



CAPPINGS

The Official Newsletter of the Kansas Honey Producers Association

www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Promoting Mankind's Most Beneficial Insect - The Honey Bee!

Special points of interest:

- Legislative Update
- State Fair Information
- Value-Added Programs
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The Legislative Committee 2021 by Jim Kellie

I did some research of states that were in our central zone and made comparisons of our bee inspector departments in Kansas and others. For our state with our 4,500 colonies, we have Dr. Taro Eldredge from the Department of Plant Protection and Weeds. He is tasked with only doing inspections for colonies leaving the state and only does a health inspection regarding any unwanted plants, seeds, or soil to make sure it is not in or on the hive. He does not do inspection of the bees.

Tammy Horn is bee inspector of Kentucky. In 2018, Kentucky had approximately the same number of colonies as us. Since that time, they have boomed. From an article in American Beekeeping Federation, Tammy and the Dept. of Agriculture have engaged in getting a number of large grants which help and fund most of the activities that she does. According to the report, beekeeping has greatly expanded with approx. 200 sideliners, 75 commercial beekeepers, and 2500 small scale beekeepers. Their universities have active Entomology departments; one even has a honey bee virus testing lab. Even with all this, it is only Tammy in the whole department.

Indiana is roughly the size of Kansas with five commercial operators and 6,000 sideliner/hobbyists. There again, it has only one inspector. I could not find much info about the program other than there are 9000 colonies in the state.

Michigan and Ohio are much larger with 175,000 colonies and 46,000 colonies respectively. Both are mostly regulatory in nature due to their size. Ohio has part-time deputy inspectors in each county but only during the beekeeping months. It is a very regulated state where bee inspectors are enforcers of those laws and regulations. It does appear in the states that I have researched, the part-time inspectors usually do double-duty in another division of the Ag department similar to here in Kansas.

Which leads us to dear old Kansas. There are some huge hurdles to climb to get anything close to a honey bee program in the state Ag dept. We no longer have any honey bee interest in the two Universities, (KSU or KU). We do have Fort Hays State University here in the west that has taken an interest in honeybees and pollinators. This is due to a lot of work that Greg Swob did getting interest in the Entomology and Ag department. He also helped start a beekeeping club on campus. Some Universities may have grants available regarding pollinators and honeybees that their Entomology departments may be able to use. However, due to Kansas being a heavy grain farming state, no one is investing any monies into grants about bees; just soil, chemicals and crops. As a result, our Universities in Kansas, are very ill-informed about the role honeybees and pollinators play in agriculture

today. In fairness to K-State, they have recently hired two people who will be working with natural pollinators. This is at least a start.

With regard to the State Ag Dept., we are classified in the Specialty Livestock Division but the word honey bee is not prominently listed. Having "honey bee" listed would be important to raise awareness of honey bees to the public and other state departments. At the next department meeting, which will occur in August and hopefully will be held in person, our KHPA Legislative committee and some KHPA Board members, plan to be at the Specialty Livestock session to establish communication, educate, and work with the Special Livestock Division.

These are some of the general issues that our legislative committee are tasked to look at to further protect, promote and insure the future of our state insect the honey bee.

- We no longer are invested in the Universities. What are steps to move forward?
- We lack funds for getting our name, honey bees, honey, and pollination out to Kansans.
- Kansas beekeepers are like most farmers in that they are running independently or in small scattered groups. How can we, as beekeepers, again move in one general direction?
- Due to the pandemic,

States are running on empty regarding cash. A prime example is our own states' attempt to assist the unemployed with an antiquated 1970 computer system.

While most of you are not familiar with KHPA's long past and history, during my research I ran across this example of what can be done. In the 1980's, when China was full scale dumping honey into the US, American Honey Producers Association was at Congress trying to get an anti-dumping bill passed. They were having trouble getting it out of the Ag committee. I was contacted by the President of American Honey Producers and the President of Kansas Honey Producers that they needed Kansas Senator Dole's vote. Senator Dole had told them he was unsure of the need in his state of Kansas. The Kansas Honey producers' board organized quickly by doing a phone group and contacted every beekeeper on our list that morning. The beekeeper was given the number and what to say, if needed, to Senator Dole. By 4pm Eastern time, Senator Dole told AHPA that he was 'throwing in the towel' and to call off his Kansas beekeepers. He would vote for the bill. Thus, the first anti--dumping bill was voted on and signed, because Kansas beekeepers made their mark.

