



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

We wanted to provide a quick update on the legislative front. A small team is working to organize "Honey Bee Day" at the Kansas Capitol in Topeka. This event aims to raise awareness about the bill that would eliminate the commercial kitchen requirement for selling honey and honeycomb for small and mid-size beekeepers in retail settings, aligning Kansas with Missouri's current law.

Another key goal is to highlight the importance of honey bees and pollinators to Kan-

sas's environment and economy. Even if the bill passes, we plan to make this an annual event at the Capitol. We want legislators to think of us (KPHA) when discussing bills related to pollinators, knowing they can reach out to us as a resource.

The event is tentatively scheduled for early February, with official confirmation to follow in the next newsletter. We plan to give legislators small jars of honey from KPHA and NEKBA and information about the bill. We will

have a booth for the general public to receive honey straws and educational materials about pollinators and honey bees.

We encourage individuals in the area to join us that day, either by helping at the booth or personally delivering a jar of honey to their representative. More details on how to sign up will be provided in the next newsletter or via a separate email.



Thank you to all who volunteered at the Kansas State Fair. We had an excellent group of volunteers for setup, labeling, educating, selling, teardown, and packing away fixtures. It was a lot of hard work but also good times were had and much conversation and laughter.

We had some new winners in the Honey Show. Congratulations to Zach Cooper and the Prairie Hills Middle School Bee Club for winning the sweepstakes award. Congratulations to Stepheni Phillips for winning best tasting honey in the state of Kansas. Thank you to everyone who entered to help make this year's show a success.

I look forward to working with everyone again at the 2025 Kansas State Fair which takes place September 5-14.

Kristi Sanderson, 2nd Vice President

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Becky Tipton

I had the pleasure of attending the Kansas Ag Summit this past month, held in lovely Manhattan, Kansas. The event took place in the Alumni Center at the South edge of the campus. I hadn't been to K-State in years, and it is even more beautiful than I remembered. The event was a huge success, drawing together agriculture leaders in both government and private sector. I attend these events to represent Kansas beekeepers. We are a tiny industry in comparison to other commodities, but WE understand the value of honey bees much better than other ag leaders. I try to spread a little knowledge and respect for the humble honey bee and the hard-working beekeepers of our state.

Did you know.... Kansas corn is king, bringing in a whopping \$4.2B in cash receipts. Wheat and Soy vie for the second spot at \$2.2B. We grow over half the grain sorghum produced in the USA and about \$1.1B worth. Dairy is slightly less, \$1B with about 2,790 gallons per dairy cow average! One of our crop specialists talked about changing from crops needing more water to upland cotton. Sorghum was also on the rise because of its ability to thrive in low water conditions. If corn is king, it may be about to lose its crown in Kansas because of the quantity of water needed to grow it. Several speakers mentioned the huge concern of diminishing water/increased drought and the continued draining of the Ogallala aquifer. It is alarming. Of these crops, cotton and soy may both be pollinated by honey bees. The dairy industry depends upon honey bee pollination indirectly. Alfalfa, a popular choice in dairy feed, is pollinated by honey bees. Need alfalfa seeds, need honey bees.

The Kansas Ag report estimates that we have about 7,000 hives in Kansas and produce nearly 400,000 pounds of honey. Doing the easy math, if sold at \$10/pound, that would amount to \$4M in cash receipts. Only those of us selling in small quantities or specialty markets claim that per pound price. These numbers do not reflect some very important considerations. The hive count in Kansas varies with the actual time the count was taken and if some of the few commercial beekeepers were in the state on that day. No one having fewer than 5 hives is counted. We know that it is also likely that a good number of the hobby beekeepers with more than 5 hives were not included either (easy to miss them). The value of the honey represents a good portion of the honey bees worth, but much of their value is derived from pollination work. Cornell University estimates \$15B increased ag revenue is attributed to the honey bee. This does not consider the tremendous value to home gardens and the pollination of wild plants benefiting both human and wildlife populations.

