



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
- President's Corner
- Regional News
- Fall Conference

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The Legislative Update 2024 by Buck Bradley

There isn't much new to report on the Kansas legislative front since HB 2720 (eliminating a commercial kitchen license to sell honey and honeycomb in a retail setting) didn't make it out of committee. The legislative session has ended. Currently, KHPA and NEKBA are discussing forming a joint committee to develop a strategy to move the bill out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote. This is a situation where collective effort is crucial.

With 165 legislators in Kansas (40 Senators and 125 Representatives), it is impractical for just a few individuals to contact all of them and engage in meaningful conversations. Elected officials prefer to hear from their constituents, as messages from within their own districts carry more weight than those from outside. Additional-

ly, personalized emails or phone calls from constituents are more impactful than bulk or copy-and-paste messages.

If you are interested in assisting the committee or have ideas on how to reach the numerous legislators, please let me know Babradley82@gmail.com

As election season ramps up and state candidates or their teams start going door-to-door or holding meet-and-greet events, members of KHPA can support our cause to eliminate the commercial kitchen license requirement for selling honey and honeycomb in a retail setting. You can mention this issue to candidates if they visit your home or if you attend a meet-and-greet. This can also be done through emails or phone calls. The more people who raise this

issue, the more likely it will be a priority in the next legislative session.

Lastly, there is strength in numbers. We all know beekeepers who are not yet members of KHPA. I encourage you to engage with them and urge them to join. Eliminating the commercial kitchen requirement is just one of KHPA's goals at the state level. The more members we have, the more influence we will have at the Capital for this and future causes.





The Kansas State Fair is fast approaching. This year the fair is September 6-15. We need volunteers 2 days before the fair starts for set up, during the fair, and one day after the fair ends to put things away. SignUpGenius is being used to coordinate volunteers. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48ADA82BABF49-50332433-2024> If you have volunteered before, you automatically receive a notification. If you haven't volunteered before, use the link above. You may find the link on our club website or you may call or text Kristi.

Consider submitting entries to the Kansas State Fair. Go to kansasstatefair.com to submit your entries online. Once on the website, go to "competitions" then to "agriculture". There are several classes in which to enter honey including Black Label which is judged on taste only. Beware, you must enter a minimum of 2 other classes to submit an entry in this one. Only one best-tasting honey will be awarded from all submissions. Maybe yours will win and you will have bragging rights as the best tasting honey in Kansas. If you have questions about getting your entries submitted online or need some help in transporting your entries to or from the fair, contact Kristi at 913-768-4961 via phone or text. Updated rules & regulations with tips and scoring for entries is available on the KHPA website @ kansashoneyproducers.org and on page 11 of this newsletter.

ENTRY DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1, 2024

All entries are required to be done online.

If you need assistance with entry, please contact the Fair Office M-F, 8 AM-5 PM at 620-669-3621.

Entries after August 1 will have a late fee:

August 2 (12:01 a.m.) to August 15 (11:59 p.m.) - \$5.00 late fee, per exhibitor.

August 16 (12:01 a.m.) to August 20 (11:59 p.m.) - \$25.00 late fee, per exhibitor.

No entries will be accepted after August 20 (11:59 p.m.)

Agriculture Entry Receiving Times:

Tuesday, September 3, Noon – 5

Wednesday, September 4, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday, September 5, 8 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Release/Pick Up Times: Sunday, September 15, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Monday, September 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kristi Sanderson, 2nd Vice President

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Becky Tipton

In the next few weeks/months you can shape the entire success of your beekeeping operation. It is easy to procrastinate and 'plan' to think about this in the foggy future but making that choice will not serve you well. I am referring to the health of your bees, your apiary, your business, and your overall sense of control.

