





Since 1948 Exploring the Wonderful World of Beekeeping Together

The Bee Buzzer

Monthly Publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

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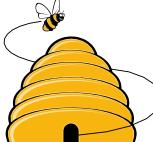
EDITOR: TIM MARSHALL

August 2024

General Meeting - (Back to in-person) Monday, August 19th, 2024 (7:00 p.m.) Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21N

2110 Harper St., Lawrence KS

Main Program: Fall Management – TIPS for August Beekeeping from harvesting to mite treatments, presented by Andy Nowachek. Andy was honored as the Beekeeper of the Year in 2014 by NEKBA. He continues to contribute to the beekeeping industry and inspires others through his passion for bees.



Beelines

By President Cheryl Burkhead

It's August, and the bees are stockpiling for winter utilizing whatever nectar sources they can find. It has been by observation that soybean foraging varies from year to year and even from colony to colony in a single yard. Temperature/humidity, weather conditions, soil type, other floral competition, & bean variety can all impact the degree to which bees will visit this white or purple-flowered legume. For beekeepers in the city, the flow has definitely ended.

August is the time to pull those final supers and commence mite treatments. You'll find that many times your biggest and most productive colony will have the highest mite numbers. Pick a mite treatment that is effective and works best for you. To help you in your decision, Honey Bee Health Coalition has an excellent tool to help you choose the best management strategy.

https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroatool/

Make sure to test prior to treatment and again a week or so after treatment to determine if it was effective. You can use an alcohol or soap wash or a powdered sugar shake sampling method to get an accurate picture of the mite levels. Varroa mite mitigation and monitoring is essential to maintaining strong healthy colonies. Don't procrastinate!



2024 Meeting Dates:

- Aug 11th, Open Apiary at Pendleton's (Pulling honey)
- Aug 15th, Open Apiary at Pendleton's (Treating for Varroa)
- Aug 18th, Honey Extraction in Wellsville, KS
- Aug 19th, Monthly Meeting (Bldg. 21)
- Sept 16th, Monthly Meeting (Bldg 21)







We are quickly approaching the home stretch of the beekeeping season. From now until we really put the bees to bed for the winter, we evaluate. What went well? What went poorly? What should we change? What do we want to increase? Make a list, a Venn diagram, or just have a serious self-talk, but consider these issues.

One of the biggest challenges to successful beekeeping is finding suitable terrain for our apiary. We are looking for a location(s) with sufficient forage, provisions of fresh

water, eliminating the potential for a toxic event, minimizing the chance of vandalism or theft, and mitigating the dangers of natural disaster (fire or flood). Although all of us want bees in our backyard, that may not be the best location for the safety of your bees and the productivity of the hives.

When the location of your hive(s) was chosen, you may not have realized that the hive was receiving nearly full shade. There were no leaves on the trees, the sun was at a different angle, a structure has been added to the bee landscape; any of these could have changed the sun/shade ratio. Your bees need nearly full sun to have optimal health. Small hive beetle and varroa mite numbers will both be less if the hive is in full sun. Moving a hive a few feet can be accomplished without too much stress. We adhere to the 2 feet or 2-mile axiom. A good time to move your hive will be this fall when you can enclose the hive without fear of overheating. We like rainy days for moving bees; it's cool, the bees stay inside, and after 3 days, the bees have reoriented and will fly out like nothing happened.

Now is an excellent time of year to consider, did your bees have good forage all spring, summer, and all fall? The Egyptians put bee colonies on barges and floated them down the Nile to take advantage of blooming crops. (I didn't witness this floating apiary but that's what's been reported). A western Kansas beekeeper we knew put his hives on a trailer to take advantage of scattered rain and the resulting flowers. Senior members of our group have remembered making abundant honey crops from flowers (weeds) that are no longer available to us because of changed farming practices. If your honey crop wasn't what you'd hoped, what forage did your bees have to utilize? Maybe your back yard isn't the best apiary location, but what is? Placing hives too far from your home can result in hives being ignored. If you must drive an hour to get to the hives, a 30-minute inspection just became an all-afternoon chore.

