



NEBRASKA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

www.nebraskabeekeepers.org



October Beeline 2009

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Classified ads by members free.

All ad material needed print ready by 20th of each month. If purchasing ad for full year ad layout can be changed each issue before the 20th of the month. Acceptable formats PDF, Microsoft Office Word, JPEG, TIFF. All ads must be paid for before they are run. Issues of the newsletter are posted on our association web site @ www.nebraskabeekeepers.org For more information contact the editor.

by Alan Harman

The world's largest consumer-owned business calls on the British government to commission research into the effects some pesticides are having on honey bees.

The call by The Cooperative Ltd. coincides with the launch of the feature film, *Vanishing of the Bees*, which outlines the decline in the honey bee population

The coop wants everyone who sees the film to write to Environment Minister Hilary Benn MP urging him to fund research into the neonicotinoid family of chemicals.

Some studies have linked these types of pesticides to honey bee colony collapse.

The coop announced in January it was expanding its market-leading pesticide policy and prohibiting the use of all eight of the neonicotinoid family of chemicals on its own-brand fresh produce.

The banned pesticides are Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Fipronil, Imidacloprid, Nitenpyram, Thiacloprid and Thiamethoxam.

At the same time, it said it was giving £150,000 (\$241,480) for research into the decline of the honey bee, the UK's largest ever private donation for bee research.

Last spring the coop's farms began a three-year research project seeking to identify the optimal mix of wildflowers that can be sown in field margins and on "set-aside" land to attract and support honey bees.

The coop is the UK's largest farmer with more than 61,780 acres of land under management.

The coop's head of social goals Paul Monaghan says the alarming drop in the number of honey bees and in turn the threat that has on our food supplies is very worrying and it is essential to find out what is happening and quickly.

"The finger of suspicion has been pointed at some pesticides and in particular, the use of neonicotinoids," he says. "This family of chemicals has been linked to honey bee declines elsewhere in Europe and that is why they have been restricted in Germany, France, Italy and Slovenia. However, very little independent research into their effects on bees has been carried out in the UK.

"That is why we are calling for the government, which earlier this year announced that it had put aside £10 million (\$16 million) to be used on pollinator research, to carry out a systematic review of the impact these pesticides are having on the well-being of honey bees."

Vanishing of the Bees, the latest film to be distributed by the coop is a new chapter in its Plan Bee campaign designed to help halt the fall in the number of honey bees and raise awareness of the issue. The film tells the story of the worldwide decline in bee populations and explores the potential causes behind the losses.

The coop, after the acquisition of Somerfield supermarkets, is the world's largest consumer-owned business, with more than 4.5 million members and 87,000 employees.

The food retail business is the largest division of the coop. It directly operates more than 2,200 stores of various sizes with the biggest geographical spread of any retailer.

Filmmakers George Langworthy and Maryam Henein say they were drawn to make the documentary because it encapsulates grand issues about ecology, agriculture, economy and politics in a mystery about the amazing little honey bee.

"Beekeepers and scientists are fascinating people and we really have been blessed with such generous access to their homes, their travels, their laboratories and their innermost thoughts and feelings," they say.

Classified Advertisements

Equipment for Sale: Ron Cowden was a beekeeper in Lincoln, NE. He passed away and his family has donated all of his beekeeping equipment to the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Department of Entomology.

The University does not need the equipment so they are selling everything with the money going to the Department of Entomology. Only one item left a Woodman style Galvanized 45 frame Radial Electric Extractor,. Should you have an interest in any of these please contact Warren Nelson at 402-466-8173 or e-mail wnelson193@neb.rr.com. Warren has agreed to sell the items for the University with the proceeds going to the Department of Entomology.

For Sale:

Available bulk honey for more information contact Pat Chandler 308-880-1733 or e-mail Chandlers Sandhill Honey chandlercloverhoney@yahoo.com

Screened bottom boards complete with board to calculate mite populations, total clear screened opening below brood chambers and 3/8 inch opening to prevent mice getting into your hive. Contact Keith Nielson, phone 402-765-2391 cell after 4PM 308-940-0987 or email kl Nielson@windstream.net.

