

CAPPINGS

The Official Newsletter of the Kansas Honey Producers Association www.KansasHoneyProducers.org

KHPA Youth Scholarship Grant

Lauren Hull, Coffey County 4-H shared these photos of the club’s most recent hive inspection. Lauren and the members want to give a special shout out to Tiny for all he does to make this a fun learning experience.

Left to right “Tiny” William Jackson with Toby Reavis and Kyzer Lehmann



Toby Reavis and Kyzer Lehmann



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Special Edition Sept.**

OUR PRESIDENT BECKY TIPTON

Bee Calm and Waggle On” was the directive adorning a honey yellow tee shirt I saw. I’d have had to buy it but someone was wearing it. It’s pretty easy to point out what’s wrong with our world right now. I’m going to try to look at the silver lining.

We, Steve and I, have never had so much “together” time. We have had time to discuss where we want to go and how we want to get there. Many of our goals did not involve travel or people other than ourselves so we have been able to dedicate time and talent to accomplishing some important things.

I have not cooked so many meals since my children were babies and we never ate out. I hadn’t realized how easy it had become to grab something on our way home. Thinking about meals helps me choose more-healthy options. My garden hasn’t looked better in years and I’m exploring new gardening techniques. I’m really enjoying it! A huge part of the joy of beekeeping is producing food for our table and gardening provides that same sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. We have seen many people wanting to buy honey and other farm products directly from us....knowing from where your food comes seems more important than ever.

Zoom meetings and distance learning are making us all rethink what we need to do and how we can get it done. If I go to a Kansas City meeting, I usually drive about an hour. That probably equates to six gallons of gas (round trip). Multiply that times once or twice each month....it’s significant time and fuel. Then add all the other members who have not needed to travel the same distance. It’s a very significant reduction in time and fuel. Has the quality of our meetings diminished? I miss the chit chat but the business gets accomplished. Our monthly club meetings may actually be better in some instances via Zoom. Videos of hive activities accompany presentations and demonstrations. Everyone can see what’s being demonstrated. Everyone can hear the speaker. The meeting information is available to members at a distance too great for them to join us physically. The programs can be archived for later viewing. This change will probably effect how we present and educate about bees from now on.

Unfortunately, there are a few things for which it’s quite difficult to bring to light the silver lining. Our Kansas State Fair is exactly that. The loss to the people of Kansas is huge; loss of revenue, loss of recognition, and even a loss of our identity. The Kansas State Fair has been held every year for 104 years, through world wars and even the horrible Spanish flu. The fair is a chance for us all to celebrate us, our heritage, and our accomplishments. It is with deep sadness that the decision to cancel the fair took place. There were several factors that impacted that decision but the ultimate deciding factor was to put the health of Kansans first.

Let’s all look to the future and plan to make Kansas State Fair 2021 the best ever. Plan now to enter the honey show, work the KHPA fair booth, and eat cotton candy while you stroll through the exhibits. And, let’s all try to find our own silver lining and our own joy in what we have around us each day. Appreciate those people across the breakfast table. Appreciate the bees that make our honey so sweet. Appreciate the time to smell the clover blossoms.

To those of us who have been personally impacted by the Covid-19 virus, I send my prayers for speedy and complete healing. To this great nation pulled apart by political angst, let’s join together to take care of each other. Find the joy in what you do every day and share the joy with those people near to you.