There are some weed control bills going through current state legislation, but mostly administrative. A couple are addressing rearranging weeds into different categories. We will continue to monitor bills that have anything to do with the honey bees.

On the national scene there are some issues that will affect Kansas beekeepers. The government in their infinite wisdom, has declared Tallow tree/shrub to be non-native and an invasive plant. The Tallow tree was brought over in early colonial times and spread across the south. It is a very prolific nectar source and several of the commercial operators in the south use this flow to induce brood rearing and also make a honey crop as well. They are wanting to introduce a beetle and a moth from China that feeds and drills into the tree with the end result of killing it. We all know how well this type of intervention has worked in the past. Spring build-up for bees in the south is very much dependent on this tree. If this indeed goes through and reduces the Tallow tree or eliminates it, there will be much smaller numbers of bees available. Kansas and other northern beekeepers will have difficulty finding splits or packages to sell. The Tallow tree/bush is in Georgia and extends to Texas, affecting a huge area where splits and packages are made. April 23 was the last date you could go to the website and write your opinion at AHPAnet.com.

The second is that AHPA and a group of domestic beekeepers filed a petition alleging that imports of certain raw honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, Ukraine and Vietnam are sold at less than fair value. In paraphrasing, this raw honey is being dumped in at a very low price. Some of these prices are as low as 70 to 80 cents. Large packers are buying this over American honey which increases their profit margins. Additional information can be obtained on AHPAnet.com. This will be a long process and the attorneys hired are experts in dumping acts. We are hoping to clean up dumping of adulterated honey in the US.

Our Legislative Committee is Brian Withrow, Steve Tipton, and James Kellie.

Fall KHPA Meeting

The Fall KHPA meeting will be held in person, unless things change, again! Please mark your calendars for the following dates: Friday and Saturday, November 5th and 6th 2021. We have scheduled our next few meetings in Salina. We will be meeting at the Courtyard by Marriot at 3020 Riffel Dr., Salina, KS. The full program will be detailed in the next Cappings but here are the highlights. I have scheduled several guest speakers and I'm working on the program. Guest speaker, Cameron Jack, is a Lecturer Distance Education Coordinator. He has been interested in beekeeping since his youth and now teaches several courses related to honey bees and apiculture at the University of Florida. His goal is to create an educational program that prepares students for the many challenges associated with beekeeping and to train those interested in entering the beekeeping workforce. Also presenting will be, Randall Cass, who is the Extension Entomologist at Iowa State, in Ames Iowa, with an expertise in Honey Bees, Native Bees and Pollinators.

If you have a topic you would like to hear, please let me know, if I have a topic, I can usually get a speaker from among our group of "experts" to speak on it! Please feel free to contact Joli Winer, with questions or suggestions at 913-593-3562 (call or text) or jo-li@heartlandhoney.com Save the date for future meetings at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina: March 4 & 5 2022, November 4 & 5 2022, March 3 & 4 2023.

Joli Winer, 1st Vice President (Program Chair)

The Mechanics of the Hive

Let's look at the way bees select homes. In my experience, I have noticed that they love to make their home in things that people have built. For instance, bees select brick buildings, old and new barns, houses, concrete pipes, and truck's gas tanks. I recently saw where a beekeeper cut a hive out of a hot water heater. One of the strangest places I have seen a bee hive was in a John Deere tractor transmission. The bottom and the side plugs had been removed and the bees set up home inside. I always wonder how they pushed the clutch!

I started thinking like a bee. Perhaps bees are more interested in finding a certain space and they do not care what the outside looks like or what it is made of. The space between the inside and outside wall in a building, seems to be a preferred place to build a hive. We will call this normal. The rest of the places that the bees can build hives we will call abnormal. It is just like people – some like to build a normal house, others like to build something different.

Beekeepers also belong to different groups. Most build the Langstroth 10-frame hive. But others build a variety of different hives like a Langstroth five-frame hive, Langstroth horizontal hive, top bar hive, observation hive, or Warre hive.

