

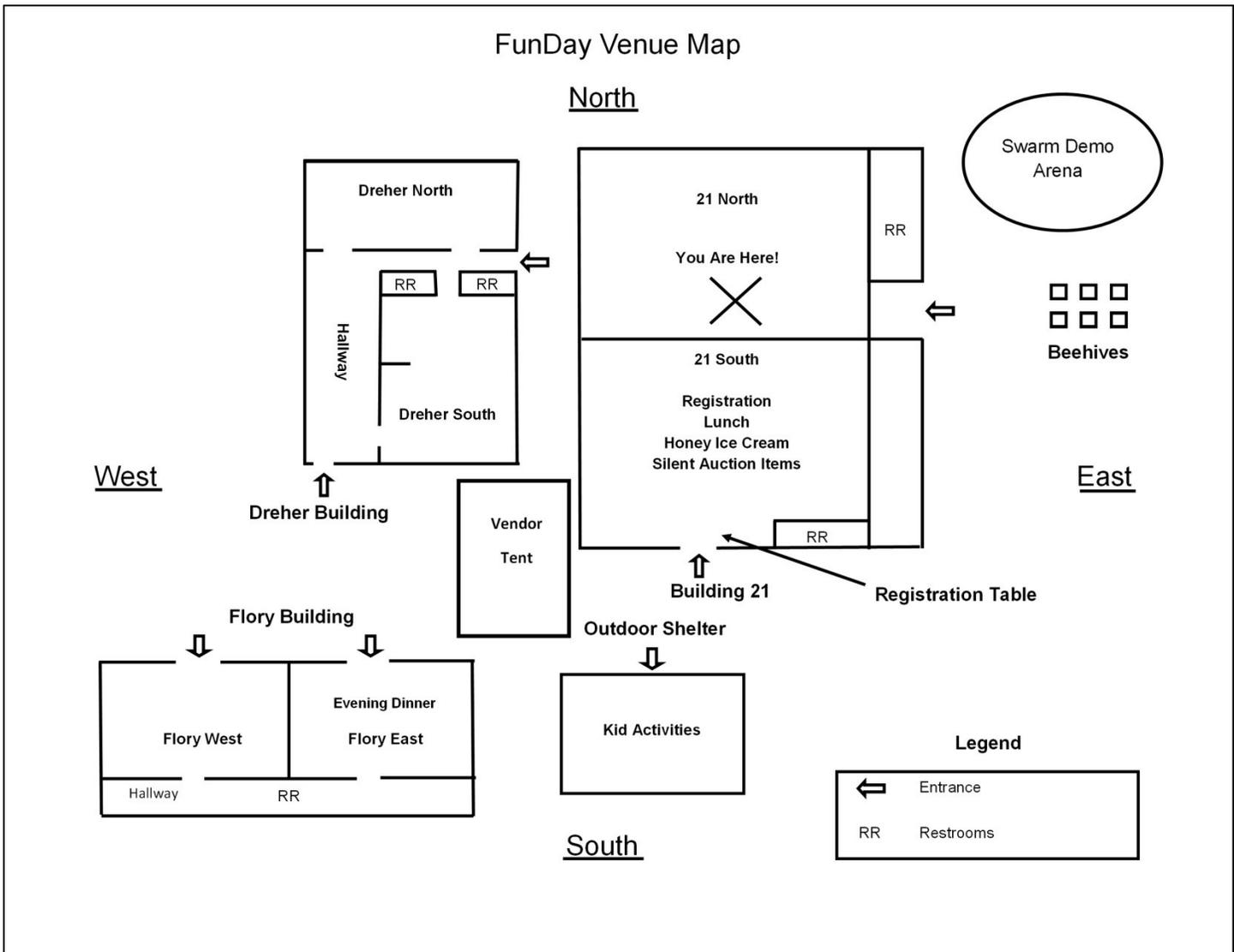
Fun Day 2024



**Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Lawrence, Kansas
June 1, 2024**

Time	Room 21 South	Room 21 North	Dreher North	Dreher South	Flory West
7:30 - 8:30	Registration, Beverages, Fresh Breads & Fruit, Silent Auction Set Up				
8:30 - 8:40		Overview of the Day & Introductions Cheryl Burkhead			
8:40 - 9:35		Tropilaelaps Mite Rogan Tokach			
9:45 - 10:40		Varroa Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda (B) (A)		Making Colorful Cold Process Soap Lisa Opitz (V)	Setting Up a Honey House for Hobby and Sideline Beekeepers John Hill (HillCo, LLC) (B) (A)
10:45 - 11:40		Beekeeping 201 Blake Shook (A)	Investigating Thermoregulation & Clustering in Overwintering Colonies Shelby Kittle (A)	Making Creamed Honey Jessica Popp (V)	Basics of Honey Production Luke Norris (B) (A)
11:45 - 12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 - 1:35					
1:45 - 2:15	Honey Ice Cream Silent Auction Ends				
2:15 - 3:10		Honey Plants Dr. Autumn Smart (B) (A)		Making Lip Balms and Lotion Bars Lisa Opitz (V)	Building and Selling Nucs Blake Shook (A)
3:15 - 4:10		Finding Alternative Treatments to Amitraz for Varroa Rogan Tokach (A)		Beeswax Rendering Jon Chitwood (B) (A) (V)	Queen Rearing Cheryl Burkhead (A)
4:15 - 5:10		Products of the Hive Blake Shook (V)	Using Colony Monitoring Devices to Assess Habitat Quality for Honey Bees Dr. Autumn Smart (B) (A)		
Key: (B) - Beginner (A) - Advanced (V) - Value Added (K) - Kid Friendly					
**Topics, Times, & Presenters are subject to change					

Time	Flory East	Shelter	Apiary	Arena	Vendor Tent
7:30 - 8:30					Visit our Vendors throughout the day! Apimaye
8:30 - 8:40					Beekeepers.com Cedar Ridge Bees
8:40 - 9:35					Dadant HillCo
9:45 - 10:40	Overwintering Basics Dr. Judy Wu-Smart (B) (A)	Kids: Bee an Artist Robin Kolterman (K)	Beehive Basics: Finding eggs, larva, & brood Cecil Sweeney, Kristi Sanderson, Matt Brandes		Hive Butler Next to Nature Farm