An adult student of ours commented this past year about his much-improved honey harvest and overall beekeeping success. I asked him to share what he attributed this profitable change. He said, "I finally started taking Varroa mites seriously." He is 100% correct and until you choose that as well, you will experience high winter loss, poor colony performance, and overall frustration with the hobby/sideline of apiculture. Now is the season that many of us are pulling our first honey harvest. It is also the time we should make our first diagnosis of mite levels within our colonies. Do you need to treat now? How will you know if you don't test? The goal is keeping high numbers of healthy bees so they can raise high numbers of healthy bees and go into winter with strong, healthy colony populations. It's much harder for small colonies to over-winter successfully and it's even harder if they carry a high viral load. Getting rid of the mites as early as possible enables the bees to raise cycles of healthy brood before the winter brood break.

Do you need to feed your hive? I cannot make that determination for your hive unless I examine your hive. In late summer, nectar sources can become scarce. In late fall, nectar sources can become scarcer. Honey is the best food for bees but when in doubt, fall feeding is rarely a bad thing. (NEVER open feed. You can ask me why at the November meeting.) Everything about your hive management is a decision based upon the information you'll find inside the hive.

What else will lead to colony health? Knowledge. Now is the time to enroll, enlist, join, or register for beekeeping classes, programs, and events. The Kansas Honey Producers is your state association, offering a wide range of topics at our semiannual meeting to enhance your knowledge of bee biology and business opportunities. These meetings are a wonderful blend of social fun and serious learning! Register today to attend the next meeting in November. Local clubs are great but are just a starting place. Look at those events in your region: Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, to name a few. Consider a winter trip and attend one of the national events. If you have never attended a national conference, you do not know what you don't know! Cutting edge science! Equipment to help you work smarter, not just harder. Technology to help track what's happening in the hive and in your business. Make a commitment. Plan to attend to bring your beekeeping to the next level. A plan to attend one of these meetings is a gift to yourself and your bees.

Last, plan to attend the Kansas State Fair. You never know anything like when you teach it to someone else. Having the opportunity to talk to the public about our favorite insect and the most delicious honey in the world (your honey is the most delicious honey in the world) is rewarding and invigorating. I always leave the fair considering some tidbit someone shared and smiling because of all the silly questions and all the great questions we got to answer. The Kansas State Fair is a learning opportunity for everyone!

News from Northeast Kansas

July 4th signals the end of our main nectar flow. Currently there are few nectar resources available except for soybeans. Rainfall has been generous even in the drier parts of the area. The 2024 fall nectar flow should be above average.

Beekeepers in the NE Region are in the process of harvesting honey, testing for mite loads, and treating if necessary. Reports from different beekeepers reveal quite different results in filled honey supers available to harvest. Some colonies did well, and other areas did not. In some cases, frames in supers were capped and in others, the nectar flow ended before they could be capped.

The NE area is home to a great annual event, Funday, hosted by the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association (NEKBA) on the first Saturday in June. This all day educational and fun filled expo is held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, Lawrence, KS. Joli Winer chaired this year's event. There were approximately 225 in attendance with speakers from around the country. Vendors from around the region were onsite as well. The highlight of the day was a bee beard contest during a swarm demonstration. Kristi Sanderson and Matthew Brandes volunteered to see who could produce the biggest bee beard. Kristi was the clear winner with bees favoring her queen from both swarms! Better luck next time Matthew! Success is in the Queen and her pheromones. Other events included a quilt raffle, donated by the L'il Red Hen Quilt Shop, 7 South Agate St., Paola KS and a silent auction with proceeds going towards future Funday events and the club's scholarship programs. As always, home-made honey ice cream was served in the afternoon.

Steve and Becky Tipton continue to offer home apiary classes once a month, on Sunday, as well as monthly classes at the Shawnee County Recreation Center in Topeka. If interested in learning from seasoned beekeepers contact Becky Tipton at (785) 484-3710.

Cecil Sweeney and Joli Winer also offer learning opportunities at their home apiary as well. They meet the second Thursday of each month. Contact Joli at (913) 856-8356 for details.