Buck Bradley and a small committee of NEKBA and KHPA members are working on a Honey Bee Day at the Kansas Capital for our state legislators. We hope to raise awareness of the value and need for honey bees, strategies to protect our pollinators including honey bees, and support for Kansas beekeepers through the proposed bill changing the commercial kitchen laws as they pertain to honey and small producers. If you see Buck (liaison for the Military and Veterans mentorship program for NEKBA and member of the legislative committee for KHPA) thank him for spearheading this project.

Interested in learning about Honey Bees throughout the state and supporting all Kansas Beekeepers? Join us at the KHPA meeting in Salina in November. I am

pleased to note that we are finally getting back to meeting strength. The joy and energy of these gatherings is exciting and the information shared is so valuable.



Title: Bee-Friendly Policy & Advocacy Training for Beekeepers

Synopsis: Frustrated with the lack of support for beekeepers? Annoyed by the lack of action to help our bees? Join the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bee Lab for a 3-hour professional development workshop that focuses on demystifying the legislative process and teaches beekeepers how to make meaningful connections with local and state policymakers. We will break down the steps and simplify the process, so you feel more empowered and prepared to engage effectively with legislators and their staff, who can, in turn, introduce new policies that support bee-friendly practices. The One Hive Foundation is offering travel grants of up to \$2,500 for workshop attendees. If you are interested in applying, please email Gioia at gperugini@hembar.com for more information.

News from Northeast Kansas

The NE KS area was well represented at the 2024 Kansas State Fair Honey Show. In eleven out of the sixteen honey show categories, one or more beekeepers from the Northeast region earned honors in the top three spots. In the Youth Division, Extracted Light Honey, NEKBA Youth Scholarship students placed in the top three.

Plans for NEKBA Funday 2025 have already begun. Amy Vu, University of Florida, will speak next year. She is originally from Kansas and is the UF/IFAS State Specialized Program Extension Agent in Apiculture, where she oversees all Extension activities related to honey bees and beekeeping. She also runs the University of Florida Master Beekeeper Program.

Becky and Steve Tipton are wrapping up their beekeeping classes for the year on October 16th. The free classes are held at the Shawnee County Community Center in Topeka, KS. Over the years the Tipton's have created a solid educational program that has motivated many to become successful beekeepers.

Over a dozen new and experienced beekeepers attended the NEKBA Open Apiary honey harvest on Sunday, August 18th. Matthew Brandes hosted the event at his certified kitchen near Wellsville, KS. Two hundred and seventy pounds of honey were harvested that day and is being bottled and sold. The proceeds will go back into the program. Organizers Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney, returned the supers to the hives for the bees to clean up, and right away, the bees

began filling the supers again with more honey. The Open Apiary is located at Pendleton's Country Market, Lawrence, KS. The area is in rich farmland. Cecil and Joli attribute the bonus honey from the soybeans in bloom.

September inspections at the Open Apiary demonstrated the importance of mite testing before and after treatments. Mite levels were still unacceptable after treatments with Formic Pro. An additional round of treatments is in place, this time using Apiguard, in hopes of bringing mite counts down to an acceptable level. Plans for the Open Apiary include building a windbreak and limiting colony numbers to ten.

In early October, the Open Apiary was a meeting sight for members of a local farm-to-market group, Growing Lawrence. NEKBA members used the opportunity to promote their organization and explain how growers and beekeepers can work together.

Local fall festivals, craft fairs, and farm tours are plentiful in the region. These events are creating opportunities for beekeepers to market their products and educate the public.

Jo Patrick, Northeastern Region Representative



North Central Region News

Hello Bee Friends!

The North Central beekeepers have had some great times working bees together at the Rolling Hills Zoo in Salina and at the GPMB Open Apiary at the SAVE Farm in Riley.

The biggest lessons we've had this quarter are to not only test for varroa mites on a regular basis, but also the importance of repeating the test when the mite treatments have ended to check if they were effective.

This last month, we've had multiple hives with different mite treatments have their varroa mite counts stay the same or even increase after treatment. Without catching this need for further treatment, beekeepers may falsely believe that one mite treatment is sufficient and then lose their bees.