Kansas farmers are trying to mitigate the problems of changing environment by changing some crops. Cotton, canola (rape seed), and sunflower are just a few newcomers to the growing Ag world. Each comes with pest challenges that could impact our bees if placed in the foraging area and each offers a nectar opportunity if bees can access the blossoms. Does the risk outweigh the reward? You'll have to be the judge of that but before moving hives into proximity of those crops, a conversation with the farmer is warranted. Each crop would benefit from honey bee pollination. Helping the farmer realize that and working with the beekeeper to keep our livestock safe takes good communication.

Unfortunately, some of the other risk factors associated with an apiary location may not be apparent until it's too late. Will your neighbor burn a pasture that's close to your hives? The trickling creek could become a torrent in one of our summer storms and threaten hives. Vandalism has been reported more frequently than theft this past year. Neighbors who did not want "the risk" of bees in their neighborhood took aggressive matters into their own hands. Secure your hives as best you can. NO apiary is perfect. Limiting and impactful factors can change year by year and season by season. Just give it some thought.... what to change, what was good, what was great. Don't let it keep you awake at night, just something to think about as you fall asleep dreaming of honey.

Becky Tipton

SUBSCRIBE TO A MONTHLY BEE MAGAZINE. STAY INFORMED.Bee Culture Magazine (link)American Bee Journal (link)

Use the links to subscribe directly...annual subscription rates under \$6 per month for both! This is fantastic information right at your fingertips. As part of your beekeeping experience, it's important to be up to date with the trends in bee biology, honey processing, the industry, and much more!



ASK QUINBY & REMI

Dear Quinby and Remi: What can I do to help my bees in this heat? They are hanging outside.

Quinby and Remi answer: Water, Water, Water! Bees do not store water, but they do need it to cool the hive. The bees prefer to go 300 feet or less to gather water. Water foragers take water into their honey stomach rapidly and fly 50-100 round trips per day from the hive to the water. Some bees become 'water specialists'. If there are not natural water areas nearby it is best to supply water using shallow water sources.

Also, sources with slanted sides work well- anything to keep the bees from drowning! A bucket with rocks, a bird bath- just make sure to keep replenishing the water.

Dear Quinby and Remi: My bees are bringing in some dark, funny tasting honey- any idea of what it could be? **Quinby and Remi answer:** Can you rule out buckwheat? Buckwheat makes a great cover crop but an icky flavored honey (Joli's opinion). Another thing it can be is called Honeydew. Honeydew is not nectar but the exudations of plant-sucking insects such as aphids. These insects sink their mouth parts into plants and excrete a concentrated waste of high sugar content. Bees gather the honeydew and bring it back to the hive to ripen as they would nectar or sugar water. Honeydew crystallizes rapidly and is not great for the bees to winter on. Bees prefer to forage on nectar plants but will forage on honeydew if nothing else is available. **Dear Quinby and Remi:** It's August! Why are we worrying about winter now?

Quinby and Remi answer: Crazy, right? But it is so critical to have healthy fat bees going into winter. With varroa controlling how we work our bees and plan out our years it has changed our beekeeping habits. We try really hard to get our honey off early in August and extracted. That gives us time to treat for varroa mites so that the bees can raise several rounds of healthy bees. Also, if your bees need to be fed it is better to feed them now and in September and October while the weather is warm, the bees can store the syrup and process it so that it can help them through the winter.

Quinby and Remi would love to answer your questions. Contact them my emailing their owner at <u>heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com</u>.



The NEKBA Beeyard

We are changing the dates of the open apiaries from Saturdays to the 3rd Thursday of the month for the rest of the year- except for pulling honey on Sunday, August 11th. We are struggling to find folks to mentor/teach at the apiary and the attendee crowd has also been low- so we'll give this a try. On August 11 we'll pull honey and extract on August 18th at

Matthew Brandes 4741 Highway K 68, Wellsville, KS 66092! It'll be fun to do it together as a club! Proceeds from the sale of our honey will go to maintaining our hives in the future.