The NEKBA Open Apiary, located at Pendleton's Country Market, 1446 E 1850 Rd, Lawrence, has added a storage shed for tools, bee suits, and wooden ware. Strict rules are being adhered to and outside tools are prohibited to prevent the transmission of diseases. The mentors and students are in the process of pulling honey supers and extracting. Plans include creating a wind break this fall. Joli Winer is seeking mentors to help with sessions. Anyone wanting to attend a session can sign up at www.nekba.org.

State Fair Chair, Kristi Sanderson, has been busy preparing for the Kansas State Fair. SignUpGenius notifications have been sent out to round up volunteers. The fair will be in Hutchinson, KS, September 6th-15th. Those who have never worked in the Kansas Honey Producers booth are missing out on a lot of fun. The booth is in the air-conditioned Pride of Kansas Building. There is a lot of foot traffic, so there is never a dull moment. What could be more fun than being able to talk about honey bees for a 4-hour shift?

Jo Patrick, Northeastern Region Representative

North Central Region News

Hello Bee Friends!

The theme in North Central Kansas these last few months has been Conditions, specifically conditions inside the hive.

It's common for beekeepers to want to tend their hives based on a schedule or calendar, and that just doesn't work in Kansas. External conditions can change rapidly and repeatedly. We've had daily high temperatures these past few weeks anywhere from 72 degrees to 105 degrees. Those external conditions get a lot of beekeepers concerned about their bees. Are they too hot, too cold, need food, ready to harvest?

But our dear honey bees are resilient and our interventions aren't usually warranted by the external conditions but by the internal conditions of each hive. When beekeepers call and ask "Should I start feeding?", "Should I stop feeding?", "Is it too early to split?", "Is it too late to split?", "Why isn't my honey ready to harvest on June 19 like last year?", I don't have an answer for them because I don't know the conditions inside their hive.

Is it an overwintered colony? A recent split? Are there ample food stores? Are the food frames dry and lacking open nectar? Is the colony robust or has it had issues?

Plus, the beekeeper may have 10 hives, with each colony being a different strength.

So, I can't give a flat answer to "Can I stop feeding my hives now since it's warm out?" or "Can I start feeding my bees because it's hot out?" because I don't know the internal conditions of each hive. That's the beekeeper's role.

If you are concerned about your hives because of the external conditions, then inspect your hives and see how they're doing inside. If you find issues then you can take appropriate steps. But beekeeping by the calendar or by the weather just doesn't give us the whole picture of what our bees need from us.

Get into the hives with us at Rolling Hills Zoo on Sunday, September 8 at 2 pm. We'll check for mites, check food stores and queen status, and start preparing for winter.

Nikki Bowman, North Central Region Representative

News from Western Kansas

Lessons From the Hives

Mazanec's have lived on the property we now call MZ Farm for 97 years! The bees, however, are a relatively new "crop" diversification. Gazing out the dining room window, past circles of irrigated grass, wheat, and alfalfa, the apiary can be seen located along a dry creek bed south of the farmstead. Most times of the year, the view is nostalgic, peaceful, lush, and beautiful. Not so much recently. We're still experiencing record heat, record drought, wind gusts over 80mph, and now.... GRASS-HOPPERS!

The perils of the prairie continue. What life lessons can we learn from the hives?

Hang-On! After a wind gust strong enough to blow over a semi swept through the farm, we found a hive toppled, end-over-end, resting on its side, held together only by a ratchet strap. Stunned and disoriented, the bees have since recovered.

Everyone's a little RUFFLED and SASSY when it's windy, hot, and dry! Even me!

Everyone's a little RUFFLED and SASSY when it's windy, hot, and dry! Even me! Old plastic mineral tubs, layered with rocks, old bricks, and sticks are routinely filled with water to support hydration in the apiary. I'd prefer a COLD Ultra.

Chemical reps can be your friend! Text messages, phone calls, office visits – “What can we spray to irradiate the grasshoppers without killing the bees?” In just a few short days this summer, grasshoppers had literally stripped our entire second cutting of alfalfa. The circle of irrigated grass that usually produces hundreds of bales of hay was reduced to only a partial trailer load – with grasshoppers continuing to cling and forage on the bales! Grasshoppers would “spew” out in waves as we walked through the field. Thousands of dollars of farm production – lost!