I am proud of all of the beekeepers who have made a habit of mite testing and we've had great discussions about follow-up treatment options. Those extra few minutes of testing, and an extra treatment or two for a few dollars, can greatly increase the odds of your bees surviving over winter. As Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda said at NEKBA FunDay this year, honeybee colonies are a perennial,

not an annual. It's up to us to do all we can for them and it may only take a few extra minutes of time.

We have two Open Apiary sessions remaining in October. We will resume meetings at Rolling Hills Zoo in January. Contact me at NikkiBFarm@gmail.com for details.

Nikki Bowman, North Central Region Representative

News from Western Kansas



Lessons from the Hives

Yes, It's still hot and dry here in NW Kansas! So, we packed up the bees and they went on a vacation.

I call it "from a pile to a purpose." Meet our mobile pollinator unit, named Honey!

No one knows for sure when this old 61 Chevy truck was last driven... but we pulled it to the farm shop and Vic did a quick tune up. In the tree row behind the house, we found the old stock racks, however, the front panel had been previously robbed for another project. No problem - we weren't "hauling stock" just deterring vandalism.

With a few "sputters" and a "clunk" we drove the old truck, loaded with bee hives to the edge of a neighbors irrigated soybean field. The only place for miles with blooms for foraging and a bit of water. The relocation went without a hitch and each hive inspection after the move indicated increased vitality! Yes!

The return trip back to the apiary was a bit more eventful when the old truck initially wouldn't start then decided to die about a mile from home. Chained to the tractor I pulled my pollinators to the top of a hill in the pasture. Vic, a tad grumpy, instructed me to move the tractor out of the way and he would coast to the bottom of the hill. I asked if the brakes worked? He didn't know, but I wasn't going to argue at this point. I think I held my breath the whole time as I watched my husband, load of bee hives, and the old truck bump and sway picking up speed then coming to a stop at the bottom of the hill.

Five hours later the old truck is now parked waiting for a new fuel pump and the bee hives are all set-up for the fall season, back home, thriving!

Sometimes ya just need a wild ride, change of scenery, good food, and a refreshing beverage! Breathe and Just Bee.

Brenda Mazanec, Western Region Representative

South Central Region News

The dust has settled on the State Fair and temperatures are all over the place. Some days we have record heat followed by cooler days. The fall flowers are almost finished. Honey harvests are finishing up and time to prepare for winter. Treating and feeding the bees, if necessary. Fall and Winter are great times to make different things from the products bees make. There are quite a few books and online resources with recipes to try. Happy experimenting!

Stepheni Phillips, South Central Region Representative

Southeast Kansas News

Happy Fall from Dry Southeast Kansas.

Beekeepers in SE Kansas have been pulling honey supers, extracting honey, and preparing hives for winter, including feeding as needed.

Clubs are presenting programs about mite treatments, frame and box storage, and winter preparation. They are also making plans for Beginning Beekeeping Classes for late winter/early spring.

Southeast Kansas had a few entries at the State Fair. Not as many as we had hoped for, but there is always next year. We will be talking up the Fair between now and August.



On October 3rd, Dave Korver and I were asked to make a presentation to 120-5th graders in conjunction with The Conservation Field Day. The day started out crisp, but warmed up quickly. At 9:00 am the big, yellow school buses started arriving. Lots of happy little voices were heard. Nine stations were set up around the perimeter of a small community building in our small town. We took an observation hive and boy was it a HIT!! The kids loved seeing the bees moving around inside the hive. The Queen was elusive during the first two or three presentations, but she finally made an appearance.

The Conservation group fed everyone hotdogs, chips, chocolate chip cookies, and water for lunch. By 1:30, all groups had been through our station and were loaded back on the bus to go back to school. In the hands of each teacher was a honey stick for each student -an incentive to behave on the way back to school. The students were very respectful, polite, and very conscious of leaving no litter around when they left.

I think we will do it again, if we are asked in the Spring for 3rd graders. These are our future beekeepers so let's get them started young. See everyone in Salina in November.