Wanted Bees

We live right next to Lake Cunningham in North Omaha. We live on 10 acres of ground. I have approximately 3 acres of rear property backing up to the lake that can be replanted into clover or whatever a person would like to flavor the honey. I'm willing to lease the ground for a nominal fee for someone to house their bee hives. I can do some minor maintenance on them but they would be responsible for the major upkeep and harvesting. Very flexible and willing to work out a deal that will be beneficial to both parties. Any additional information I can provide, I will be happy to supply. Again thanks for all your help. Michelle McCaulley, 8707 N 96th St, Omaha NE 68812, h) 402-572-7972, c) 703-405-5769

I would like someone to place beehives at my place. I live out in the country and have 50 acres of alfalfa less than a 1/4 mile away. Thank you, Lumir F Cech, Rp ID 1179791, 56911, 823 Rd, Clarkson, NE 68629 Ph (402)892-3773

Upcoming Events:

October 11, 2009 1:30PM: Monthly meeting at High Plains Community High School, High School Building. Topic: Crop Insurance for beehives and liability. Directions: When you come into Polk from either the east or west side go to South Pine street and turn south and go 2 ½ blocks. High School bulding on the east side of the street

January 12-16,2010: North American Beekeeping Conference, Wyndham Orlando Resort, Orlando FL. Hosted by ABF

For the good of the association

Please welcome the following new members to the association Ron Troyer; Milford, Duane Egle; Gretna, Margaret Hock; Omaha, Willie Abood; Ravanna,Mark Voborny; Neligh.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Nebraska BeeKeepers Association ,

I'm a conservation biologist with a new book soon to be released on The Incomparable Honey Bee

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6w-Z7XlnHI>

I'd be most obliged if you would share this trailer with your members/friends/family and customers.

Cheers, Dr Reese Halter

310 409 9905

<http://DrReese.com/>

I live in South Omaha and expect to open up my own little bee yard/bee conservation space very soon. I was in touch at the recent Nebraska State Fair with some members of the Nebraska Beekeepers Assn and intend to join the Assn sometime soon.

I was hoping you might be able to help me contact any local beekeepers with used hives/equipment they may be wanting to sell.

One of the projects I will be involved with in the future is capturing 'wild' swarms and hiving them from local residents who may not be too happy with their newest little neighbors. In order to do this, I will need plenty of equipment to manage them properly.

You can see more of my/our plans at the website <http://bbe-tech.com> I hope to encourage new and interested people to work together to improve the healthy bee population in Nebraska.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Tony "Big Bear" Sandoval

RENEWAL TIME NOTICE

Membership is up for renewal in October:..

Membership up for renewal in November:..

Membership Past Due in September *This mailing will be last issue of the Beeline if dues are not paid.*

Dues to the Nebraska Beekeepers Association is \$1.00 per month. The yearly membership runs January 1 through December 31. If you are joining at any other time than January, please only pay for the remaining months of the year. Also, the \$12.00 membership is for one person. We do not have a family rate so only list one person per dues amount. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Also we are trying to be Eco-friendly by delivering the newsletter via e-mail to reduce paper cost. Members who receive their newsletter via e-mail receive it at least 2 days earlier than those by United States Postal Service.

Nebraska Beekeepers Association Membership and Membership Renewal Form

Please fill out the following information completely and legibly by printing the information

NEW MEMBER [] RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP [] 1 YR @ \$12 [] 2YR @ \$24[]

DATE _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

County: _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Please send my newsletters by e-mail. Please send my newsletter by the postal service.