Honey Extraction and Super Care

In a lot of publications you will read don't remove the honey from your hive until the bees have capped it over. In the northeast part of the state even if our honey is capped the moisture content is usually above 18.6%. If honey is above 18.6% it will ferment and the pressure created by fermentation can cause lids of jars to pop off making a sticky smelly mess. To be on the safe side get your moisture content between 18% and 17.5%. When honey crystallizes the liquid part left takes on the moisture given off from the crystallized portion. Therefore it's best to get your honey down to at least 18% to prevent fermentation in the uncrystallized portion. There comes a point and time when you need to harvest all of your honey capped or not so you can get your fall mite treatments done. The honey flow will be minimal at best by this time so the bees may never completely cap all of the honey in your supers. When your moisture content is too high the best way to bring it down to an acceptable level is stack your supers in a crisscrossed pattern in a small room such as a half bath or a laundry room with a dehumidifier and oscillating fan. With the supers being crisscrossed and an oscillating fan the dry air created from the dehumidifier can be circulated through the supers, thus pulling the water out of the honey. Don't worry about the capping on the honey as the moisture will pass through the capping. Honey is hygroscopic and the more surface area of the honey that is exposed to the warm dry moving air the more efficient it is to bring down the moisture. This is why it's best to correct a high moisture problem before extracting your honey. The key to bringing down the moisture in your honey is to place your supers in as small a room as possible so the dehumidifier and circulating warm air can do its magic as fast as possible. Once your moisture content is where you need it to be get your honey extracted right away.

Cont. on pg. 4

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If you let it set around more than 2 weeks from the time you take it off the hive you risk damage from the larvae of the small hive beetle. With your honey no longer being protected by the bees the eggs that have been laid by the beetles will start to hatch and adult beetles seem to be able to find this unprotected honey in a heartbeat and are laying eggs at an alarming rate. The larvae slime your honey with their excrement and it smells like rotting fruit. The honey will be leaking out of the comb and you will see lots of little larvae that are small and narrow.

Once you have your honey extracted and stored in air tight containers you need to protect the combs in your supers from wax moth and small hive beetle. One option is to freeze the combs for 48 hours and then stack them up so mice can't get in the supers. Another option is to stack the supers up 9 tall and on top of the 9th super place a 4"x4" piece of window screen. On the screen place 6 TBL of moth crystals and cover the stack with a lid. The crystals will evaporate and the vapor is heavier than air so the vapor will flow down through the whole stack. You can use Para Moth or Moth Ice Crystals. Just make sure the active ingredient is paradichlorobenzene. If you use the wrong product the wax will absorb the active ingredient and it will kill your bees once this equipment is added back to your hive.

Before storing your supers you have the option of storing them wet or dry. If you choose to store them dry place the supers back on the hive, but place the inner cover between the brood boxes and the honey super. This will encourage the bees to bring the left over honey down from the supers and into the brood boxes. Once this is complete take the supers off and store till next season. If you choose to store your supers wet stack them in stacks of 9 right after extracting and protect them from wax moths and mice. Remember mice can get through holes smaller than a dime, so if you have openings this big or bigger plug the holes with steel wool. Also mice can't get through metal queens excluders so you can place one at the top and bottom of each stack for extra protection.

Kristi Sanderson





Cappings for NCK region:



Hello bee friends!

We are still lush and green in Riley County. It's great to keep things blooming and some nectar flowing, but we're really finding mixed results with the moisture content in our honey supers.

In the past week, hives of similar strength within a 20 mile range have had frames that are 90% capped read anywhere from 16%-19.5% with the same refractometer. This of course is different from what our

Like most of beekeeping, there just isn't a set schedule to honey harvesting, especially by a calendar or a percentage of capping, or even by what someone else in your community is experiencing.

Instead, my answer to many questions lately is, "You'll have to take a look."

You can't just guess the water content by the time of year or having some frames capped a certain percentage, you have to really take a look with a calibrated refractometer and get more information.

If you don't know if your bees are still finding enough to eat or gather for honey, whether they could use another honey super or they need to be fed...you need to get in there and take a look.

There are some colonies with bee populations and ample nectar sources that are still building on new foundation and gathering nectar while some are honey bound, and others are that running out of cells of open nectar to eat and are starting to consume their capped honey stores. You just have to take a look and see what each of your hives needs.

And of course, you need to confirm how your queen is laying and watch for signs of diseases and potential problems. Mite populations tend to increase this time of year, so our risk of related brood problems can also increase. We can't know unless we look.

It's sometimes hard to put on that bee jacket or suit and go outside when the temperatures are high, but it's an important time to see how your bees are doing and either be assured that all is well, or take care of any issues before they grow into a future colony loss later.