William (Tiny) Jackson, Jr. –Southeast Region Representative

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Becky Tipton

So much to be hopeful for this spring. Things are different but the beauty of nature has eclipsed our dark winter. We've started new projects and completed old things, too. I hope this issue of *The Capings*, finds you all with renewed hope for our future and, most of all, in good health.

For many years I managed our youth scholarship and grant programs. Tim Tucker (past president) brought the idea to the board. Beekeepers are an aging group and we need infusions of youth into the industry. His vision was to offer a scholarship to young people including hives, bees, safety equipment, and (most importantly) education/mentorship. We found some willing youth and for quite a number of years this was our model. Pros: we helped many families learn about beekeeping. Cons: Our state is vast with varied climates, finding qualified mentors and educational programs from our membership was always challenging, and our association only meets 2 times each year. Our meetings are held on school days and asking kids to miss school events was often problematic. Our meeting schedule is insufficient for a solid understanding of the basics of beekeeping. Beekeeping is applied bee biology. It is the application of understood bee behaviors to the management of a colony, producing optimal colony growth to coincide with the nectar producing plants of the region in an attempt to allow the bees to do what they do best; make honey!

In an attempt to overcome the education problem, we morphed into a Youth Grant Program. We now provide 2 hives and all of the above accompaniments to various groups working with youth. We've granted hives to Boy Scout Troops, after school programs, 4-H clubs, and even public school districts. The group leaders became the teachers of the group and the hives stayed with the program to provide an interest/education point for years to come. This has worked very successfully and we have taught countless families about honey bees through these grant programs. The 4-H groups have probably been the most successful in that many 4-H families, already attuned to animal husbandry, frequently decided to add honey bees to their homesteads. Pros: Many more people have been exposed to the wonderful world of beekeeping and understand the value of bees in our environment. Cons: We are still struggling with people actually becoming part of KHPA and providing meaningful, systematic education is still difficult. We've had groups who just refused to attend our fantastic, informative meetings...they tend to drop in, give their presentation, and get out! The presentation was never the point; education about honey bees is/was the point and attending classes/meetings is probably the most efficient way to ensure people have been given the information to maintain healthy hives.

This past year, our Youth Grant Program has become one more casualty of the Covid crisis. How to meet and social distance was a HUGE problem. So, the decision was made to put the program on hold for one year. We did not offer additional Grants for the 2021 season and extended the mentorship offer for an additional year to all groups actively participating in our program. And yet, they have succeeded! Thank you to all the mentors and program leaders who have worked so hard to keep the bees alive and the students engaged.

Where do we go from here? This is the perfect opportunity to take stock of what's been successful and perhaps adapt our goal to involve youth in beekeeping and our continued goal to educate the public about the value of honey bees.

Kansas now has more small beekeeping "clubs" than we have ever had! The Cherokee County beekeepers are meeting monthly, Fort Hays State University has a beekeeping club on campus, and our regional directors are working hard to bring people together in all sections of the state to help them be better beekeepers. (Know your regional representative—see a complete list of representatives and contact info on this page. How can the Kansas Honey Producers Association help these small, diverse, beekeeping groups and provide youth opportunities? How can KHPA assist with quality instruction for these distant clubs and mentor our youth? These are the questions we will be addressing in the next few months and hopefully, we will develop a plan to implement and share at our November meeting. If you have suggestions, I would love to hear them. I think there is some way we can team with our small clubs and regional representatives to help restructure the Youth Grant/Scholarship program again into something to meet the needs of the community.

It is with great sadness that I report that Julie Cahoj has asked to be relieved of her position as 3rd Vice President. Julie's duties included our Youth Grant Project management and also promotions of the association. (Promotions has most recently included some advertising and selling shirts/hats with KHPA logo.) Julie was an energetic board member and we both appreciated her input and know she will be sorely missed! I recognize this was a difficult decision for her to make. I hope she will again join us whenever her schedule and other commitments allow. Bee well and bee safe Miss Julie!

If you would like to be involved in the KHPA in a significant and meaningful way, let your area representative know of your interest (they are our nominating committee). If your representative approaches you to request your participation, consider it earnestly. We need good people to help keep bees healthy in Kansas.