Make checks payable to the "Nebraska Beekeepers Association"

Mail to: Warren Nelson, 2839 N46th, Lincoln, NE 68504

* Dues are payable by January 31 for the current year running from January 1- December 31. *

** Dues are prorated for new members only at the rate of \$1 per month through December 31. **

*** Special rates on "Bee Culture" and "American Bee Journal" with membership to the state association.***

Treasurers Reports

September	
\$11,375.66	Beginning Balance 8/25/09
\$4.00	Egle
\$15.00	Troyer
\$24.00	Ewoldt
\$35.00	Dorsey - Bee Cards
\$35.00	Hanson - Bee Cards
\$12.00	Vaborny
\$12.00	Staats
<u>\$30,680.35</u>	State Fair Deposits
\$30,817.35	Total Income
\$250.00	Startup money for State Fair
\$13.06	Wal Mart items for State Fair
\$12.35	Sam's Club Sacks
\$82.50	CahsWa taster spoons
\$4.82	Super Saver toothpicks for State Fair
\$144.10	UNL Dairy Store NAYI honey ice cream sundaes
\$39.00	State Fair Tickets
\$373.00	State Fair prize money bees and bakeing
\$15.00	Reimburse Valhalla Bee Farm Honey Queen tickets
\$5.50	Lunch for Honey Queen
\$8.66	Postage for Bee Cards
\$5,749.38	Valhalla Bee Farm for State Fair
\$135.06	Keith Nielson Honey Queen Motel
<u>\$46.84</u>	Poverty Ridge Newsletter Expense
\$6,879.27	Total Expense
\$35,313.74	Ending Balance

Nebraska Bee Trading Cards

The Nebraska Beekeepers have bee trading that can be sent to a school classroom if the instructor sends a letter to Warren Nelson on school stationary with the number of students in the class and the beekeeper that is presenting to the class. Bee trading cards that are sent out will require a \$5.00 shipping charge. For more information on the trading cards you can find it on the world wide web at <http://entomology.unl.edu/beekpg/beecards/beecards.htm> .

Nebraska State Fair 2010

With all of the construction that is going on at the new site now is the time to make plans for next years state fair. Your input on what the Nebraska Beekeepers Association state fair display will look like in 2010 in Grand Island is needed.. What do we want to do as an organization? What do we want to demonstrate to the general public? Do we schedule specific demonstration times for the public? What kind of expenditures should be made for our displays? What kind of educationa programs do we want to perform. Will you as a member commit to continuing our tradition as a producer association? What products should we consider for sale? How can we promote products from our scholarship winners to encourage them to continue as beekeepers?

The Nebraska State Fair board is committed to make the state fair in Grand Island an educational event for all ages. Please attend the next association meeting and voice your opinion and commit to making our association shine in the move to Grand Island. Keith Nielson.

Please clip the magazine form and mail your subscription directly to the address listed on the form. It causes delays by paying the Association and having us send it for you. Make sure you fill in the Nebraska Beekeepers Association on the appropriate line and Warren Nelson as Treasurer on the Secretary line. Your help is greatly appreciated

		<h2 style="margin: 0;">ASSOCIATION MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;"><i>Bee Culture Magazine</i></h3>	
Please Print Clearly			
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City _____		State, Zip _____	
State, Zip _____		Comments _____	
Phone # _____		For Office Use Only Acct. # _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. - \$21.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. - \$38.00
			Canada – add \$15.00 per year All other foreign add \$20/year
Return white copy to: Bee Culture, Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 706, Medina, OH 44258 *Please discard any other forms. Use only this form.* Prices subject to change without notice.			

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		Foreign	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. - \$37.10	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. - \$72.15	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yr. - \$104.95
Return white copy to: American Bee Journal, 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341				Retain yellow copy for your records.	

Catch the Buzz-Bee Culture

WASHINGTON (USDA) — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan yesterday announced a new initiative — 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' — to begin a national

conversation to help develop local and regional food systems and spur economic opportunity. To launch the initiative, Secretary Vilsack recorded a video to invite Americans to join the discussion and share their ideas for ways to support local agriculture. The video, one of many means by which USDA will engage in this conversation, can be viewed at USDA's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/usda. Producers and consumers can comment on the 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' YouTube playlist, as well as submit videos or provide comments on this initiative by e-mailing KnowYourFarmer@usda.gov.