10:45 - 11:40	Apiary Set-Up & Inspections to Improve Colony Health and Honey Production Dr. Judy Wu-Smart (B) (A)	Scholarship Students Only Rogan Tokach	Beehive Basics: Finding eggs, larva, & brood Cecil Sweeney, Kristi Sanderson, Matt Brandes		
11:45 - 12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 - 1:35				Swarm Demo Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda Bee Beards Kristi Sanderson & Matt Brandes	
1:45 - 2:15					
2:15 - 3:10	Inspecting with Intent Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda (B) (A)	Kids: Bee an Explorer Robin Kolterman (K)	At the Apiary: My Fair Lady Dr. Judy Wu-Smart *Pre-register as space is limited		
3:15 - 4:10	Honey Extracting Robert Hughes (Beekeepers.com) (B)	Robert & the Virgins Robert Burns (B) (A)	At the Apiary: To Cull or Not to Cull Dr. Judy Wu-Smart *Pre-register as space is limited		
4:15 - 5:10	Finding and Marking the Queen Kristi Sanderson (B)				



- **Apiary** – Please wear protective bee-safe clothing (at minimum a veil) while attending apiary demonstrations. Extra bee suits will be available at the hives for your use.
- **Swarm Demonstration** – In the event of inclement weather, a “Question & Answer” session will be conducted in Building 21 North by a panel of our experts.
- **Door Prizes** – You were given an evaluation form at registration. Your completed evaluation form is your entry ticket. Please complete this form near the conclusion and put your form in the box located next to the door prizes (Bldg. 21 South near the registration desk) prior to the time of the drawings (approximately 5:10 pm). Winners will be drawn at random and you must be present to win. Your evaluations help us to create better events in the future.
- **Silent Auction** - Bidding on silent auction items closes at 2:15 pm after the honey ice cream social. Bidding sheets will be marked by our auction volunteers. You may pick up your winning bid sheet once it has been marked to pay for your item. NEKBA accepts cash, check, or credit card.
- **Donations** – Please consider donating to NEKBA. Our donation box is located at the Registration table. NEKBA is a non-profit organization and we fund student and military scholarships.



