



BEE LINE

on Honey Notes

August 2017

Notes from the President

Here in southeast Idaho, I have always marked the closing of summer by the beginning of the harvests. I was about in tears and raging anger when I pulled into the warehouse the other day and they were cutting the grain across the road. As we hit the turning of the season and we all find ourselves pulling honey and extracting, may we stop and enjoy the fruits of our labors. Yes, obviously the honey licked off of a hive tool and the fruits which we have helped pollinate but also the growth of a strong colony of bees that we hope will be strong enough and healthy enough to last the winter. I hope the best for you and your bees and hope you are making preparation to meet with us on November 30th and December 1st for our Annual Meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Brody Tomazin
President

Update from Canyon County Fair

The Idaho Honey Industry Association joined with other agriculture groups and organizations to be part of the 2017 Canyon County Fair in late July. The display was inside what is called Ag Country operated by Canyon County Farm Bureau. The display included information about the honey industry and bees that were on the adult and children's quizzes. Director of the Ag Country reported the following: ***Thank you** all very much for exhibiting, helping to setup and tear down, and volunteering to man the 2017 Ag Country Tent at the Canyon County Fair this past week!! The temperatures were very hot but the attendance was up from last year. A total number of 1,653 quizzes were taken and approximately 6,000 people visited the Ag Country Tent over the four days the Fair was open. It was nice to see families working on quizzes together and the amount of younger people wanting to take more than one quiz.*

Fair Board members, the Fair Office and several people from the public commented on how well organized the Tent was and what a great opportunity to showcase the importance and diversity of Canyon County Agriculture. This would not have been possible without all of you.

Roger Batt, Executive Director

Update on Idaho Honey Industry Conference

The Board of Directors has been working to prepare the program for the 2017 Annual Meeting and IHIA Conference in late November and December. Here is a list of presenters that have committed to be at the conference:

Gordon Wardell – Paramount Farms
Ellen Topitzhofer – OSU, Bee Informed Partnership
Brandon Hopkins – WSU
Danielle Downey – Aphis m.
Ralph Jones – private consultant from Idaho

Plan to join us on November 30 – December 1 in Boise at the Red Lion Hotel. Now is the time to look for items for the annual auction that will be held on Thursday night, November 30, to generate funds for the organization.

If you need honey promotional materials from the National Honey Board, visit the website (www.idahohoney.org) or contact our office.

Check out the Idaho Honey Industry website. Information is available to help you stay informed.

REMINDER: 2017 dues are payable now.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250
Northwest Regional Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507
Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov

Regional Contacts:

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- Washington—Christopher Mertz, NW Regional Director
- Idaho - Vince Matthews, State Statistician
- Oregon—Dave Losh, State Statistician
- Alaska—Sue Benz, State Statistician

Honey Bee Colonies in the U.S. Down Slightly for Operations with Five or More Colonies

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2017 totaled 2.62 million colonies, down slightly from January 1, 2016. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2017 was 2.89 million colonies. During 2016, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.62 million, 2.80 million, 3.18 million, and 3.03 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2017, was 362 thousand colonies, or 14 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2017 was 226 thousand colonies, or 8 percent. During the quarter of October through December 2016, colonies lost totaled 502 thousand colonies, or 17 percent, the highest of any quarter in 2016. The quarter in 2016 with the lowest number of colonies lost was April through June, with 330 thousand colonies lost, or 12 percent.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2017 was 586 thousand colonies. The number of colonies added during the quarter of April through June 2017 was 653 thousand. During the quarter of April through June 2016, 737 thousand colonies were added, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter of 2016. The quarter of October through December 2016 added 125 thousand colonies, the least number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter of 2016.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2017 was 240 thousand colonies, or 9 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2017, 806 thousand colonies, or 28 percent, were renovated. The quarter in 2016 with the highest number of colonies renovated was April through June with 561 thousand colonies renovated, or 20 percent. The quarter in 2016 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was October through December 2016, with 60.4 thousand or 2 percent. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through a nuc or package.

Additional information can be found at the NASS website.

Miscellaneous News:

Supporting Future Bee Keepers: The IHIA Board of Directors has allocated two scholarships to Boise State University of students to attend the Oregon State University beekeeping course.

Remember: There is still time to pay your annual dues for IHIA - \$50.00 per person in your organization. You can make the payment by calling Patty at 208-888-0988.

Recipes and Promotional Materials: If you are a member of IHIA and would like to hand out honey recipe books or honey bookmarks at your county fair or local events, please contact our IHIA office to find out what we can provide. These materials are purchased through funds made available by the Idaho Honey Commission.

Looking ahead: Idaho Honey Industry Association will be part of the Meridian FFA Ag Expo in September. They anticipate there will be 3300 first graders from West Ada School District from 150 classrooms. Teachers and students will be presented material about the honey and bee industry in Idaho.