The Kansas Honey Producers Virtual Fall Meeting

And Virtual Honey Show

Friday, October 23, 2020

For information, questions, or suggestions

please call or text Joli 913-593-3562

Or email joli@heartlandhoney.com

The board has taken the action for The Kansas Honey Producers to hold their fall meeting via Zoom. The details are still being ironed out but here is what we know:

Please note that there will be a separate mailing/email about the meeting that will be sent in September. At this time please set aside the date of Friday, October 23, 2020.

This will be a one-day meeting and the cost will be \$12.00 for both members and non-member (though it is our hope that non-members will join). You must pay the registration fee if you plan to attend the Zoom meeting or view the video of it at a later time, you will not have access to the video unless you have registered for the meeting. Also please note that not all our guest speakers may agree to be videotaped.

We must have your email address to communicate with you about the meeting and you must install Zoom on either your cell phone, computer, or tablet. If you do not get **The Cappings** by email but would like to be updated and get the Zoom meeting link by email please let Robert Burns, our treasurer, have your email address so that you can be notified. His email address is rburnshoney@gmail.com.

I am thinking that this would be a great way for us to do some videos of some aspects of our operations. I would like for us to do some value-added presentations so if you have any ideas, please let me know. I may be able to add some guest speakers since this will be a zoom meeting. Board members have been asked to do a video showing their extracting systems.

Virtual Honey Show

We are working out the details of a virtual honey show, but you must be registered for the meeting to participate. Watch the www.kansashoneyproducers.org website for final details but here is the jest of it. Ginny Mitchell, our state fair honey judge, has agreed to be the judge. We are only going to have 4 categories:

Extracted honey-2 1 lb. glass Queenline or Classic jars

Creamed honey-2 straight sided glass jars 8-12 oz.

Beeswax block -1 – 1 lb.

Black Label-2 oz. in an opaque jar (minimum needed 2 oz. but not more than 8 oz.)

Judged on taste only

Judging by Ginny will be held on Wednesday night, October 21st via Zoom (the link will be made available to registered participants later), which will offer an additional learning experience. Those who want to participate will be responsible for sending their entries to Ginny and they will need to be postmarked by October 9th. Entries that you want returned, will need to include mailing instructions and money to send them back to you. KHPA will not be responsible for entries damaged during shipping. Winners will be announced during the meeting on Friday, October 23rd. Prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st prize \$20.00, 2nd Prize \$15.00, and 3rd prize \$10. A \$40 prize will go to the winner of the Black Label Honey. No additional awards will be given.

Complete details will be available in the September mailing of the program and online at the Kansas Honey Producers website at www.kansashoneyproducers.org as they become available.

We are still working out the final program, but our guest speakers are:

Dr. Thomas D. Seeley is the Horace White Professor in Biology at Cornell University. He is based in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, where he teaches courses on animal behavior and does research on the behavior and social life of honey bees.

His books include *Honeybee Ecology* (1985), *The Wisdom of the Hive* (1996), and *Honeybee Democracy* (2010) and *Following the Wild Bees*

His topic will be *The Bee Colony as a Honey Factory*.

We will examine how a colony of honey bees operates as a factory that produces honey efficiently despite tremendous day-to-day swings in the supply of nectar, the raw material for making honey. An important feature of the organization of the honey production process is a division of labor between the nectar foragers, elderly workers who toil outside the hive collecting the nectar, and the nectar receivers, middle-age workers who toil inside the hive converting the nectar into honey. We will see how the bees can boost their colony's rate of nectar collecting during a honey flow, using the waggle dance and the shaking signal. And we will see how the bees can also boost their colony's rate of nectar processing—to keep the rates of nectar collecting and nectar processing in balance—by means of the tremble dance and stop signal. In this talk, he will show videos of bees producing all the signals mentioned above: waggle dance, shaking signal, tremble dance, and stop signal.

Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Walsh –Liz's dissertation research primarily focused on in-hive pesticides, such as active ingredients in miticides, and how they impact queen health, physiology, and behavior. Liz is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, where she is working with Dr. Steve Pernal on diagnosing honey bee stressors.