Open Apiary Training (hosted by Great Plains Master Beekeepers Program)

The Great Plains Master Beekeeping (GPMB) program (<https://gpmb.unl.edu/>) is a regional education program that spans the Midwest. We partner with beekeeping organizations (such as NEKBA) to bring education opportunities for both new and experienced beekeepers. Our focus is to support local associations and help provide beekeepers with more mentors, resources, and hands-on training opportunities that help promote best management practices which will improve the health of our hives.

GPMB Session 1 – My Fair Lady. Apiary: 2:15 pm – 3:10 pm

Description: Join the UNL Bee Lab team and Great Plains Master Beekeeper mentors for hands-on hive inspections to investigate the signs of failing colonies and to work out whether it is the queen to blame or other colony factors.

***Class duration: 1 hour; Class size limited to 20 people. Pre-register at Bldg. 21 Registration table

GPMB Session 2 – To Cull or Not to Cull? Apiary: 3:15 pm – 4:10 pm

Description: Join the UNL Bee Lab team and Great Plains Master Beekeeper mentors as they examine comb in various conditions and discuss comb replacement, including which, how, when, and what to remove from your operation.

***Class duration: 1 hour; Class size limited to 20 people. Pre-register at Bldg. 21 Registration table

Meet Our Speakers



Matthew Brandes

Matthew is an EAS Master Beekeeper with 5+ years of beekeeping experience. He and his wife Sandi maintain 25 hives in rural NE Kansas. He has a passion for technology and is putting it to use in his own apiary.

Beehive Basics

Apiary, 9:45-10:40, 10:45-11:40

Bee Beards

Arena, 12:30 – 1:35



Cheryl Burkhead

Cheryl Burkhead began her beekeeping journey in 2014. She is the current president of NEKBA and a member of the Kansas Honey Producers Association. Cheryl's work was published in the October 2019 issue of the American Bee Journal. More recently, many of her contributions appear in the 3rd edition of Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping with numerous photos throughout the book and on its cover. She enjoys participating in the state fair where she has been awarded numerous ribbons in the honey show. She is a sideline beekeeper in Berryton, KS, where she manages around 100 colonies. She enjoys grafting queens, gardening, photography, and spending time with area beekeepers.

Queen Rearing

Flory West, 3:15 – 4: 10



Robert Burns

“Never underestimate the power of a field trip experience”, says Robert Burns. During a 6th grade trip to a museum, Robert and some classmates found an observation hive with live honeybees. He and another classmate took an interest in starting beekeeping at a young age. The rest is now part of his history of 50+ years in beekeeping. For 14 seasons, he sold honey and other bee products at the Merriam Farmer’s Market.

Since 2005, Robert has become involved with the urban agricultural farm movement in Kansas City, taking care of the hives as a volunteer at several local nonprofit organizations dedicated to community gardening, and teaching people about beekeeping and harvesting honey in the city and suburbs. He has worked with Larry Lehman and Ken Sonnenschein at MitzvahGardenKC since 2016 as well as

Phil Meyer with Kansas City Community Gardens and several others around the KC metro. He continues to manage many of his own colonies in different bee yards from the KCI Airport to his mother’s farm in Paola, KS.

Robert & the Virgins

Shelter, 3:15 – 4:10



Jon Chitwood

I’ve been keeping bees for 15+ years and still love learning about bees, beekeeping, bee tools, bee gadgets, and bee products. When I’m not working on the farm, I serve on the board of USD 230.

Beeswax Rendering

Dreher South, 3:15 – 4:10



John Hill

My name is John Hill, president of HillCo, LLC. I have been fascinated with honeybees ever since I was 4 or 5 years old, wondering what it looked like inside a beehive, and how bees made that delicious, golden honey. I caught my first swarm of bees at age 16 and have been a beekeeper most of the time since then. Bees are definitely a passion of mine, and now my wife and 4 kids are involved as well.