Kansas State Fair– 2021

The Kansas State Fair will once again take place in Hutchinson on September 10-19. We will be needing volunteers to help set up starting the 7th, people to man the honey sales area during the fair, and people to help tear everything down on the Sunday night the fair is over. In a few months, a sign up genius app will be posted for all who can volunteer. Those of you who have used this app in the past will get notified when the sign up goes live. The information on how to access this app will also be available in the Cappings and on the KHPA web site once it goes live. Entry tickets will be provided for those volunteering on the days they are needed. Working in the honey booth is a great time to boost your knowledge on bees and beekeeping by listening to others answer questions. Don't be intimidated about thinking you don't know enough about beekeeping to volunteer. You will know more than the public and teaching is always a great way to learn as well. Many fun stories come from working with fellow beekeeper in the honey booth at the Kansas State Fair. See you in Hutchinson! Kristi Sanderson



News from Northeast Kansas

In the northeast corner of the state, we are about 2-2.5 weeks behind our normal bloom cycle on many native wildflowers. The cooler overall temperatures have kept things moving along a bit slower than expected. Starting today, we are settling into a 6–7-day rainy pattern that has our corner of the state with a minimum of a 40 percent chance of precipitation daily over the next week.

In just the last couple of days, the Black Locust have begun to bloom filling the air with such a wonderful floral aroma. I saw the first couple of short Dutch Clover flowers peeking out of the lawn and starting to see flower bud formation on native meadow daisies. Before long we will be in a good nectar flow while we wait for yellow and white sweet clover to catch up.

Talking with many local beekeepers, colonies are building nicely and we have seen swarm pictures and requests for pickups steady over the last 2 weeks or so. Here at my farm, we are getting ready to put on another round of honey supers and the last few second deeps on some later splits this spring.

With regards to package bee and nuc sales, I have seen a ton of new purchases this year. A decent number of newbies taking their first step into beekeeping and a lot of replacements for lost colonies over the winter. Happy beekeeping to each and every one and here's to a bumper crop of honey in 2021.

Chad Gilliland-Northeast Region Representative

North Central Region News

Hello Bee Friends!

Despite the weather fluctuating between snow, frost, and 90 degrees, the last 3 weeks in North Central Kansas have been all about swarms, splits and queens. The wild plum blooms survived the cold and provided the bees with a great burst of nectar. Pollen has been coming in steady in a rainbow of colors. And the locust trees are about to bloom, which will then lead to yellow sweet clover really getting the action going.

Of course, all this is helping new packages and nucs along as they build up, and the established colonies are ready to be split and supered if they haven't swarmed already.

A big reminder to everyone to check carefully for queen cups and swarm cells before introducing and then releasing new queens. We've had few beekeepers go into their hives expecting their new marked and mated queen, only to find an unmarked young queen walking around and no eggs yet. Those bees can be sneaky at hiding queen cups, but they usually make it all work in the end, just not on our schedule.

With many of us now fully vaccinated, I'm eager for us to safely meet again soon in person.

Nikki Bowman-North Central Region Representative

On the Western Horizon



The Western Ks Beekeepers (NW & SW Regions of KHPA combined) chose to meet as a group for the first time in over a year. KHPA members, Amy & Mike Jensen hosted the gathering at their restaurant – Professor’s Sandwich and More at 521 E 11th St. in Hays on Sunday afternoon, April 25, 2021. There was no actual agenda planned and the discussions filled out two hours for the 19 attendees quite well just running open forum discussions. Several new beekeepers were present along with more seasoned ones offering advice and suggestions through the afternoon. Amy opened up the gathering with attendee introductions then the conversation rolled to swarming which has been underway all month. Some topics discussed: Swarm Management, Feeding Bees in Spring, Starting Packages and Nucs into productive colonies, Small Hive Beetle Management, Adding Brood Chambers and Supers, Springtime Frame Manipulation, etc.

Those who attended the KHPA meeting last March, 2020 in Hays may recall the two master’s candidate level college students who presented on their research projects. **Sara Nansel: Medicinal Properties of Kansas Honey.** Numerous KHPA members donated samples of honey for her research work. Unfortunately, COVID played a role in temporarily suspending Sara’s project. Being pregnant last year, Sara chose to not expose her unborn daughter to COVID unnecessarily. Now, she is blessed with a little four-month daughter who takes up much of her time. Another event that dampened program completion was her advising professor leaving Ft Hays State University. This left Sara to seek another sponsoring professor, which is still ongoing. Hopefully, Sara will be able to connect with another professor and get her important research completed and written up. We are anxiously awaiting the results!