At the open apiaries you can expect to go through hives to see all stages of brood, queens, and take part in assessing the hives and queens. A great deal of time is also spent on using your smoker and hive tool and talking to participants about issues they are seeing in their hives. Bee suits are available and only NEKBA hive tools and smokers will be allowed in the apiary. The hives are located at Pendelton's Country Market 1446 E 1850 Rd, Lawrence, KS 66046. These events are free if you have signed up to be a GPMB member. To sign up to be a part of the Great Plains Master Beekeeping program go to http://gpmb.unl.edu. but we ask for a \$10

donation for others, cash. The money will be used for future maintenance of the club bee yard. We do ask that you preregister at our sign-up genius link: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48ADA82BABF49-48334714-look</u>

Dates subject to change:

Sunday, August 11th 10-12 (pulling honey)

Sunday, August 18th 10-whenever extract at Matt Brandes honey house (4741 Highway K 68, Wellsville, KS 66092)

Thursday, August 15th 5:30-7:00 (treating for varroa)

Monday, August 19th (before the meeting) 5:30-6:30

Monday, September 16th (before the meeting) 5:30-6:30 winterizing hives

Thursday, September 19th 5:30-7 winterizing hives

Thursday, October 17th 5:30-6:30 winterizing hives

Spring Hill - Heartland Honey Beeyard

This excellent educational opportunity will be held monthly on the second Thursday of the month. Dates are August 8th, and September 12th at 5:30 pm. These open apiaries offer an opportunity to go through hives with another beekeeper- we look for eggs, larva, and queens. A great deal of time is also spent on using your smoker and hive tool and talking to participants about issues they are seeing in their hives. Bee suits are available, wear close-toed shoes and long pants. The hives are located at Heartland Honey at the home of Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney at 19201 S Clare Rd Spring Hill KS 913-593-3562 call or text or email heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com so that we know that you are coming. Fee is \$10 if not a GPMB (Great Plains Master Beekeeper) participant. To sign up for this free program go to http://gpmb.unl.edu.

Tips for August

- Club Apiary has some great events this month, honey extraction and treating for varroa!
- Harvest your spring or summer honey, getting ready for fall.
- Check colonies and plan for an effective mite treatment before the winter bees come along.
- Bees will be looking for water, they'll need lots of it to cool the hive.
- Winter preparations start now, make sure your bees are getting healthy.
- Organize your notes from the honey flow for referencing next year.
- Be sure to take breaks in the heat, some will work earlier in the day before it warms up.



Military/Veterans Apprentice Program

I am Buck Bradley. I will be continuing the excellent work that Andy Nowachek and his team have done over the last few years. I was born and raised in Ottawa, Kansas. After a 21-year career in the Marine Corps, I recently returned home from North Carolina and am now settled in the Baldwin City area. I have been keeping bees for

the last several years and had up to 25 hives before moving back home.

In following newsletters, I will share more information on the NEKBA Military/Veterans Apprentice program and the connection between veterans and beekeeping that dates to the end of World War I.

I hope everyone had a good holiday season and that you have your bee equipment ready for Spring.

Buck Bradley, Military/Veteran Appr. Liaison



Honey Plants

We've reached that time of the year when honey bees are focusing on flowers in the fields and gardens. Currently there aren't any trees blooming. Blue Vine, Ironweed, Black eyed Susans, Chicory, and Joe Pye Weed are still blooming. Some parts of the NE area have had sporadic rainfall and that has kept them flourishing and producing nectar. Today, July 29th, I observed that my neighbor's yard is blooming with White Dutch Clover again and yes, my bees are visiting that patch.

Native and annual Sunflowers are starting to bloom. Some members of NEKBA move colonies close to cultivated annual sunflower fields. Bloom times on these cultivated sunflowers vary according to when they were planted. Gieringer's Family Orchard and Berry Farm, Edgerton, KS, has had annual sunflowers blooming since the last week of July. Annual sunflowers are excellent for providing pollen and are a very good nectar source. Its pollen is a bright yellow.

