meaning that yellow jackets continue to give honey bees a bad name. At the NJBA fall meeting in Essex County, I delineated the concept of a

four-level New Jersey Master Beekeeper Program. This program was created in NC and is very popular there (over 2,500 participants), and has been modified in various ways by university counterparts in South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and New York. A number of NJ beekeepers have expressed an interest in a Master Beekeeper program, so at the Winter NJBA meeting in February, I will devote an entire talk to how this program will be implemented in New Jersey. In a nutshell, this program offers beekeepers an organized forum in which to further develop their beekeeping skills. It also has a ceremonial aspect, much like the black-belt system in the martial arts. I look forward to helping NJ create a successful Master Beekeeper Program, and hope that you take advantage of the Program's objective, which is to deliver beekeeping training programs to novice, intermediate, and even veteran beekeepers. In October, Paul Raybold and I attended the MAAREC (Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium) meeting in Pennsylvania, and more cooperative research and extension collaborations between the member states are being planned.

I look forward to building a strong working relationship with the beekeepers of New Jersey. Please feel free to contact me with any beekeeping questions, and I also invite you to share your ideas for research and extension projects. My office phone is (609-726-1590 ext. 42), and my email is "mailto:mikes@aesop.rutgers.edu"

Mike Stanghellini

Rutgers Apiculturist

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Rutgers. Our honey queen, Lauren Kurela and honey princess, Kira Simone buzzed around the state from Atlantic City to Sussex County promoting beekeeping and



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bee products. Anti-beekeeping ordinances popped up in Bergen County and were questioned and opposed. And at last a limited area bear hunt was approved.

Our coming year's events should provide even more information and education. We have a terrific agenda for the winter meeting and a visit to the Harvey Farm in the spring. EAS is in nearby Pennsylvania this August and our fall meeting is in the works. Beekeepers that require their pesticide certification should take advantage of our last scheduled examination preparation course

on January 10, 2004. Pre-registration is required. Be sure to save your best bee products for the State Honey Show at the 2004 State Agricultural Convention, February 3 & 4, 2004 at Ocean Place Conference Resort in Long Branch, NJ

Our web site is ready to roll but we need your input. Send your stories, branch information, pictures, sale items, etc. to Richard Bruno at: richard.bruno@verizon.net
Our site will be as interesting as our membership makes it.

As a parting thought, beekeepers must rethink their exposure to the public. Keep a low profile, forget the white paint, and register your yards with the state. This may eliminate problems from bad neighbors and misinformed public officials. Volunteer to visit a local elementary school to talk about beekeeping and honey bees this spring. Those smiling little faces may be your neighbors someday.

Have a healthy & happy holiday season.

Dan Kurela

Pesticide course

The January Pesticide Licensing course should still be on. Dr. George Hamilton will be teaching it, as before. Cost is free but the manual is \$15. Interested parties should register with Curtis Crowell via email, preferably (curtiscrow@att.net or 609 443-1835), and let him know if they want to purchase the manual. This course will be given in Chatsworth at the Rutgers Cranberry and Blueberry Research facility on Saturday January 10, 2004, but **only** if more than 10 people register. The class is likely to be about 3 or 4 hours long. Lunch cost not included.

Looking for a few good beekeepers

It's time to think about the annual nominee for the Jake Matthenius Award.

This award goes to an NJBA member who has done outstanding service for the organization, particularly at the state level. Do you know someone you think deserves this award? If so, let Dan Kurela or Landi Simone know, either via email or snail mail, why you believe your candidate should receive the most prestigious honor in NJ beekeeping. Dan's address: kurela@comcast.net, 43 Quenby Mountain Rd., Great Meadows, NJ 07838.
Landi's: beelady@optonline.net, 101-B Taylortown Rd., Boonton, NJ 07005.

Honey Queen News

As most of you have heard the Honey Queen and the Honey Princess are retiring as of the February 2004 Winter Meeting. We will need a new Queen and Princess, as well as a new Committee Chairperson.

If you have a daughter who would be interested in one of these important positions, please call Carolyn Kurela at (908) 637-6644.

This is a fun, interesting and important opportunity for any girl that would like to help the New Jersey Beekeepers Association educate the public on the importance of Honey bees. Knowledge of basic beekeeping is important and willingness to travel to Fairs and other affairs that support the Organization is necessary.

Carolyn Kurela

Pesticide license's credits from the Fall Meeting at risk

Did you attend the Fall Meeting at Verona Park? If you did and you filled out the form for Recertification Units for your Pesticide Applicators License, you need to read this message!

The white copies of the forms were sent in to the DEP as usual, about a week after the course, but I just received a

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State Honey Show Rules

The State Honey Show will be at the 2004 State Agricultural Convention, February 3 & 4, 2004 at Ocean Place Conference Resort in Long Branch, NJ.