Ryan Engel researched pollen and compared rural vs urban pollen collections in quantity, quality and variety collected by local honeybees. Ryan was able to complete his work and the subsequent report has literally just been approved and accepted for printing. We want to congratulate Ryan on being able to complete this important project during the midst of COVID. Ryan feels we should be able to glean a copy of the report soon and is anxious to share it with KHPA.

The weather out west has been the usual spring mix of freezing cold, occasional summer-like and some pleasant moderate days we seem to always experience. Sometimes all those weather patterns showed up in the span of a single day. Recent snow and rainfall (and some hail) have blended to make for mostly good soil moisture levels. We are looking to see how the late spring flora flourishes and let the bees gather their nectars.

Greg Swob, Hays, KS



What’s Cookin’, Honey?

This creamy cake has two stories. One tells about a baker who encountered bees while making the cake. The bees were attracted to the honey almond topping, and rewarded the baker with a few stings. So the baker named the cake Bee Sting Cake. The other story goes back to the 15th century and tells about a group of bakers who prevented an invasion by throwing beehives at the invaders, and celebrated the victory with Bee Sting Cake. Either story is cute and fascinating. The cake is scrumptious! Marlene Pantos

German Bienenstich (Bee Sting Cake)

Cake: 1 1/2-1 3/4 c. flour, 2 T sugar, 2 tsp fast rising yeast, pinch of salt, 1 egg 1/4 c. butter, melted.

Topping: 1/2 c. butter, 1 T honey, 1 1/2 T heavy whipping cream, 1 tsp. vanilla, 3/4 c. slivered almonds.

Filling: 2 c. heavy whipping cream, 3 T vanilla pudding, 1 tsp. vanilla

Instructions:

Mix flour, sugar, yeast and salt. Add melted butter, egg and milk. Mix until soft dough forms, adding flour if necessary. Knead dough 5-7 times until smooth. Cover dough and let rest 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 350. Meanwhile, for topping, melt butter, honey, sugar over medium heat. When butter is melted, add cream and mix until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat and add almonds and vanilla. Keep warm until ready to use. Press the dough into a parchment lined 8 x 8 inch baking dish. Prick dough a few times. Pour over topping and bake for 30 minutes. Topping should be golden brown. Let cake cool in pan, then remove from pan by grabbing the parchment paper, cool cake on rack. When cake is almost cool, cut lengthwise into two thin layers. Transfer top layer to a cutting board and cut into 9 pieces. Prepare the filling. Add the pudding mix and vanilla to the cream. Beat filling into soft peaks. Place the bottom cake layer on a serving plate. Spread filling over bottom layer. Carefully place the 9 pieces of the top layer on the bottom layer. Cover and chill one hour. Carefully slice through the bottom layer and serve the same day.

NEKBA Fun Day, June 5, 2021

We hope you will join us for Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association Funday. After a one-year hiatus, Funday is back and this year it will be virtual. As in the past, we will have knowledgeable and engaging speakers that will cover a wide range of topics for beekeepers of all skill levels. Registration is just \$25. All but one presentation will be recorded for later viewing. Those that have registered will have access to the recordings so that they may watch, or watch again, at their convenience.

In past years, besides meeting and talking to fellow beekeepers, one of the fun aspects of Funday was the silent auction. This year we will be having an online auction where some unique, some practical, and some inspiring items will be available. Auction proceeds will go towards NEKBA's educational programs. Viewing and bidding will be available from Tuesday, June 1, 9 AM, through Sunday, June 6, at 7 PM.