The native sunflower, Maximillian Sunflower, produces a very good pollen, which is orange. It is a good nectar source as well. This year they are blooming early. I spotted some, near Gardner, in bloom the last week of July. They can bloom through the fall until frost.

Smartweed or Knotweed is a nectar and pollen source that is a bit of a mystery to me. This delicate looking "weed" has pink or dark pink, erect spikes of numerous flowers and bloom July through October. What I call Smartweed is blooming now, but I seldom see any bees working the blooms in that patch in my backyard. There are documented sources that will tell you that Smartweed is a great nectar plant. This blooming nectar source goes by a variety of different names and to add to the confusion, there seems to be many different weeds that are also called Smartweed.

For clarification I turned to an article in Bee Culture Magazine, Dec. 21, 2015, by Connie Krochmal. There are approximately 20 different species of Smartweed growing in the Great Plains. Its origins are in Europe, and it has naturalized in all states except Hawaii. Most grow in bottomlands, low woods, moist spots, and fields. The species that is prevalent in NE KS is, I believe, Polygonum persicaria. It is also commonly called Heart's Ease, Lady's Thumb, Jesusplant, or Redshank. Honestly, it takes better eyes than I have and a magnifying glass to tell the difference between some of the different species. Polygonum persicaria is an annual that spreads by seed. The Bee Culture article touts it as "One of the best species for bees, this is a very good honey plant. It typically yields 100 to 200 pounds or more of honey per colony." It is unclear how many acres of Smartweed are needed to produce 100 pounds of honey. This "weed" is related to buckwheat and produces a dark honey with a bitter after taste, a lot like buckwheat. Online, I found a company, from Delaware, which sells a varietal honey they labeled as "Smartweed Honey." They describe their honey as "sweet, bold, and full bodied" and suggest making BBQ sauces and marinades with it.

Two other notable bloomers are Hardy Hibiscus and Rose of Sharon. Both are from the hibiscus family and come in a variety of colors. They are useful sources of white pollen. Rose of Sharon is a woody stemmed shrub that can take over and spread. Hardy Hibiscus begin blooming in July and shouldn't be confused with the Tropical Hibiscus that are not winter hardy. Bloom time depends on the variety. Their large blooms come in an array of colors, some brilliant, and create a show during the heat of summer. The Hardy Hibiscus is late to emerge and leaf out in the spring and then they die back in the winter.

You may be considering adding nectar and pollen sources to help fill in blooming gaps. Or did you find a summer sale at your local nursery that's too good to pass up? I encourage you to buy them. Plants bought now should be put on hold, in their pots, and kept well-watered. October and November are fantastic months to plant trees, shrubs, and perennials. Plan on watering for the first year. In the winter, if there is not much precipitation, try to provide water at least once a month when the ground isn't frozen. Those plants will grow a strong root system over winter and be ready to flourish in the spring.

Jo Patrick, Honey Plants Chairman

NEKBA Merch available at the general meetings! Get your T-Shirts and sweatshirts with the NEKBA logo! T-Shirts are available in goldenrod, cranberry and blue. Sweatshirts are zip-up hoodies in grey.



NEKBA Open Apiary Extracting Party!

Join us on Sunday, August 19th at 10am until we are finished extracting the honey from our open apiary yard! We'll meet at Matthew Brandes fabulous honey house at 4741 Highway K 68, Wellsville, KS 66092. Please call or text Joli at 913-593-3562 to let us know that you are coming. Beverages and snacks for volunteers! All the proceeds from the sale of the honey will be earmarked for future expenses to maintain the club bee yard! Help us celebrate our bounty!

