

# NEKBA Bee FunDay Speakers June 4, 2022



Jay Evans



Kirspn Given



Dr Judy Wu-Smart



Lucy Winn



Rogan Tokach



Matthew Brandes



Curt Hadley



Becky Tipton



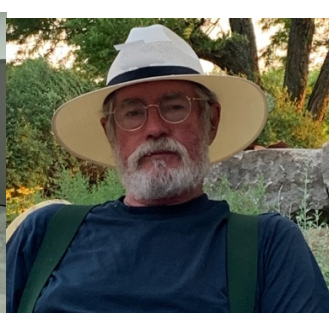
Sami Aaron



Shelby Kittle



Cecil Sweeney



Steve Tipton



Louann Hausner



Jay Francis

**Jay Evans** currently works at the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), United States Department of Agriculture. Jay does research in Bioinformatics, Entomology and Genetics. Current lab projects involve interactions among bees, microbes, and mite-transmitted viruses, and efforts to reduce bee losses from chemical and biotic stresses.

**Krispn Given** from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. is recognized as one of the leading authorities in honey bee instrumental insemination and honey bee breeding. He is the Apiculture Specialist at Purdue University's Department of Entomology in West Lafayette Indiana. Mr. Given started breeding bees 18 years ago, conducting research with 150 colonies looking for solutions to improve honey bee health. He currently oversees Purdue University's long-standing honey bee breeding program, teaching annual queen rearing short courses in addition to managing the honey bee laboratory and extension activities.

**Lucy Winn**, the 2022 American Honey Queen serves as a national spokesperson on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation, a trade organization representing beekeepers and honey producers throughout the United States. The American Honey Queen speaks and promotes in venues nationwide, and, as such, Queen Lucy will travel throughout the United States in 2022.

**Dr. Judy Wu-Smart** (Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist) has been the director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bee Lab since Fall 2015. At UNL, she and her team have been developing a robust pollinator health program to help beekeepers, scientists, policy makers, and land managers understand the underlying stressors challenging bee health, such as exposure to pesticides. Community engagement and promoting science literacy around these complicated farm-to-table issues are also key components of our research and extension education programs. To find more about our programs and training opportunities visit <https://entomology.unl.edu/bee-lab> and <https://gpmb.unl.edu/> or follow us on Facebook.

**Rogan Tokach** is a second-year master's student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he is being co-advised by Dr. Judy Wu-Smart and Dr. Autumn Smart. His research focuses on pesticide toxicology and its impacts on colony functions. He is currently running experiments looking at the queen rearing capacity and behavioral impacts of colonies that are exposed to a contaminated environment or resources.

**Shelby Kittle** is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln majoring in applied science. She is one of the UNL bee lab team in the position of assistant apiary manager. For the last two years Shelby has taken part in the undergraduate creative activities and research experience program (UCARE) studying the effect of foundation ratios on comb honey production. Her goal is to eventually enter a master's program focused in entomology and publish her findings from her comb honey research project.

**Sami Aaron** is an Extension Master Naturalist and Climate Reality Leader and was instrumental in the development of the management project at the Pollinator Prairie, a restored Superfund site in Olathe, Kansas. She is founder and executive director of the nonprofit, The Resilient Activist.

**Becky Tipton, Steve Tipton** are Master Beekeepers and have been keeping bees in northeastern Kansas for over 30 years. As 'sideliner' beekeepers, they produce honey and produce a selection of value-added products including soaps, lotions, balms, and creamed honey for sale at local markets. Their greatest pleasure comes from teaching other beekeepers through various outlets including, NE KS Beekeepers' Association, Kansas Honey Producers, Nebraska Beekeepers Association, and the American Beekeeping Federation. Steve and Becky have also taught a beginning beekeeping class for the past nine years at the local community center as well as mentored many area beekeepers. Becky is president of the Kansas Honey Producers. Steve and Becky are dedicated to promoting a healthy environment for all pollinators.

**Matthew Brandes** is a 5<sup>th</sup> year beekeeper with a Master Beekeeping Certificate from the University of Montana. He and his wife Sandi maintain 15-20 hives in rural NE Kansas. He has a passion for technology and is putting it to use in his own apiary.

**Curt Hadley** joined FieldWatch as Business Development Manager in January 2021. Curt maintains FieldWatch's registries and implements marketing and development strategies to enhance support from our diverse agricultural stakeholders. He also maintains relationships with current users and prospective members of FieldWatch's registries and works to strengthen relationships with the Certified Organic certifying agencies through outreach and education. Curt regularly hits the road to share mapping tools with growers, groups, and new areas to enhance AG-stewardship throughout their communities.

**Jay Francis** has been a beekeeper for 5 years but has been making mead and fruit wines for many years. He began by attempting to understand the fermentation process and test his ability to make wine. Now he enjoys experimenting with different fruits and honey. Jay wants you to know that you can make a quality mead in your own home.

**Cecil Sweeney** of Heartland Honey began keeping bees in 1979 in Roanoke Virginia. He moved to Kansas in 1987. He is a Midwest Master Beekeeper (from the Marion Ellis days). He prides himself on his commonsense methods of beekeeping. When he was younger he listened and learned from a lot of beekeepers before him. Now he's become an old "Bee Guy."

**Louann Hausner** is a 3rd generation beekeeper and proudly served as a National Spokesperson for the honey & beekeeping industry as the 1996 American Honey Princess. For the last 25 years, she has volunteered her time to the American Beekeeping Federation providing media training. She has grown her marketing and public relations skills through a 23-year career with the global equipment manufacturer, John Deere. Originally from Wisconsin, Louann currently lives in Lenexa, KS. She is eager to share how we can all be stronger advocates for honeybees.