We are accepting donated items, for the auction, through May 30. If you have something you would like to donate, please go to: <https://www.biddingowl.com/NortheasternKansasBeekeep> You will find instructions and a form to complete concerning your auction item. Keep in mind that you will be responsible for making transfer arrangements with the highest bidder. Some items that I would consider priceless, but easy to transfer, would be a onetime mentoring service, a beginning beekeeping book you found helpful, a beekeeping supplier gift card, or an offer to help pull honey supers (there are a lot of older and female club members that would jump at this!). For questions or comments about the auction, contact Joli Winer, (913) 593-3562 or joli@heartlandhoney.com

Funday promises to bring you the latest beekeeping information from top notch apiculturists, researchers, and business-people. This daylong event will be held in a virtual format using Zoom. There will be breakout sessions to accommodate those of all skill levels and interests. Look for information about cost, registration, and updates at <http://www.nekba.org/>

Funday 2021 speakers:

Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda: Prior to her work at the University of Tennessee, Jennifer was the beekeeping specialist at Clemson University and is past president of the American Association of Professional Apiculturists. At the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, she teaches bee management and increases awareness of the importance of pollinators. Dr. Tsuruda has an amazing talent for taking fascinating photos and videos of honey bees, which she shares with her audience.

Dr. Jim Tew: Many know Jim Tew by his monthly column in Bee Culture magazine and by reading his book Wisdom for Beekeepers. In his writings and presentations Jim shares his decades of beekeeping experience mixed with home-spun humor. He can also be heard, with Kim Flottum, on their podcast *The Kim & Jim Show* at www.beeculture.com. Jim also maintains his personal webpage at www.onetew.com.

Dr. Elina Niño: Dr. Niño is the California State Extension Apiculturist and established the California Master Beekeeper Program in 2016. She operates the E.L. Niño Bee Lab at the University of California Davis. Dr. Niño is also the facilities director of the Haagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven located on the campus grounds at UC Davis. Dr. Niño's research interests are broad and range from understanding reproductive processes involved in queen bee mating to developing and evaluating new control methods to combat Varroa mites. An extensive article about Dr. Niño and her work can be read here. <https://www.beeculture.com/elina-nino/>

Dr. Judy Wu: Dr. Wu is the Extension and Research Entomologist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Department of Entomology. Judy received her doctorate in Entomology from the University of MN under the direction of Dr. Marla Spivak. She is in the process of establishing a Master Beekeeper Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Wu's presentations at past Fundays, including Trouble Shooting a Hive and her explanation of Pests and Diseases are informative for all. We are fortunate that she is returning.

Beth Conrey: Beth is the owner and operator of Bee Squared Apiaries, Berthoud, Colorado. She is a former president of the Colorado State Beekeepers Association. During her tenure as president, Beth recruited and organized area bee clubs across the state into a robust organization of successful beekeepers. She also helped found the People and Pollinators Network and serves on the board of directors of the Pollinator Stewardship Council. Visitors to her website, www.bethsbees.com can shop from a variety of products produced from the hive, including varietal honey, bee pollen, and candles. Beth was featured in the December 2020 issue of Bee Culture magazine.

Dr. Autumn Smart: Dr. Smart's research focuses on how honey bees and other pollinators interact with the larger landscape and habitats situated among agroecosystems. Her interests are in pollinator health, plant-pollinator interactions, and how habitat conditions impact pollinators. She teaches honey bee biology and beekeeping at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Meet the Beek—Rogan Tokach



Everyone has their own unique story about how their beekeeping journey started. For me, I was at my local county fair when I spotted a new honey bee booth with an observation hive. After a couple minutes of looking, and maybe some help from the beekeeper, I was able to spot the queen. Right then, I was hooked. I would proceed to return to pester the beekeeper with questions every day for the remainder of the week wanting to learn more about honey bees. Later, after the fair was over, I told my mom that I wanted to look into beekeeping. In response, my mom bought me *Beekeeping for Dummies* and told me that if I read the whole thing, she would help me look into it. Believing I was not serious, she thought that buying a \$20 book would ensure I would become disinterested saving her from financing a potentially expensive hobby. It has been eleven years since I read that book, and in that time, I have become a beekeeper, started a service project focused around my bees, created a local beekeeping club, worked for a commercial beekeeping industry, graduated from college, and began working on a master's project focusing on how pesticides impact queens and the colony.