Johnson County Fair Honey Show results

Many thanks to those that entered their honey products in the JOCO Fair honey show! The winners are:

Light Extracted:	1st Kristi Sanderson
	2nd Joli Winer
Dark Extracted:	1st Kristi Sanderson
	2nd Joli Winer
Gift Basket	1st Wendy Nowachek
	2nd Joli Winer
	3rd Matthew Brandes
Honey Bee Themed Gift Bas	ket – First year Beekeeper - 1st Mary Patterson Reserve Grand Champion
Creamed Honey	1st Kristi Sanderson
Comb	1st Kristi Sanderson
Cut Comb	1st Kristi Sanderson
Art Design in Beeswax	1st Kristi Sanderson
Beeswax Candles	1st Joli Winer
	2nd Kristi Sanderson
Honey Bee Photo, adult	1st David Pekrul -Grand Champion
	2nd Lisa Bock



This year, volunteers will be needed from September 3-16 at the Kansas State Fair. We start selling on Friday, September 6th. Our time frames for selling will be 4-hour shifts with the 1st one from 9AM-1PM and the 2nd one from 1PM-5PM, and a 3rd shift from 5PM-9PM.

Don't be bashful and think "I don't know enough about bees". You have more knowledge than the public and there will be other beekeepers present alongside you to help. For every day an entry ticket is needed, and one will be provided for you at the guest services office once you get to the fair. Here is the link to sign up to volunteer at the fair. <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48ADA82BABF49-50332433-2024#/</u>

Shifts are available for you to sign up for the times that fit your schedule. If you have signed up this way in the past, you have already received an email notification to volunteer once again for 2024. If you need assistance signing up to volunteer, please contact me, Kristi Sanderson, either by phone or text at 913-768-4961.

Thank you for your help, and I will see you in Hutchinson at the Kansas State Fair. **Kristi Sanderson, NEKBA Program Chair**



NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ADDRESS				
CITY	STATE2	<u>/</u> IP+4		
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I would like to receive the n	ewsletter, The Buzzer, by email	Yes	No	
Membership Northeastern	KS Beekeepers per year (July-Dec	. \$12.50)	\$25.00	
Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person			\$1.00	
Additional family member's	name			
(Youth Membership (18 years of age or under)			\$12.50	
Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association			\$25.00	
American Bee Journal (discounted rate through association)			1 year \$29.75_	
Bee Culture Magazine (or subscribe online at <u>www.BeeCulture.com</u>)			1 year \$34.00	
Scholarship / Military/Veter	an's Appr. Donation			
		Total		

Make checks payable to: NEKBA or Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn.

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Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission, KS 66202 ph. 913-481-3504, <u>rburnshoney@gmail.com</u> You may join, re-new, register, donate and pay online at <u>www.nekba.org</u>

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

Need help with your hives? -Spring inspections, installing packages, making splits, queen evaluation, diagnosis of pests and diseases, mite monitoring and treatment, etc. I can help you with your beekeeping needs! I am a certified master beekeeper with 30+ years of beekeeping experience. I will leave you with a written course of action after our session at your hives. Call or text 913-768-4961 or email Kristi Sanderson at sandersonk09@gmail.com for pricing and appointment times.

BEEKEEPERS.COM

Beekeepers.com (Jordy's Honey Company) in Lenexa, KS. Beekeepers.com is your only local full-service beekeeping store. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Protective Clothing, Bottles, Bee Packages, Nucs and Queens. Visit our website Beekeepers.com, to view our entire line of beekeeping supplies. You can also shop in-person at our store in Lenexa. We ship queens directly to YOU! Order at QueenBees.com. Queens available March - October. Our hours are Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00, Saturday 9:00-12:00. You can find our honey at The Overland Park Farmers Market. Robert Hughes, 14054 W 107th St, Lenexa, KS 66215, 913-681-5777 or email Info@Beekeepers.com

COTTIN'S HARDWARE & RENTAL

Cottin's stocks a full line of beekeeping equipment year-round including items manufactured by Harvest Lane Honey, Little Giant, and Bug Baffler. Products include hives, supers, frames, foundations, extractors, tools, and protective apparel. We also stock a full line of Home Brewing Mead Making supplies. Located in Lawrence, KS at 1832 Massachusetts Street (South of Dillon's). We are open Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Call us at 785-843-2981 or email us at hardware@sunflower.com.