We had to do SOMETHING! Our chemical rep researched his resources. I pulled information from the University of Nebraska Bee Lab and other resources. One of the most helpful documents I found was from the University of Georgia with a table of common insecticides and miticides, including risk classes for bees from I- highly toxic to III - relatively non-toxic, and the residual time. We settled on a chemical.

The night before the spray rig was to arrive, Vic and I trudged out to the apiary, with head lamps after dark to “screen in” the slumbering hives. Locked in yet ventilated, the following morning, we trudged out again to cover the hives with soaking wet sheets before the spray was to be applied to irradiate the grasshoppers. Later that evening we removed the sheets and screens covering the entries. The grasshoppers have been drastically reduced. The bees are doing just fine! Whew!
Breathe and Just Bee

Brenda Mazanec, Western Region Representative

South Central Region News

We have received some much-needed rain this Spring and Summer, but we are still in a drought. The bees still seem to be making lots of honey from the blooms we have had. Summer dearth is upon us in some areas where some areas have crops like soybeans to get through the dearth.

Dillon Nature Center once again has bees in their observation hive! Members of the Ad Astra Apiary Conservatory installed and are caring for the hive. It has been quite a while since there have been bees at the nature center.

It is getting close to fair time! Time to start working on entries and sign up to volunteer at the honey booth.

Stepheni Phillips, South Central Region Representative

Got any RAIN to spare? May was not much better. In 2019 which is not in this KSU Experiment Farm report, we could not stop the rain until mid-June, then it just plain stopped. At our farm this year, we had 1.22" on May 19th which fell in about 15-20 minutes + hail and a little tornado. What a year!

Little if any clover bloomed in our general area this year which I have not seen this in the 17 years we've lived here. Crazy, but "too" much rain came too fast in some areas maybe 30-45 miles away causing flash floods. I wouldn't like to have that either.

We harvested wheat this year with a swather and baler – no grain to speak of, only straw. This has been a dire year with virtually no snow and minimal rainfall in my immediate area.

I'm looking for some land in Norton County to place hives next year and have a couple of good prospects. The clover and spring blooms have been amazing in the vicinity around Norton for the last several years. Nothing like trying to service hives 80-90 miles from home, but that might be what it takes if history repeats. They have had nice rain the last several years in Norton County while between here and there, it's been dismal so far in '24. Next Year will be our year! I am always the optimist.

Greg Swob, 1st Vice President

Chetopa FFA

During the months of May and early June, Chetopa FFA members Gabe Robison and Harrison Carter focused on strengthening their bee colonies in preparation for the honey flow. While the yield has been less than desirable, the cooler temperatures in July are expected to have a positive impact on honey production (fingers crossed). Earlier in the spring, Gabe and Harrison successfully captured three swarms, increasing their total number of hives to six. Unfortunately, one swarm did not survive due to our inexperience and a failure to recognize a problem with the queen.

If all goes well, we will be harvesting honey from the hives when school starts and plan to enter a couple of frames of honey in the Kansas State Fair this year.

Submitted by: Chetopa Kansas FFA Advisor Jim Nave



Leib 4-H Club Members Learning about Beekeeping

Children are natural scientists. Their exploration sparks a lifetime of learning. The Leib 4-H club conducts a summer inspection and feeding of their hives. Thanks to their leader, Tracy Maxson and their mentor, David Korver.

Submitted by Julie Cahoj, KHPA 3rd VP



KHPA Scholarship Grant



Applications are being accepted May 20-October 20, 2024.



The grant is available to community or school organizations.



The grant includes supplies, bees, and educational supports.



