



BEE LINE

on Honey Notes

January 2018

Dear Idaho Honey Producer,

It was great to have over 80 participants at the 2017 Annual Meeting and Conference held in Boise on the first of December. The presenters at the conference provided some valuable information to honey producers addressing many current issues and trends. It was also rewarding to hear from the organizations and individuals that are doing research on projects funded by IHIA. The Idaho Honey Industry Association Board of Directors worked as a team to bring together a great slate of speakers and topics - congratulations on your efforts. Special appreciation goes to our vendors who were present to share about their products and services available to the honey industry.

Rick Waitley, Executive Director

Updates from the Idaho Honey Industry Conference

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: At the annual meeting the following board members were re-elected for another term on the IHIA board: Brody Tomazin, Tom Harned, and Scott Hamilton. Enclosed is a board roster and list of those who have joined for the 2017-2018 membership year (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018).

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VENDORS: At the 2017 Honey Conference we were pleased to have the following vendors in attendance:

Agri-Stor Companies/Gellert	Complete Bee
GloryBee	Idaho Honey Industry Association
Lappe's Bee Supply and Honey Farm LLC	Mann Lake Ltd
True Wood Products	USDA NASS Idaho Field Office
Western Bee Supplies	

EDUCATION/PROMOTION MATERIALS: Those attending the 2017 Conference had the opportunity to secure a variety of educational and promotional materials about bees and honey. These materials were funded through the Idaho Honey Commission. Thanks to everyone for doing your part in promoting the industry through your distribution of materials.

ANNUAL AUCTION: The talents of Phil Puckett and Jay Miller were used again this year as our auctioneers. The auction goal was \$15,000 and, at the time of this newsletter, we have received \$13,558. Funds from the auction will be used for research and IHIA operations. The auction is a fun and enjoyable event that helps to keep dues and registration fees for the conference each year at an affordable amount for honey producers. Thanks to everyone who donated items and made purchases during the auction.

LOOKING AHEAD: The Red Lion, where the conference has been hosted for the past few years, is on the auction block and is anticipated to sell within the next few months. The board was provided this knowledge and planned ahead. We have locked in contracts and pricing for the next three years making sure that an out clause was included in case there is a change in plans for dates or locations. The dates of the conference for the next three years are below:

2018: November 29-30 • **2019:** December 5-6 • **2020:** December 3-4

IDAHO HONEY COMMISSION: During the annual business meeting, Executive Director Rick Waitley reported that the term of Commissioner Jay Miller will be expiring on June 30. Jay is eligible for another term but Waitley reminded the members that a minimum of three names will need to be provided to the Governor for his consideration. NOTE: If you are interested in having your name submitted, please let a member of the IHIA Board of Directors know. In addition to Jay Miller, other commission members included Dan Mudd and Phil Puckett, Chairman.

Jared Stuart, from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture brought a report on the income from assessment of hives in Idaho and also the expenditures to the association over the past year. The current balance in the Idaho Honey Commission account is \$34,437. This has been a very normal account balance for the commission through the years. A complete accounting report of the commission can be found on the honey website at www.idahohoney.org. Thanks to Jared for providing this information and answering questions related to the financial operations of the commission.

Idaho Honey Industry Association Executive Director Report – 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your industry in this past year. The relationship between the Idaho Honey Industry Association (IHIA) and Association Management Group began in January 2009. The current contract for services is \$5,150/year.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING: The 2016 annual meeting of the IHIA was held in Boise in December. Revenue income was \$18,958.00 and expenses for the annual meeting were around \$7,239.00. The 2016 auction brought in \$11,505.00 for ongoing association expenses and research projects sponsored by IHIA. The board clarified that funds generated from the auction would also be used, if needed, for sustaining the association.

2017 IDAHO LEGISLATIVE SESSION: The 2017 Idaho Legislative session began January 9. Each week Rick Waitley, Executive Director, and Benjamin Kelly, Executive Assistant, represented IHIA at the Tuesday Agriculture Lobbyist meetings and Wednesday at Food Producers of Idaho meetings where IHIA holds a voting membership. Several issues were addressed throughout the legislative session and a weekly Capitol Review newsletter was sent to members of the IHIA Board of Directors that kept them up-to-date on issues being tracked by AMG clients. Waitley and Kelly were registered lobbyists for the 2017 session on behalf of IHIA. Total expenditures for legislative activity were \$467.00.

NEWSLETTERS: Four industry newsletters were sent to the IHIA mailing list over the past year. The mailing list is comprised of 307 names or organizations.

RESEARCH: During 2017 a total of \$10,220.00 was invested toward industry research.

INDUSTRY RELATIONS: IHIA was a sponsor for the following events: \$100 to the Food Producers of Idaho Ag All Star dinner held to honor legislators for voting records in support of agriculture issues; a \$300 sponsor for the Larry Brannen Idaho Ag Summit in February; a Blue Star Sponsor for the Idaho FFA Leadership Conference held in Twin Falls with over 1800 high school students in attendance; and the U of I Ag Econ Public Policy Tour for \$100.00. Each of these opportunities gave exposure to the honey industry as a part of Idaho's agriculture industry. The IHIA display was also used at the Meridian FFA Ag Expo with exposure to over 3100 first graders in the West Ada School District. The display was part of Ag Country at the Canyon County Fair with over 76,000 visitors to the fair.

DISTRIBUTION OF HONEY MATERIALS: We have seen a continued increase in requests for honey materials due to rising awareness of the honey industry in Idaho. Copies of honey recipe pamphlets and bookmarks are being requested by more and more groups and for events that inform participants about Idaho agriculture. It is rewarding that the honey industry is included in the requests. Many of these requests come from teachers who have participated in Idaho Ag in the Classroom summer workshops and tours, and from FFA Chapters throughout Idaho who are sponsoring Ag Expos for elementary children. Often times, we have been able to connect the FFA Expo coordinating committee with a local honey producer to have a demonstration bee hive at the activity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The IHIA Board of Directors met by conference call throughout the past year to coordinate activities on behalf of the organization. Meetings were held in the months of February, July, and October. The conference calls allowed interaction and planning by the board. Special thanks to Nick Noyes and Scott Hamilton who served as the convention coordinating committee for speakers and topics.

HONEY ZIP LINE: IHIA participated for the third year in a three-year agreement with The Farmstead Corn Maze and Pumpkin Festival in Meridian in sponsoring the zip-line at The Farmstead. Our investment in this project was \$500 for a three-year period of which we have just completed our third and final year.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: Our current supply of recipe booklets and pamphlets from the National Honey Board, the honey coloring/activity book, and an updated honey industry bookmark talking about honey facts related to Idaho and the bee industry, were available for a cost at the IHIA booth during the conference. We were told that the National Honey Board has not been producing as many materials and so our selection of items has been reduced. We have also secured some honey finger puppets that can be purchased for farm visits and special activities you may have in the coming year.

We appreciate Cindy Pusey, on our staff, for her work and cooperation on behalf of IHIA activities. Cindy handles the production of the IHIA newsletter, correspondence for the organization, and the IHIA convention. Also, thanks to Patty Nottingham, AMG's bookkeeper, for her work on the financial side of operations and Lisa Byce who handles minutes and correspondence on behalf of your industry. Please feel free to contact us at anytime to ask for assistance or for help in promoting events or activities. If you have questions related to legislative or public policy issues, we are available to assist you on behalf of IHIA. We look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

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Benjamin Kelly, Executive Assistant

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