CB'S HONEY

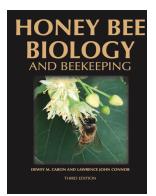
CB's Honey offers pure raw Kansas honey available in 5 gal buckets. Grafted queens and queen cells, and a limited number of nucs/packages. <u>CB's Honey | Facebook</u>. Located just SE of Topeka. 4521 SE 61st Street, Berryton, KS 66409. Call or text Cheryl Burkhead at 785-224-9077 or <u>cherylbhoney@gmail.com</u>

CEDAR RIDGE BEES

5 Frame Nucs for Sale. We are your local Premier Bee Products Dealer specializing in plastic foundation made entirely in the U.S.A. We sell bucket feeders and other bee equipment. Call or text Philip Knaus at 785-581-4216 or contact us at cedarridgebeehives@gmail.com - Check out our bees and products at <u>www.cedarridgebees.com</u> Cedar Ridge Bees 585 N 500 Rd, Overbrook, KS 66524.

T CREEK BEES AND HONEY – Tecumseh/Berryton, KS

Tecumseh Creek winds its way through the home yard lending its name to the brand. Located between Lawrence and Topeka, T Creek offers 5-frame nucs, online honey sales, custom honey packing, wholesale delivery to the Topeka / Lawrence area, 5-gallon buckets of honey, and drop-shipping wholesale service to rural grocery stores and agritourism destinations. Visit www.tcreekbees.com Email: tcreekbees@gmail.com or find the bees on Facebook. Order 2024 5-frame nucs by visiting the website and completing the nuc order form. Owner: Tim Urich. LLC in the State of Kansas and licensed by Kansas Dept of Ag.



Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping, Third Edition, Dewey M. Caron and Lawrence John Connor,

\$90 postage included. This book should stay on the dashboard of every beekeeper's truck. It's that good, and that necessary. Kim Flottum, Bee Culture. This comprehensive textbook easily replaces many beginner books while adding comprehensive details of bee biology essential to becoming a successful beekeeper and student of the honey bee. First released in 1999, Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping is widely accepted as a major textbook of Apiculture (beekeeping). Beekeepers and bee clubs use it to teach other beekeepers. Universities use it to teach college students bee biology and beekeeping. It

concentrates on the 'why', 'how' and 'when' of beekeeping. It explains bee and beekeeping basics in a manner meaningful to people who lack an extensive background in biology. Yet it is not over-simplified and provides a meaningful source of beekeeping information for the informed beekeeper. The Third Edition has been carefully edited, updated and expanded to 480 pages. New chapters have been added, as have colorful new graphics and photographs. The Glossary has also been expanded. **Wicwas Press LLC Kalamazoo, MI 49001 -** <u>www.wicwas.com</u>

The Association does not endorse nor evaluate the advertisements, products, or services offered in the Buzzer.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association Robert Burns, Treasurer 7601 W 54th Terr Shawnee Mission, KS 66202-1129

Address Service Requested

Meeting Monday, Aug 19th, 2024 – (in person)

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$25.00 per calendar year (December 31-December 31) for the first in the family joining. Those joining in July or later in the year may pay \$12.50 for ½ year. Additional members of a family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Youth memberships (18 years of age and younger) are \$12.50 per year. Please submit new memberships and renewals to the treasurer or on-line at www.nekba.org.

The Bee Buzzer is the official publication of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association, Inc. and is published monthly. Commercial ads are accepted in the newsletter for a fee; non-commercial ads by paid members are accepted & are free.

The library of the association is free to all members. Books may be checked out at the meetings and kept for a period of 30 days. The bee publications, *The American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* can be subscribed to through the treasurer or on-line. The *American Bee Journal* is offered at a discount through the Association only.

The Association meets each month, generally on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the months of January and July. This is a non-profit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Check *The Bee Buzzer* or website at <u>www.nekba.org</u> each month for the actual date, time, and location. If the weather is bad, call an officer or check the website to find out if the meeting will be held or cancelled.

2024 Officers

President: Cheryl Burkhead, 4521 SE 61st St., Berryton, KS 66409 cbfritz@aol.com	785-224-9077
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Visit on-line at <u>www.nekba.org</u>. Save time. Join, re-new, or register.