



BEE LINE

on Honey Notes

April 2019

Dear Idaho Honey Producer,

I recognize this is a busy time for the honey industry and beekeepers in Idaho. Travel to California, fighting the weather and the daily tasks of just keeping ahead can fill the schedule from dawn to dusk. The annual meeting in November seems like it was a long time ago and time has gotten away quickly in getting a newsletter to you. On behalf of the IHIA Board of Directors and the staff at AMG, we would like to update you on what is happening.

Rick Waitley, Executive Director

UPDATES

OFFICERS ELECTED: As a result of the board elections, the following were elected officers for the coming year:

President – Brody Tomazin
Vice President – Kendall Brunson
Secretary/Treasurer – Scott Hamilton

RESEARCH SUPPORTED: The Idaho Honey Industry Association Board of Directors voted to support Project APIS m. research this year and sent \$8000 for general research projects being conducting. The funds for research are generated through the annual auction held during the IHIA conference. Thanks to everyone who supported the auction.

NEW AWARD ESTABLISHED: The IHIA Hall of Fame Award was established at the 2018 annual conference. This award will be presented annually at the IHIA Conference. Below are the criteria for the award. Be thinking of a deserving beekeeper who should be recognized, and send your nomination to Cindy at cindy@amgidaho.com.

IDAHO HONEY INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME AWARD

PURPOSE: To recognize individuals who have had a history of service in the honey industry. The individual should be someone who is recognized in Idaho as one who is a leader in commercial or hobby beekeeping in their general area of the state. Service to their community and to their personal career should be considered when making a nomination. Nominated individuals may be a member of the government, a university, an industry, or the private sector.

PROCESS: Nominations must be submitted by November 1 of each year, but they may be submitted at any time throughout the year. The individual making the nomination will include support material about the nominee that will be developed by the IHIA into a profile. Annually, the list of nominees will be reviewed and names added or deleted by action of the IHIA board of directors. Names will be held in the nomination pool for a period of five years.

The IHIA will distribute a ballot to all members of the IHIA Board of Directors for their vote. Each board member will be asked to rank the individuals that they believe deserve the award. Once the ballots are returned, the individual receiving the highest number of votes will be selected as the recipient of the award. Annually, the board of directors will determine the number of awards to be presented.

RECOGNITION: The Idaho Honey Industry Association Hall of Fame Award(s) will be presented at the annual Idaho Honey Industry Association banquet. Each recipient will receive an engraved plaque from the Idaho Honey Industry Association and will have their name added to the roster of the Idaho Honey Industry Association Hall of Fame Award Recipients.

H87: HARVEST EQUIPMENT EXEMPTION UPDATE

During the 2018 legislative session, a bill that allowed hop producers to exempt their hop production or harvest machinery from property taxation was supported by the agriculture industry and passed. At that time, all production equipment used in the harvest of a commodity was exempt by statute, but there were county assessors that were inconsistently evaluating harvest equipment for hops. Through the summer, more examples of inconsistencies surfaced which led to a tour with legislators, the Idaho State Tax Commission and county assessors to provide a better understanding of what harvest equipment is and the different methods used to harvest a diverse number of commodities. One of the commodities that has been inequitably taxed was honey.

This culminated in H87 for the 2019 Legislative Session that clarifies that **all agricultural operations be assessed similarly for farm equipment and machinery**. Though many counties in Idaho have a long history of accurately and equitably assessing harvest equipment, there have been a number of assessors that have rendered evaluations contrary to state statute. They also inconsistently assessed harvest equipment for some commodities and not for others. These improper assessments have been in contrast to the guidelines most counties have followed on harvesting equipment. H87 will provide legislative intent language to **give guidance for assessors** when they may be in doubt. H87 addresses a number of commodities that have been assessed unpredictably. It goes on to state that there may be other types of machinery or equipment used exclusively for the production or harvesting of agricultural commodities that should have received this exemption but were denied the exemption in the past. The most important clarification in H87 is that the **definition of "harvest"** includes all activities **necessary for a raw agricultural commodity to be put into its most basic salable form**. The definition includes on-farm storage of the commodity before it is first handled in the primary channels of trade. H87 passed the House 67-1-2. In the Senate, H87 passed 30-3-2. Since passing through both chambers, H87 has been signed by the governor and will be retroactive to January 1, 2019.

Contributed by Patxi Larrocea-Phillips (AMG)

HONEY COMMISSION NOMINATIONS: The IHIA Board of Directors recommended the following names be sent to the Governor for his consideration for appointment to the Idaho Honey Commission:

Dan Mudd (*currently serving*)
Tom Harned
Sheila Millet

Other members of the Idaho Honey Commission include Phil Puckett and Jay Miller.

MEMBERSHIP: Enclosed is a current membership report through April 2, 2019. If you have not paid your annual membership fees to IHIA, please contact Patty Nottingham in our office at 208-888-0988 or by email at patty@amgidaho.com.

PLANNING FOR SCHOOL TRIPS OR SPECIAL EVENTS: Don't forget to contact the IHIA office for honey promotional materials and give away items. We are always happy to assist you with a quantity (depending upon inventory) of items.

GRAB YOUR CALENDAR: The dates for the **2019 Annual Idaho Honey Conference** will be **Wednesday, November 20, and Thursday, November 21**, at the Red Lion Hotel in Boise, Idaho. Spread the word to your neighbors and friends.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE WEBSITE LATELY? If you have not visited the IHIA website, we invite you to do so. Under "About", you will find educational materials listed and three videos that show you more about the promotional activities of the IHIA. The two videos featuring The Farmstead Corn Maze's honey-related projects are there for your viewing – one dealing with the Honey Zip Line and the other with the Honey Pollination Station. Both are projects sponsored by the Idaho Honey Industry Association. We invite you to visit the website for additional industry information and news.