As I worked towards building my beekeeping hobby/addiction into a full-time business, I was

always frustrated by how expensive beekeeping is. The cost of package bees, nucs, and queens keep getting higher, as does the cost of hive components, honey extracting equipment, etc.

My original intent was to be a full-time beekeeper, not a beekeeping supplier. To save money as I expanded my apiary, I started building my own hives. As I got better at making hive components, I decided to sell some locally for extra income, and quickly realized that there was strong enthusiasm among central Illinois beekeepers for a local supplier. One thing led to another, and just a couple years later, we're now a nationally known, full-line beekeeping supplier shipping product all over the US and Canada!

Setting Up a Honey House for Hobby and Sideline Beekeepers

Flory West, 9:45 – 10:40



Robert Hughes

Robert Hughes has dedicated his life to the art and science of beekeeping. He began beekeeping over 57 years ago in Soldier, KS. Over the decades, Robert's passion for beekeeping has only deepened, leading him to become a trusted expert in his community. Robert is the founder of BEEKEEPERS.COM, Kansas City's only full-service beekeeping store. With a wealth of knowledge Robert has taught beekeeping classes at Johnson County Community College for over 30 years. Robert is known for his generosity in sharing

wisdom, advice, and encouragement. Bob continues to be a beacon of knowledge and inspiration in the world of beekeeping.

Honey Extracting

Flory East, 3:15 – 4:10



Shelby Kittle

Shelby Kittle is a former Nebraska Youth Scholar (2014) and Nebraska Honey Queen (2018). She currently helps manage roughly 100 colonies for research and teaching at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Bee Lab throughout the past 5 years. Shelby is now pursuing her Master's degree at UNL and her research seeks to 1) Better understand how beekeepers can improve overwintering success and 2) Identify ways to stimulate comb production for culling old equipment and spring build up. Before her masters, Shelby did a research project studying the effect of foundation ratios on comb honey production. Her overall goal is to provide information from her research that beekeepers can apply to make more informed management decisions in their own apiaries!

Investigating Thermoregulation & Clustering in Overwintering Colonies

Dreher North, 10:45 -11:40



Robin Kolterman

Robin Kolterman has been a beekeeper for 26 years and has her Master Beekeeper Certification. She particularly likes to work with kids and teach them about God's amazing little creatures, the honey bee. Robin often gives talks to school children and has developed many educational classes and tools. Her classes are always interactive and FUN!

Kids: Bee an Artist

Shelter, 9:45 – 10:40

In this class we will make a fun, individual art project that when completed will be displayed as a group for the enjoyment of Bee Fun Day participants. At the end of the day, you will take your part of the project home. During this fun time, we will also be learning some fascinating facts

about bees and comb building. For ages 5 and up. Younger than 5, please bring a parent. Parents of any age student are always welcome to join in the fun but not required.

Kids: Bee an Explorer

Shelter, 2:15 – 3:10

We will be exploring the garden in search of numerous items to "collect" for our hive. Come have fun learning about bees and their environment while enjoying this scavenger hunt. There will be prizes!!! For ages 5 and up. Younger children may wish to have a parent or older sibling with them to help in the search.



Luke Norris

Luke Norris is the Apiary Manager at UNL Bee Lab. He has been working at UNL Bee Lab since March of 2020. Luke has been a hobby beekeeper since 2016. He enjoys learning about beekeeping, teaching beekeeping, and working with bees. His other hobbies are playing music, kickboxing and foraging for edible mushrooms.

Basics of Honey Production

Flory West, 10:45 – 11:40

At the Apiary, 2:25 – 3:10, 3:15 – 4:10



Lisa Opitz

Hi I'm Lisa Opitz and I love to make soap! My husband, Matt, starting keeping bees many years ago. I took a class from a fellow NE KS beekeeper in early 2016. I have been hooked ever since! While I am an accountant in my everyday life, I love to show my creative side making colorful bar soaps as well as other bath and body products. Matt and I started Soapitz-by-Opitz in late 2016 when we had more soap than we would ever need for ourselves. We have been selling thru our website and various store locations ever since. We currently live on 10 acres in Peculiar, MO with several hives of bees...and a parrot.