Rhonda Heston, Southeast Region Representative

Fall 2024 KHPA Conference

Another year has flown by as here we are in the 3rd quarter of 2024 already. That means so many things – fall/winter preparation for hives is or should be underway, start planning for 2025, winter work repairing/culling hive components, upcoming holidays and ringing in a new year before we know it.

I hope your 2024 year was a good one. I don't need to repeat issues over lack of rain in so much of the state. Here in the central/western part of KS we've had such a crazy mix of almost no rain or too little too late depending on location.

Fall conference is right upon us, just a few short weeks away. Courtyard by Marriott at 3020 Riffle Dr. in Salina, Nov. 8 & 9th. The hotel has been undergoing some remodeling and landscape work. They hoped to have their new communication system installed in time for our meeting. A state-of-the-art audio/visual system would help make our meeting that much greater and that was their plan. As of this writing, I do not believe it is in place yet.

Dr. David Peck of Better Bee is our main guest speaker. He has several presentations to offer us. The committee is still choosing topics from his files at this moment. We are pleased to have several government agencies speaking with us also. "From the Land of Kansas" will help us discuss marketing tips they can offer for those who did get a nice honey crop. The Ks Dept. of Agriculture, Food Safety Inspection Division, will visit with us on state inspected food processing facilities and kitchens. Some beekeepers will need a license to sell honey in stores or to blend certain products into their honey.

From the federal side, USDA will show us how ELAP – Emergency Livestock Assistance Program might help with some of the financial burden from losing colonies from a variety of issues. We at KHPA have a great relationship with Barkman Honey, one of the largest honey packers in the US. They will visit with us about their business and about the great laboratory they have on site. Barkman donates a lot of the honey containers we offer to the public at the KS. State Fair, so we owe them a huge *Thank You* for their generosity.

Some of us have made Mead, honey wine, or are interested in experimenting with it. Jay Francis from the Topeka area, will spend a generous amount of time with us on that subject. While the basics of Mead are simple, there is more under the cork than one could imagine!

Setting up hives for winter in Kansas varies on the beekeeper; their environment, personal tastes, concerns... Kansas is a varied state from one end to the other and as East meets West in this discussion, we will learn about methods used successfully by the Tipton's, just north of Topeka and Julie, out where Colorado, Nebraska, and Kansas meet.

A popular time at our meetings is the open panel discussion. It's an opportunity to pick up tips and suggestions from the pros. We in Kansas are quick to share hints, tips, and helpful aids with one another. This is a great time to get those curiosities answered. Dr. Peck is excited to be part of our panel. Don't forget some fun at the banquet Friday evening – fund raising auctions and such for our Grant Program.

We will have Jim Radars from Dadant with us along with an assortment of products from Better Bee on hand to take care of your tool, medication, and equipment needs. So, there is something for everyone! As always, please let us know your desires for topics and we will do what we can to deliver the goods. Bring a friend and see you soon!

Greg Swob, 1st Vice President

Chetopa FFA

Chetopa FFA, 2022 KHPA Grant recipient continues to excel in their beekeeping adventure. Early September, members Gabe Robison and Harrison Carter, with support from their classmates, successfully processed and marketed over 40 pounds of honey. Later that month, the chapter was a big help at the Kansas State Fair Honey booth. Gabe and Harrison also entered two frames of honey and four bottles of honey in the State Fair.



After harvesting the honey, the team also gained valuable experience by treating the hives for mites—marking their first hands-on exposure to mite management. FFA Advisor, Jim Nave, shared that there is growing excitement surrounding the beekeeping project. The chapter has expanded from a single hive to six, reflecting significant progress and enthusiasm for the future.

Submitted by Julie Cahoj, KHPA 3rd VP



**OCTOBER
26th
2024**

**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**

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

The following proposed changes to the KHPA By-Laws will be voted upon at the Fall 2024 KHPA conference. UNDERLINEPRINT= INSERT OR ADD; LINE THROUGH=STRIKE OUT.