"An American people that is more engaged with their food supply will create new income opportunities for American agriculture," said Vilsack. "Reconnecting consumers and institutions with local producers will stimulate economies in rural communities, improve access to healthy, nutritious food for our families, and decrease the amount of resources to transport our food."

The 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' initiative, chaired by Deputy Secretary Merrigan, is the focus of a task force with representatives from agencies across USDA who will help better align the Department's efforts to build stronger local and regional food systems. This week alone, USDA will announce approximately \$65 million in funding for 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' initiatives.

"Americans are more interested in food and agriculture than at any other time since most families left the farm," said Merrigan. "'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' seeks to focus that conversation on supporting local and regional food systems to strengthen American agriculture by promoting sustainable agricultural practices and spurring economic opportunity in rural communities."

In the months to come, cross-cutting efforts at USDA will seek to use existing USDA programs to break down structural barriers that have inhibited local food systems from thriving. Today, USDA announced a small initial group of moves that seek to connect local production and consumption and promote local-scale sustainable operations:

- § USDA's Risk Management Agency announced \$3.4 million in funding for collaborative outreach and assistance programs to socially disadvantaged and underserved farmers. These programs will support 'Know You Farmer' goals by helping producers adopt new and direct marketing practices. For example, nearly \$10,000 in funding for the University of Minnesota will bring together experts on food safety and regulations for a discussion of marketing to institutions like K-12 schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and other health care facilities.
- § USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service proposed regulations to implement a new voluntary cooperative program under which select state-inspected establishments will be eligible to ship meat and poultry products in interstate commerce. The new program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill and will provide new economic opportunities for small meat and poultry establishments, whose markets are currently limited.
- § USDA's Rural Development announced \$4.4 million in grants to help 23 local business cooperatives in 19 states. The member-driven and member-owned cooperative business model has been successful for rural enterprises, and bring rural communities closer to the process of moving from production-to-consumption as they work to improve their products and expand their appeal in the marketplace.
- § USDA's Rural Development will also announce a Rural Business Opportunity Grant in the amount of \$150,000 to the Northwest Food Processors Association. The grant will strengthen the relationship between local food processors and customers in parts of Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and will also help the group reduce energy consumption, a major cost for food processors.

As the 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' initiative evolves, USDA will continue to build on the momentum and ideas from the 2008 Farm Bill and target its existing programs and develop new ones to pursue sustainable agriculture and support for local and regional food systems.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14, 2009 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that producers may begin applying for benefits under the provisions of the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, **Honeybees**, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). These permanent

disaster programs, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, replace previous ad-hoc disaster assistance programs and are funded through the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund.

"President Obama and I are committed to meeting the needs of those producers who have suffered devastating losses from natural disasters," said Vilsack. "These programs ensure that producers who have suffered agriculture losses receive the critical disaster assistance needed to remain financially solvent and help them continue on in their operations."

Eligible livestock under LFP include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine. For losses due to drought, qualifying drought ratings are determined using the U.S. Drought Monitor located at www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, **honeybees** and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill, specifically LFP, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). ELAP is being implemented to fill in the gap and provide assistance under other conditions determined to be appropriate.

For both programs, producers must have suffered losses that occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. There is a total \$100,000 limitation per crop year that applies to payments received under ELAP, LFP, LIP or SURE. For the 2008 crop year, the \$100,000 limitation is per "person" as defined and determined under payment limitation rules in effect for 2008. For crop years 2009 through 2011, the \$100,000 limitation applies to payments received, both directly and indirectly, by a person or legal entity. Furthermore, individuals or entities are ineligible for payment under ELAP or LFP for 2008 if their average Adjusted Gross Income for 2005, 2006 and 2007 exceeds \$2.5 million. For 2009 through 2011, an average adjusted gross nonfarm income limitation of \$500,000 applies and is determined using the three taxable years that precede the most immediately preceding complete taxable year (for 2009, the applicable years are 2005, 2006 and 2007).