Making Colorful Cold Process Soap

Dreher South, 9:45 – 10:40

Making Lip Balms and Lotion Bars

Dreher South, 2:15 – 3:10



Jessica Popp

Jessica Popp is a passionate beekeeper dedicated to nurturing bees and bee enthusiasts alike. Jess is Vice President of BEEKEEPERS.COM, helps teach beginning beekeeping at JCCC, is the Editor for Midwestern Beekeepers Association and currently manages over 30 hives. With her expertise, warmth, and dedication to the world of bees, Jess continues to make a sweet difference in her community and beyond.

Making Creamed Honey

Dreher South, 10:45 – 11:40



Kristi Sanderson

Kristi began keeping bees in 1988 as a student at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas. After graduating, her enthusiasm grew, and she continued learning through local clubs and working for a bee supply company. She grew her business *Sweet Prairie Honey* by adding hives and selling honey. Eventually she learned how to make creamed honey from a local beekeeper and attended value added workshops in Nebraska to learn about other products made with honey and beeswax. This enabled her to sell soaps, lotions, balms, and flavored creamed honeys along with liquid honey. In 2006 she obtained a Masters Beekeeping certificate from the Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS). A few years later she obtained a 2nd masters certificate from University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL) Mid-West Master Beekeepers program in their 1st year of operation. She is active in the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association (NEKBA) and the Kansas Honey

Producers Association (KHPA) giving talks and coordinating the honey booth for the Kansas State Fair. Kristi now operates a mentoring service for beekeepers in the Kansas City area and enjoys sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge of bees with beekeepers.

Beehive Basics

Apiary, 9:45 – 10:40, 10:45 – 11:40

Bee Beards

Arena, 12:30 – 1:35

Finding and Marking the Queen

Flory East, 4:15 – 5:10



Blake Shook

Blake started his beekeeping journey 20 years ago at 12 years old as a small-scale hobby beekeeper. Over the past 2 decades, the business has grown significantly with the help of an incredible team. It is now a migratory commercial beekeeping operation with 10,000 hives, a bulk bee supply company (Desert Creek Bulk Bees), a honey packing company (Desert Creek Honey), a chain of hobby beekeeping stores (The Bee Supply) and a commercial bee supply store (Commercial Bee Supply). Blake married his high school sweetheart in 2011 and has two beautiful daughters. He also serves on the National Honey Board and on the board of the American Beekeeping Federation.

Beekeeping 201

Room 21 North, 10:45 – 11:40

Building and Selling Nucs

Flory West, 2:15 – 3:10

Products of the Hive

Room 21 North, 4:15 – 5:10



Dr. Autumn Smart

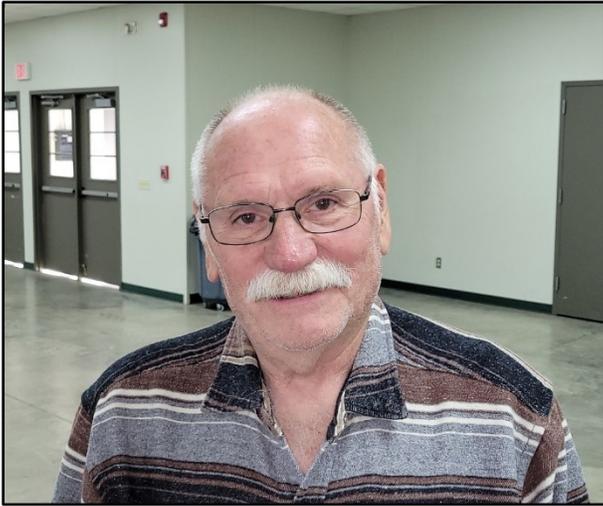
Dr. Autumn Smart is a Research Assistant Professor in the Entomology Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her research focuses on plant-pollinator interactions and how spatial and temporal variability in habitat mediates pollinator health, productivity, and survival of bees. She teaches beekeeping and insect ecology at UNL. Outside of work, she enjoys board gaming and gardening.