Submitted by Kristi Sanderson 2nd VP KHPA Executive Board

Article VIII-Bee Yard Operation Guidelines Section 11

CURRENT WORDING:A bee yard manager will be compensated for work associated in maintaining the bee yard and honey production with a 50 % share of all honey products produced by the KHPA hives and all beeswax cappings and surplus bees beyond those needed to the KHPA equipment filled and in production.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:A bee yard manager will be compensated for work associated in maintaining the bee yard and honey production with a 50 % share of all honey products produced by the KHPA hives.All beeswax cappings and surplus bees beyond those needed to the KHPA equipment filled and in production belong to the yard manager as well.

IF ADOPTED WILL READ:A bee yard manager will be compensated for work associated in maintaining the bee yard and honey production with a 50 % share of all honey products produced by the KHPA hives.All beeswax cappings and surplus bees beyond those needed to the KHPA equipment filled and in production belong to the yard operator as well.

Rational:All beeswax cappings and surplus bees beyond those needed to keep KHPA equipment filled and in production will be the property of the bee yard manager.

KHPA FALL CONFERENCE 2024

Kansas Honey Producers Association Conference November 7 – 9, 2024 * Courtyard by Marriott – 3020 Riffle Dr. – Salina

Block of Rooms at \$119 have been set aside until Oct. 20th. Call to make your reservations – mention Kansas Honey Producers to get discounted room rates. 785-309-1300.

Thursday, November 7

8:00 PM– Executive Committee meets – general meeting room - open to all KHPA Members

Friday November 8

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM Registration and Silent Auction Set Up

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM Becky Tipton, President KHPA – Welcome & Announcements

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM Dr. David Peck of Better Bee – Collective Intelligence & Honeybee

Dance Language

**** Break **** Visit Vendors **** Network

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM KS Dept. of Ag - Food Safety & Lodging Division – Selling Honey: Proper Labeling – When is an Inspected Food Processing Facility needed? – Basic Requirements

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM Julia Smith – Harvey County Executive Director, USDA – Emergency Livestock Assistance Program & Honeybees

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch – Bid on Silent Auction Items - Visit the Vendors

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM Robin Dolby – Marketing Director, From the Land of Kansas®

Program Overview

**** Break **** Visit Vendors **** Network

2:00 PM– 2:45 PM – Eric Winger – Brent Barkman – Our Very Good Friends at Barkman Honey

2:45 PM -3:15 PM - Area Regions Meet – Nominations for Area Directors, Networking...

**** Break **** Visit Vendors **** Network Silent Auction ends at 3:00

3:30 PM – ? Jay Francis takes a deep look at the World of Mead

6:30 PM - Dinner – Banquet – Special Guest Presentation – Awards – Fun

Note: Timeline and Topics subject to change

Saturday November 9

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM Registration and Silent Auction Set Up
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM Becky Tipton, Pres. KHPA – Welcome & Announcements
(Note- Jim Raders with Dadant will leave right at lunch)
9:00 AM– 9:45 AM – Dr. David Peck – Oxalic Acid Updates
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM – Business Meeting – legislative Update
**** Break **** Visit Vendors **** Network
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM – Dr. David Peck – How To Make & Over-winter Double Nucs
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM – Open Panel Discussion
Network
2:00 PM – 2:45 PM – East Meets West – Overwintering in Regions of Kansas – Julie Cahoj & Becky Tipton
**** Break **** Visit Vendors **** Network Silent Auction ends at 3:00

Be sure to make payment for your auction items before removing them.
Adjournment. See you in 2025!

Registration form will be on the KHPA Website: www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Register and pay online: www.kansashoneyproducers.org or mail this lower portion with payment:
Number Attending _____ X \$70.00 - Both days = \$ _____ Lunch Friday & Banquet -&

Saturday Lunch

Number Attending _____ X \$40.00 - Friday only \$ _____ Lunch & Dinner included

Number Attending _____ X \$30.00 – Saturday = \$ _____ Lunch

Ks Honey Producers Association annual dues (\$15) \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Total \$ =====

Names attending - _____

Students under age 18 no charge- names: _____

Submit paper payment to: KHPA – PO Box 171 - Galva, KS 67443 ** email: skoehn@live.com

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.