Get your entries ready. We need many more people to participate. Having a strong show will demonstrate the importance of beekeeping and how widespread it is in NJ.

All entries must be labeled with an identifying label of person or apiary, and address. They must be the product of the entrant's apiary and must have been produced since the previous year honey show. Please note that the rules do not correspond with EAS show rules.

Honey:

- 1) Classes 1 through 4 (Extracted Honey): Entries must be in glass Queenline type jars or Gamber Classic honey jars with plain metal or plastic lids.
- 2) Classes 1 through 4 (Extracted Honey): Honey color will be graded by the show chairman.
- 3) Class 5 (Sections) Must be in window cartons, section lids, both transparent (preferred) or individually wrapped in transparent plastic.
- 4) Classes 6 (Creamed Honey) and Class 7 (Chunk Honey): Should be in clear cylindrical, 1 pound glass jars, decorated or plain.
- 5) Class 8 (Frame of honey) Must be displayed in bee proof cases, which have

both sides made of transparent glass or plastic.

Mead:

All mead entries should have been produced by the exhibitor by the process of fermentation.

- 1) All entries should be exhibited in clear, non frosted wine bottles.
- 2) Natural cork stoppers should be used.

Beeswax:

- 1) All entries must be covered with clear plastic.
- 2) The optimum color for pure beeswax is light yellow.

Cosmetics:

- 1) Class 17 (Hand cream/lotion): All jars must be a minimum of 1.5 ounces. Entries will be judged on jar appearance, consistency and texture of product, and fragrance added.
- 2) Class 18 (Soap): Bars must be a minimum of 3 ounces. Soap ,will be judged on packaging, overall appearance and fragrance.
- 3) Class 19 (lip balm): Tins must be a minimum of .4 ounce. Lip balm will be judged with the same considerations as in Class 17.

Drop off points: You may deliver your entries to any officer of the NJBA, or possibly branch president or secretary. Check with them before doing so.

State Honey Show Classifications

Extracted Honey Division

For all classes: three 1 lb. jars

Class 1: Extracted light

Class 2: Extracted light amber

Class 3: Extracted amber

Class 4: Extracted dark

Honey Comb/Spreads Division

Class 5: Sections

Three Box or Round sections

Class 6: Creamed honey

Three 16 oz. jars

Class 7: Chunk Honey

Three 16 oz. jars

Class 8: Frame of honey

One frame

Mead Division: For all classes: one clear non frosted wine bottle

Class 9: Mead, dry

Class 10: Mead, sweet

Class 11: Mead made with fruit juices

Class 12: Mead, sparkling. Made with or without fruit juices

Beeswax Division

Class 13: Beeswax. One 1 lb. block

Class 14: Novelty beeswax. One any size, any shape beeswax item

Class 15: Candles. One to four rolled, poured or dipped tapered candles

Class 16: Novelty candles. One to four candles, any size, any shape

Cosmetics Division

Class 17: Hand cream/lotion

Three jars of beeswax hand cream/lotion

Class 18: Soap

Three bars of beeswax soap

Class 19: Lip Balm

Three tins of beeswax lip balm

Short Course Scholarship

Members who know of youngsters (12-17 years old) that are interested in beekeeping and have not taken the Short Course should submit their names for consideration of the Scholarship. This is a free pass to the Rutgers Short Course in late March /

early April. Last year it was a three day session, a \$75.-\$95 value.

>>from page 10

call from them that they never received the forms! Most people left the entire form with me, and I kept the yellow copies in my files. Some of you, however, took the yellow copy and I have no record of your attendance. If you kept that yellow copy, EMAIL OR CALL ME! The sooner, the better, please. All I need is your name and your license number, which I will pass on to the DEP so you will get credit for attending the meeting.

Landi Simone

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sbrodhecker@compuserve.com

Fellow Beekeepers:

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Robert: (908) 730-0830

Or pager: (908) 707-7894

After the beeps enter your number followed by the # sign.

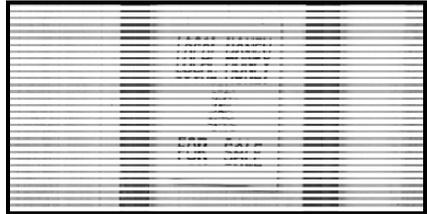
NJBA MEETING DATES

Spring Meeting will be mid-May at Bob Harvey's farm in South Jersey.

Picnic & Auction will be in late July at Bob Hughes.

EAS is in the first week of August in PA.

Fall meeting is in October, site is in the works.



“LOCAL HONEY FOR SALE” Signs

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FROM THE GARDEN STATE

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Honey Show.

February 7

Winter Meeting.

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