My beekeeping journey would not have gotten very far off the ground without help from the Kansas Honey Producer's Association and their youth scholarship program. Shortly after reading *Beekeeping for Dummies*, my mom, staying true to her word, helped look into beekeeping opportunities in KS. We stumbled across KHPA's youth scholarship program, and my sister and I were fortunate enough to apply and receive two packages of bees, hive equipment, and additional beekeeping supplies. Most importantly though, we were able to tap into the knowledge and experience from our two mentors, Steve and Becky Tipton. Very rarely were our hive inspection notes complete until an answer was received to various photos and questions we had after going through a colony. It was with their help that I had a successful first year and fell in love with beekeeping, thus making it a career path for the future. A couple years later, I applied for the scholarship again as a way to start a beekeeping club in my area. This time, with the help of KHPA and 4-H, I was able to start Brown's Busy Beekeepers at a local retirement home south of Abilene. I wanted to give people interested in beekeeping the opportunity to get their feet wet without them being responsible for the large startup costs beekeeping can have. Three families joined the first year and I was able to take the lessons learned from my mentors and teach them to others. At the end of the year, all three families purchased their own hives and are still beekeeping today. My mom took over managing the hives, and we still help other beekeepers whenever we can in the area. Every year, it is exciting for me to hear scholarship recipients give their yearly reports because it reminds me of where I started.



(2014 Kansas State Fair)

This past May, I graduated from K-State with a degree in Agronomy and a minor in Entomology. In June, I began work on a master's degree at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. On my way through this journey, I had some very exciting internship opportunities that helped round out my beekeeping experiences. In the summer of 2018, I spent time with the United States Geological Survey working on a project that focused on how changing land use impacts colony health. This study used pollen traps to monitor what kind of pollen was being collected and when; thus, allowing beekeepers to know what flowers were most important in the area. The following summer I returned to North Dakota, but this time to work for Browning's Honey Company as a member of one of their summer crews. Going from my own hobby production, where at most I had eight colonies at one time, to a company that has almost 30,000 colonies was quite an adjustment. It was also a tremendous learning experience as I got to see how honey was produced on a commercial scale. Requeening, making splits, adding supers, treating for mites, moving bees, pulling honey, and extraction were all vastly different processes than I had experienced before, but it gave me the opportunity to see what techniques were best for hobby beekeepers as compared to those working at a larger scale.

All of these beekeeping experiences have helped round me into the beekeeper that I am today. I have been fortunate enough to work as a hobby beekeeper, on research projects, and in the commercial bee industry. I believe this has led to a broader understanding of what works at various levels of beekeeping as I start my research career. This past summer, I began a project looking at reusing dead-out frames with contaminated food resources, like nectar and pollen, to rear queens in nucleus colonies. I hope to continue this project this field season in efforts to determine the impact of rearing queens in contaminated environments and what effects it may have on her laying ability. Additionally, I am starting another project that will investigate how contaminated resources impact honey bee aging and their cohort system. I am very excited to be able to share with others the potential colony impacts of contaminated pollen and nectar in their hives. In the near future, I hope to be able to speak to KHPA and NEKBA members at a Fun Day event or conference on my experimental findings. Without them, and *Beekeeping for Dummies*, I might have never found my potential passion in life.



(Teaching at UNL Workshop)

Plan on Entering your Honey at the Kansas State Fair

In 2019 we had the best ever participation in the honey show which had not been seen in many years. We had over 200 Fair entries. It will take a lot of participation from beekeepers all around the state to accomplish this once again. Let's show our pride in Kansas honey to the public and do it even bigger in 2021. There are people who are willing to travel to your club to give presentations on how to prepare honey for show including myself. Also, I am available to help with the transportation of your entries to and from Hutchinson. Please reach out to me by phone or text at (913) 768-4961 for assistance in these areas. You don't have to be a member of KHPA to participate. Competition is open to all beekeepers. Now is the time to start planning and taking action about what you want to enter in the state fair. Get your comb honey supers ready, and on your hives if you are planning any comb honey entries. Becky Tip-ton is our current sweepstakes champion. Remember the more entries you submit, the more points you accumulate toward this award. Even if your entry doesn't place for a ribbon, you still get the points tallied that were awarded going to the sweepstakes award. Our current "black label" winner is Candy Vinduska with the best tasting honey. To enter this category, you have to submit entries in 2 other honey categories. Looking forward to a great year at the fair and hoping to see many of you in Hutchinson.