Dr. Tammy Horn Potter: In 2014, Potter became the KY State Apiarist. Her primary goals as apiarist are to document hive health, promote economic development, and provide education and outreach. To date, she has partnered on a USDA grant to promote pollinator and cerulean habitat in Eastern KY, a USDA-APHIS Honey Bee Health Survey grant director on Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, and been awarded the 2010 North American Pollinator Protection Advocate Award.

Tammy is quite the author she has blazed a trail across literary and beekeeping circles in 2005 with the publication of "***Bees in America: How the Honeybee Shaped a Nation***", a masterful compilation and study of fact, folklore and history of the honey bee. She followed with ***Beeconomy : What Women and Bees Can Teach Us about Local Trade and the Global Market*** (University Press of Kentucky, 2011) exploring the relationship between women and bees around the world along with the impact and potential of the female aspect intrinsic to beekeeping. In 2019 she wrote ***Flower Power: Establishing Pollinator Habitat***.

**The next two meetings will be held in Wichita
(unless the board decides to hold them virtually)**

at the Best Western North in Wichita.

Mark your calendars for the future meetings:

Spring 2021 Friday and Saturday, March 5 & 6 2021

Fall 2021 Friday and Saturday, October 22 & 23 2021

Virtual Question and Answer Session-Sunday, October 11, 6:00 pm

Join us on Sunday, October 11th at 6:00 pm for a Virtual Question and Answer Session.

Send your questions to Becky Tipton at bstbees@embarqmail.com. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions through the chat room during the zoom meeting. We plan to have members available to answer your questions. If you do not get ***The Cappings*** by email but would like to be updated and get the Zoom meeting link by email please let Robert Burns, our treasurer, have your email address so that you can be notified. His email address is rburnshoney@gmail.com. Consider this your “practice” meeting so that you can make sure that you understand how to log in on zoom and how to use it!

THE OFFICIAL CANCELATION OF THE KANSAS STATE FAIR

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, its impact on community health and well-being, the 2020 Kansas State Fair has been rescheduled for September 10th -19th, 2021. Previously purchased tickets and vendor fees that have been paid will be valid for the new fair dates of 2021. The safety of the Kansas State Fair’s visitors, participants and community is and always will be the highest priority in producing the annual fair. After great deliberation with staff, the General Manager and taking direction from the Kansas State Fair Board, it became clear that postponement was the prudent choice for the fair to do its part to improve community health and safety and reduce the cycle of infection. The Kansas State Fair exists to strengthen the state of Kansas and bring people together. We are dedicated to being part of our collective well-being and look forward to when we can all gather in September of 2021.

We appreciate your support, partnership and understanding!

Sincerely,

Janene Starks

Kansas State Fair

Commercial Exhibits Coordinator

(620) 669-3612 | Janene.k.starks@ks.gov

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What you think you BEE come!!

With the help of the board it has been established Cappings will go out on the following specific dates:

1st Issue Jan 20th, in time for Spring Meeting

2nd Issue May 1st, in time for Funday information

3rd Issue Aug. 1st, in time for Fair information

Special edition Sept. 1st for the fall meeting, sent out by Jolie.

4th Issue Nov. 10th, Fair results and Fall meeting announcements.

ALL articles need to be submitted 10 days prior to publication.

If you have an article you would like to submit, please send it to Stephanie at GGshoneybeez@gmail.com

Capping's late due to unforeseen circumstances.

Kansas Honey Producer's Association
Robert Burns
7601 W. 54th Terrace Shawnee Mission, KS 66202
Address Service Requested



Kansas Honey Producer's Association Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone# _____ Email 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 names: _____

Youth Membership (18 years of age or under) \$7.50 _____ American Bee Journal 1 year subscription \$24.00 _____

Bee Culture Magazine (formerly "Gleanings") 1 year subscription \$25.00 _____

Donation Amount _____ Total Due _____

Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer's Association. Email: rburnshoney@gmail.com

Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202 Phone# 913-831-6096

The Kansas Honey Producer's Association is a nonprofit 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.

Renew On Line
www.kansashoneyproducers.org