For more information or to apply for ELAP or LFP and other USDA Farm Service Agency disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

CATCH THE BUZZ - MORE ABOUT VSH BEES

Honey bees are now fighting back aggressively against Varroa mites, thanks to Agricultural Research Service (ARS) efforts to develop bees with a genetic trait that allows them to more easily find the mites and toss them out of the broodnest.

The parasitic Varroa mite attacks the honey bee, *Apis mellifera* L., by feeding on its hemolymph, which is the combination of blood and fluid inside a bee. Colonies can be weakened or killed, depending on the severity of the infestation. Most colonies eventually die from varroa infestation if left untreated.

Varroa-sensitive hygiene (VSH) is a genetic trait of the honey bee that allows it to remove mite-infested pupae from the capped brood-developing bees that are sealed inside cells of the comb with a protective layer of wax. The mites are sometimes difficult for the bees to locate, since they attack the bee brood while these developing bees are inside the capped cells.

ARS scientists at the agency's Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Research Unit in Baton Rouge, La., have developed honey bees with high expression of the VSH trait. Honey bees are naturally hygienic, and they often remove diseased brood from their nests. VSH is a specific form of nest cleaning focused on removing varroa-infested pupae. The VSH honey bees are quite aggressive in their pursuit of the mites. The bees gang up, chew and cut through the cap, lift out the infected brood and their mites, and discard them from the broodnest.

See this activity in the attached video link here:

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/br/bees/index.htm>

This hygiene kills the frail mite offspring, which greatly reduces the lifetime reproductive output of the mother mite. The mother mite may survive the ordeal and try to reproduce in brood again, only to undergo similar treatment by the bees.

To test the varroa resistance of VSH bees, the Baton Rouge team conducted field trials using 40 colonies with varying levels of VSH.

Mite population growth was significantly lower in VSH and hybrid colonies than in bee colonies without VSH. Hybrid colonies had half the VSH genes normally found in pure VSH bees, but they still retained significant varroa resistance. Simpler ways for bee breeders to measure VSH behavior in colonies were also developed in this study.

This research was published in the Journal of Apicultural Research and Bee World.

Nebraska Beekeeper on Facebook

If you have an email address you will be receiving an invitation to join the Nebraska Beekeepers Group on face book in the next few days. It will be a place where you can have discussions about beekeeping and be able to upload photo's to and place them on the web.

Editorial

First, I would like to welcome all of our members to attend the next meeting which will be on October 11th in Polk, NE. Directions are in the upcoming events section of this newsletter.

Second the MRS. Is on the the mend and should be home by the time of our meeting on the 11th. I hope that I can get the house ready to meet her approval by the time she is home on Saturday. We (my stepdaughter and her husband and I) have been in the process of remodeling the house so she can have a room and bathroom on the main floor of our home. If you have seen any of Dr. Ellis's workshops that show the priorities of a clean area when he is batching alone and when his Mrs is home that is what my house is like now and what I have to do before my Mrs gets home.

Third, I haven't quite gotten all of my honey extracted at this time with the remodel going on and have had some late nights trying to make ready for my QUEEN BEE.

Fourth, I would like to thank several people who have been the backbone of making sure that our booth at Nebraska State Fair was a success. Dr. Marion Ellis, superintendent; Joann and Rudy Vasko, fair mangers, Warren Nelson our money guru, and Kenny Chelton our live demonstration expert, the members and scholarship winners who worked the fair booth, and the exhibitors.

Lastly, a special thank you to Susan Dozialwho was gracious enough to pass on to me part of the display of items that were her fathers and grandfathers. She said she wanted to make sure that the items went on to continue the education of our youth and public. I plan on using it with my ag education classes and the scholarship program .

On another note thanks for all of the members that have kept my wife in their prayers.

As we approach late fall remember to make sure your bees have plenty of stores, if not now is the time to put some weight into your hives by feeding the 2:1 sugar syrup.

See you all on the 11th.

Keith Nielson

Editor, Nebraska Beekeepers Assn.

Nebraska Beekeepers Assn
C/O Keith Nielson
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Polk, NE 68654