For more information or to apply



**OCTOBER
26th
2024**

**in Concordia, KS
at The National
Guard Armory**

SOAP MAKING WORKSHOP

with Becky Tipton

*Join us for a fragrant experience at
our soap Making Workshop!*

**to secure your spot, you
must register by paying**



KHPA FALL CONFERENCE 2024

I hope everyone has been having a great summer. Kansas' weather is certainly fickle, but this year Mother Nature has gone out of her way to show her bipolar tendency. Traveling all over western Kansas for work, I get to see it all. Lush, tall green pastures and crops and only a few miles farther down the road, burned up brown or hurting fauna. Enough about the weather... believe it or not, it's already time to shop for back-to-school supplies and talk about the Fall KHPA Conference.

Mark your calendars for November 8 & 9, 2024 to meet up once again at the Courtyard by Marriott at 3020 Rifle Dr. in Salina. There must be a lot happening in Salina that week, as our hotel can only reserve a small number of rooms for us. Please do not procrastinate and miss the discounted KHPA rate of \$119.00 per night (plus taxes...) Marriott is making it easy for us this year with an on-line reservation link which we will place on the KHPA website. You may call the hotel directly at 785-309-1300 – be sure to mention you are with the Kansas Honey Producers group.

I'm not a mind reader, but I can tell you're asking, 'so... who is going to be there'? Besides YOU of course, here is a short list of presenters at the Fall 2024 KHPA Meeting: Dr. David Peck from Betterbee is our headline presenter. Topics are being discussed as of the time of this newsletter. Tracy Tucker, MD, Neosho Falls, KS, will discuss her research using herbs to promote her bees' health and working with beeswax. KHPA member, Zach Cooper, Cowley County Community College at their Sumner County campus, will discuss a new pollinator and honey bee research facility being planned on 14 acres of CCCC property.

The KSU Entomology department has been voted as the Fourth Best such department in the US. They have developed Bee Machine® app. Dr. Brian Spiesman also operates a Pollinator Lab at the KSU campus and is planning to visit with us in Salina. KSU is also starting up a student Beekeeping Club. A few more presenters are pending along with a special guest at the Friday evening banquet and some fun times.

An agenda will be posted to the KHPA website as we get closer. As always, this is YOUR meeting so always feel welcome to submit topics or presenters' names you would like to hear from. As always, the lineup and agenda can change at any time.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I certainly look forward to seeing you again. Bring a friend!
Thank you!

Greg Swob, 1st Vice President



Julie Cahoj shared this photo which pretty much sums up her year out in Atwood, KS.

Entry rules & regulations, with tips and scoring for entries:

Art Design in Beeswax:

- Entries must be 2 pounds minimum weight, 100% beeswax: may be more than one piece but must be firmly joined together: may be cast in a mold or carved. No non-beeswax enhancements allowed.
- Color (straw or canary yellow) (20 pts), cleanliness (25 pts), artistic merit (25 pts), originality (25 pts), appropriate weight (5pts)

Beeswax:

- One 3-pound block in any geometric shape, not decorated with all sides smooth.
- Cleanliness (40 pts), color (straw or canary yellow) (10 pts), aroma (15 pts), absence of cracks & shrinkage (20 pts), weight (15 pts)

Beeswax Candles:

- Four molded or dipped candles of the same shape & size. No non-beeswax enhancements allowed, except wick.
- Cleanliness, color (straw or canary yellow), quality of wax (30pts), design & overall appearance (15 pts), finishing details-molded candle wicks trimmed to ½ “and bottoms finished. Dipped candles must have last drip left (25 pts), uniformity of appearance and shape (20 pts), aroma (10 pts)

Chunk Honey:

- Three 1-pound round glass jars: 1 strip of comb the full length of jar packed in honey.
- Uniformity of cut (20 pts), absence of watery cappings, uncapped cells and pollen (20 pts), cleanliness of product-downgrade for travel stains, foreign matter, wax flakes, foam, and crystallization (10 pts), Uniformity of appearance in capping structure, color, and thickness of chunks (20 pts), density-water content above 18.6% and below 15.5% will be docked (15 pts), flavor-points reduced for honey affected by processing (5 pts), container-accuracy of fill and cleanliness (10 pts)

Section Comb Honey:

- Comb honey the bees build in flat round or square containers where a lid is attached to both sides. (Untouched by human processing) submit 3 “rounds” or “cassettes” clear lids on both sides with no labels on sides, or 3 bass wood sections in cardboard carton with window or small appropriately sized bags.
- Uniformity of appearance (20 pts), absence of uncapped cells or perforated cappings (10 pts), uniformity of color (15 pts), absence of watery cappings (15 pts), cleanliness and absence of travel stain (15 pts), freedom from pollen and granulation (10 pts), uniformity of weight (15 pts)

Crystalized/creamed Honey:

- Crystalized honey only, not **whipped**, 3 identical glass jars with net weight between 8 and 16 ounces
- Fineness of crystal (20 pts), color (10 pts), uniformity and firmness of (25 pts), cleanliness and freedom of foam (20 pts), flavor-points reduced for honey adversely affected by processing (15 pts), accuracy of fill and uniformity (10 pts)

Cut Comb Honey:

- Three 4”x4” plastic boxes: cut comb honey piece to be packaged in rigid hard plastic comb honey boxes (4”x4”).
- Neatness and uniformity of cut, absence of liquid honey (20 pts), absence of watery cappings, uncapped cells, perforated cappings and pollen (20 pts), cleanliness of product-absence of travel stain, crushed wax, and crystallization (20 pts), uniformity of appearance-color of honey, capping structure, and thickness of comb (20 pts), uniformity of weight (10pts), container (10 pts)

Extracted Honey:

- Three 1pound glass queenline or classic jars: Also known as strained honey, is separated from the comb by centrifugal force, gravity, straining or other means. All jars must be label free.
- Density-moisture content above 18.6% and below 15.5% will be docked (10 pts), absence of crystals (10 pts), cleanliness-without lint, dirt, wax or foam (40 pts), flavor-points reduced for flavor affected by processing (10 pts), container appearance (10 pts), Accuracy of filling-headroom ½“maximum, 1/4“ minimum with no visible gap between top of honey and lid. Uniformity of filling (15 pts), color (5 pts)

Frame of Honey:

- Shallow (5 3/8”) or medium (6 1/4”) depth frames accepted. Leaking frames won’t be accepted. Frame of honey must be in a display case with both sides visible, case available on request by calling Kristi @ 913-768-4961
- Uniformity of appearance-even comb (20 pts), absence of uncapped cells (15 pts), uniformity of color (15 pts), absence of watery and perforated caps (15 pts), cleanliness and absence of travel stains (15 pts), cleanliness of frame (10 pts), freedom from pollen and granulation (10 pts)

Honey Gift Package:

- Items must be clearly labeled as they would be offered for sale with fictitious labels so as not to identify the entrant. Labels must meet legal label requirements. No wrapping is to be placed on the gift basket. Homemade food items must have the recipe attached to the item. Packages must contain at least 50% producer made items. A note card must be attached that identifies the intended use the gift package. Youth packages may not contain any alcoholic beverages. If the gift package is too large to sit on a shelf for display it will be placed on the floor in the honey exhibit area.
- Originality/creativity (30 pts), quality of products (20 pts), variety, i.e., products from the hive (25 pts), commercial appeal-quality & neatness of packing-visibility of items in basket (20 pts), card introducing gift package (5 pts)

The honey judge will have the final authority to disqualify any items submitted for exhibit based on the above listed rules. If a container is leaking honey the exhibit will be removed from judging and/or display. Neither The Kansas State Fair or The Kansas Honey Producers Association are responsible for items that are lost or stolen.

No, your eyes aren't failing. I reduced this so I could fit it onto a single page. The KHPA site has this information for printing. The pdf file at the State Fair is outdated so please use these guidelines.

Kansas Honey Producer's Association
The Cappings
S. Koehn
P.O. Box 171
Galva, KS 67443

Address Service Requested

2024 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.) \$25.00 _____
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) \$12.50 _____
Donation Amount _____ Total Due _____

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

Mail to: Sondra Koehn, P.O. Box 171, Galva, Kansas 67443 Phone# 972-849-4408 or email- skoehn@live.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.