



BEE LINE

on Honey Notes

June 2015

Dear Idaho Honey Producers

Help Promote our Industry

The summer months are full of many special events in communities throughout Idaho. It might be a county fair, summer tour that includes a stop by your honey operation, or a Farmer's Market. All of these and many more venues are great ways to promote Idaho's honey industry. You can contact the Idaho Honey Industry Association office in Meridian and request recipes or honey industry materials to distribute. Be sure and let the staff know the approximate number you will need. Contact our office at 888-0988 or by email (joanne@amgidaho.com) to learn more about what is available. The Idaho Honey Industry display will be at Canyon County Fair, Western Idaho Fair, and Twin Falls County Fair. We are always pleased to have the opportunity to partner with you in providing honey information to the public.

Andrew Puckett, President

Idaho Honey Commission

The Idaho Honey Commission held a conference call in early June. The purpose of this call was to give approval to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to move forward with the plans for an MOU between the Honey Commission and Association Management Group in Meridian for administrative services. We will keep you posted as further developments occur related to this transfer of administrative services.

Year of Pollination

2016 has been declared by the USDA as the Year of Pollination. This current year is the Year of Soils. This is an international proclamation that has been adopted by USDA and Secretary Vilsack. Already we are seeing news releases, educational materials, posters, and promotional materials to elevate the public's awareness of the importance of pollination in providing our food supply.

Leadership Idaho Agriculture

Applications for Leadership Idaho Agriculture are due in the LIA office in Meridian on August 1. If you would like to learn more about the program and the nearly 900 successful graduates, be sure and visit their website at www.leadershipidahoag.org.

Idaho Industry Association Honey Conference

December 3-4, 2015

If you have specific speakers or topics that you would like to see considered by the IHIA board of directors for the 2015 annual meeting in Boise in December, please email the name and or topic to Cindy at cindy@amgidaho.com. The planning committee has been discussing various topics and presenters to bring to the 2015 event.

Randy Johnson was born in Gooding, Idaho on March 27, 1926 and passed away peacefully on Monday, February 2, 2015. He worked for Libby's for 23 years. Randy resigned from Libby's in 1973 after traveling the world as VP with the International Division to purchase honey bees and establish Honeygold Corporation in Nampa, Idaho. Memorials can be sent to Oregon State University Master Beekeepers Program, 4017 Agriculture and Life Sciences Bldg., Corvallis, OR 97331.

Announcing New Steps to Promote Pollinator Health

Posted by John P. Holdren on May 19, 2015 at 09:00 AM EDT

Pollinators are critical to the Nation's economy, food security, and environmental health. Honey bee pollination alone adds more than \$15 billion in value to agricultural crops each year, and helps ensure that our diets include ample fruits, nuts, and vegetables. This tremendously valuable service is provided to society by honey bees, native bees and other insect pollinators, birds, and bats. But pollinators are struggling. Last year, beekeepers reported losing about 40% of honey bee colonies, threatening the viability of their livelihoods and the essential pollination services their bees provide to agriculture. Monarch butterflies, too, are in jeopardy. The number of overwintering Monarchs in Mexico's forests has declined by 90% or more over the past two decades, placing the iconic annual North American Monarch migration at risk.

That's why last June, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum directing an interagency Task Force to create a *Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators*. Today, under the leadership of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Task Force is releasing its Strategy, with three overarching goals:

1. Reduce honey bee colony losses to economically sustainable levels;
2. Increase monarch butterfly numbers to protect the annual migration; and
3. Restore or enhance millions of acres of land for pollinators through combined public and private action.

The Strategy released today and its accompanying science-based *Pollinator Research Action Plan* outline needs and priority actions to better understand pollinator losses and improve pollinator health. These actions will be supported by coordination of existing Federal research efforts and accompanied by a request to Congress for additional resources to respond to the pollinator losses that are being experienced.

Increasing the quantity and quality of habitat for pollinators is a major part of this effort—with actions ranging from the construction of pollinator gardens at Federal buildings to the restoration of millions of acres of Federally managed lands and similar actions on private lands. To support these habitat-focused efforts, USDA and the Department of Interior are today issuing a set of *Pollinator-Friendly Best Management Practices for Federal Lands*, providing practical guidance for planners and managers with land stewardship responsibilities.

The President has emphasized the need for an “all hands on deck” approach to promoting pollinator health, including engagement of citizens and communities and the forging of public-private partnerships. To foster collaboration, the interagency *Pollinator Health Task Force* will work toward developing a *Partnership Action Plan* that guides coordination with the many state, local, industry, and citizen groups with interests in and capacities to help tackle the challenge facing pollinators.

People of all ages and communities across the country can play a role in responding to the President’s call to action. YOU can share some land with pollinators—bees, butterflies, other insects, birds, bats—by planting a pollinator garden or setting aside some natural habitat. YOU can think carefully before applying any pesticides and always follow the label instructions. YOU can find out more about the pollinator species that live near you.

Today’s announcement marks an important step toward promoting the health of pollinators that are critically important to our economy, environment, and health.

Dr. John P. Holdren is Assistant to the President for Science & Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

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