Honey Plants

Room 21 North, 2:15 – 3:10

Using Colony Monitoring Devices to Assess Habitat Quality for Honey Bees

Dreher North, 4:15 – 5:10



Cecil Sweeney

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 has become an old “Bee Guy.”

Beehive Basics

Apiary, 9:45 – 10:40, 10:45 - 11:40



Rogan Tokach

Rogan Tokach is a second year PhD student at Auburn University under Dr. Geoff Williams. His main research focuses on mitigating amitraz resistant Varroa mites, but he has also had the opportunity to travel to Thailand to work on Tropilaelaps dispersal, monitoring, and management. Rogan received his M.S. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he worked on assessing the impacts of a pesticide contaminated environment on colony functions under the advisership of Dr. Judy Wu-Smart and Dr. Autumn Smart. He is originally from Abilene, KS and got his start in beekeeping from a KHPA youth scholarship.

Tropilaelaps Mite

Room 21 North, 8:40 – 9:35

Scholarship Students with Rogan

Shelter, 10:45 – 11:40

Finding Alternative Treatments to Amitraz for Varroa

Room 21 North, 3:15 – 4:10



Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda

Dr. Tsuruda is an Assistant Professor and the Apiculture Extension Specialist at the University of TN, where she runs the TN Master Beekeeping Program and conducts research on colony management and foraging resources. She received her Ph.D. from the University of CA, Davis and has studied foraging, physiology, & behavioral resistance against Varroa. She is the chair of the Heartland Apicultural Society, president of the Tennessee Entomological Society, a board member of FieldWatch, & a past president of the American Association of Professional Apiculturists.

Varroa

Room 21 North, 9:45 – 10:40

Swarm Demo, 12:30 -1:35

Inspecting with Intent

Flory East, 2:15 – 3:10



Dr. Judy Wu-Smart

Dr. Judy Wu-Smart (Associate Professor & Extension Specialist) received her MS at Washington State University under the advisement of Drs. Steve Sheppard and Carol Anelli and a PhD from University of Minnesota with Dr. Marla Spivak. She has been the director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bee Lab since 2015. At UNL, she and her team have been developing a robust pollinator health program for the Midwest region to help beekeepers, scientists, policy makers, and land managers understand the underlying stressors challenging bee health, such as improper management of pests and diseases

and exposure to pesticides. 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.

Overwintering Basics

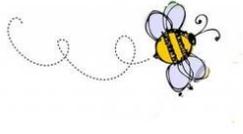
Flory East, 9:45 – 10:40

Apiary Set-Up & Inspections to Improve Colony Health and Honey Production

Flory East, 10:45 – 11:40

At the Apiary, 2:15 – 3:10, 3:15 – 4:10

Thank you!



Door Prizes Compliments of:

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- \$10 off each deep or medium super (Coupon code: KSFunday10)
- \$10 off each bottom board (Coupon code: KSFunday10)

Coupon codes will be available until June 9th. All items will be shipped to the customer's address. While the \$25 coupon is valid for all 10 frame Ergo hives, if you plan to purchase a larger hive, it is cheaper to buy a single box hive and buy the supers so you can have \$35 or more discount per hive based on the setup.

Hive Alive inventory is 50% off with the coupon HA50 with the purchase of any Apimaye hive or super.

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2 OZ	700	\$315.00	\$267.75
8 OZ	500	\$215.00	\$182.75
12 OZ	356	\$168.00	\$142.80
16 OZ	260	\$135.00	\$114.75
24 OZ	185	\$139.00	\$118.15



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8 OZ	575	\$200.00	\$170.00
12 OZ	380	\$190.00	\$161.50
16 OZ	290	\$160.00	\$136.00
24 OZ	190	\$138.00	\$117.30
32 OZ	159	\$122.00	\$103.70



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