Kristi Sanderson

New Guidelines for Exhibiting at the State Fair

1. **DEADLINE DATES:** All exhibitors are required to submit their entries online by deadline date of **JULY 25**. Online assistance is available during regular business hours only. (Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm)
2. **REQUIRED EXHIBITOR FEES:** ALL exhibitors are required to pay a \$1 processing fee as well as a \$1.00 per entry fee. The entry fees collected are used to assist in premiums paid out.
3. **LATE ENTRIES:** Entries will still be accepted after the deadline but will follow these rules: All entries past their deadline will need to be registered online. Late fees will apply. Our late fees no longer reflect *per exhibit but per exhibitor*
4. **LIMITS:** An exhibitor can enter one item per class unless noted differently.
5. Exhibitors will have up to 15 minutes to arrange, display or touch up their exhibit upon arrival, but prior to check in. Exhibits cannot be prepared or assembled on-site unless it is a "real time" contest and it is stated in the rules. Superintendent has the right to disqualify an entry or exhibit if anyone other than the exhibitor has prepared it. **ALL WORK MUST BE THAT OF THE EXHIBITOR.**
6. Displayed items are limited - KSF reserves the right to only display what room allows. Those that are not displayed can be picked up at designated pick-up times. Perishables will be discarded unless picked up before fair. Note: 1st through 3rd place will be displayed.
7. **Any item that does not meet Kansas State Fair requirements will not be accepted. If an item is accepted in oversight, it may later be disqualified and/or not judged or displayed.**

Kansas Honey Producers **Extracting More \$\$\$ from your Hives-**

These new, free, virtual, Value-Added programs will be presented on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm via Zoom. It is being sponsored by the Kansas Honey Producers Association as part of our membership drive. If you are not a member, please consider joining by going to www.kansashoneyproducers.org. Membership is only \$15 per year.

You will receive an email before the program with a link to register. If you registered for last month's Batik program, you will automatically receive the link to view this month's program via email.

To register for the meetings, click on the link below or copy it into your browser
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdOiqqTwwHNxk7aeR5Hrw7LoC6boCY4dh>
You will then be sent a Zoom link.

The next 4 programs are:

Thursday, May 20th **Producing Comb and Section Honey**, Kristi Sanderson, and Cecil Sweeney present

Thursday, June 17th **Pollen and Propolis- Collecting, Processing and Selling**, Petra Ahnert, Author of **Beeswax Alchemy** and **Beehive Alchemy**

Thursday, July 15th **Making Creamed Honey**, Brian Withrow presents and **Making Infused Honey**, Chad Gilliland presents.

Thursday, August 19th **Apitherapy, The Medicine Chest Known as the Bee Hive**, Reyah Carlson presents

Watch for our future programs over the next year—Mark your calendars for the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7 pm and join us:

Soapmaking with Robin Kolterman
Lotions and Balms with Becky Tipton
Cleaning Beeswax and Candle making
Gift Quickies for the Holidays
Making and Selling Nucs with Kristi Sanderson
Queen Rearing with Cheryl Burkhead
Selling at Farmers Markets and Craft Shows with Stephanie Brown
Mentoring and Concierge Beekeeping with Nikki Bowman

Kansas Honey Producer's Association
Cappings
R Burns
7601 W. 54th Terrace
Shawnee Mission KS 66202

Address Service Requested

2021 Kansas Honey Producer's Association Membership Application

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Code _____
 Phone# _____ **E-mail Address** _____



Membership Kansas Honey Producer's Association per year (Jan.-Dec.) \$15.00 _____
 Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person \$1.00 _____
 Additional family member's names: _____

_____ _____
 Youth Membership (18 years of age or under) \$7.50 _____
 American Bee Journal 1 year subscription \$24.65 _____
 Bee Culture Magazine 1 year subscription \$25.00 _____
 Donation Amount _____ Total Due _____

Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer's Association or pay on line at www.kansashoneyproducers.org

**Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202 Phone# 913-481-3504 or email-
 rburnshoney@gmail.com**

The Kansas Honey Producer's Association is a non-profit IRC 501(c)5 agricultural-educational organization, run by dedicated volunteers, and supported primarily by membership dues (subscriptions). The IRC status means that the association is a tax-exempt organization. While donations are always welcome, they are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. However, membership dues and subscriptions may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.