



BEE LINE

on Honey Notes

January 2019

Dear Idaho Honey Producer,

It was great to have over 70 participants at the 2018 Annual Meeting and Conference held in Boise at the end of November. The presenters at the conference provided 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: Nick Noyes, Andrew Puckett and Josh Reisinger. Kendall Brunson, Nampa, was newly elected to the board. Enclosed is a board roster and list of those who have joined for the 2018-2019 membership year (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019).

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VENDORS: At the 2018 Honey Conference, we were pleased to have the following vendors in attendance:

Bee Technologies, LLC
Complete Bee
Idaho Honey Industry Association
True Wood Products
Western Bee Supplies

Beekeeping Insurance Services
GloryBee
Mann Lake Ltd
Veto-pharma

IHIA HALL OF FAME: Congratulations to the following, who are the initial inductees into the Idaho Honey Industry Association Hall of Fame: **Tony and Debbie Noyes, Dale Reisinger and Bill and Peggy Lemmons.** All of those named have made a tremendous investment in Idaho's honey industry. This is an ongoing recognition and we look forward to receiving nominations for 2019.

ANNUAL AUCTION: The "talents" of Phil Puckett, Nick Noyes and Brody Tomazin were used this year as our auctioneers. The auction goal was \$15,000. The auction generated \$11,152. 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: We have locked in contracts and pricing for the next two years at the Red Lion in Boise. The dates of the conference for the two years are below:

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 Dan Mudd will be expiring on **June 30, 2019**. Dan 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 Dan Mudd, other commission members include Jay Miller and Phil Puckett, Chairman.

The current balance in the Idaho Honey Commission account is **\$38,137.18**. This has been a 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 Stuart for providing this information related to the financial operations of the commission.

Idaho Honey Industry Association

Executive Director Report – 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to represent work with your industry this past year. The relationship between Idaho Honey Industry Association (IHIA) and Association Management Group began in January 2009. The current contract for services is \$5,300/year.

2017 ANNUAL MEETING: The 2017 annual meeting of the IHIA was held in Boise in December. Revenue income was \$7,455 and expenses for the annual meeting were \$8,539.36. The 2017 auction brought in \$14,133 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 sustainability of the association.

2018 IDAHO LEGISLATIVE SESSION: The 2018 Idaho Legislative session began January 8. 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 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 2018 session on behalf of IHIA. Total expenditures for legislative activity were \$429.09. One of the most significant pieces of legislation dealt with during the session was Private Property Rights in Idaho. Many meetings and a great amount of time was spent on this legislation to protect the rights of property owners from trespassers on private property.

NEWSLETTERS: Two industry newsletters were sent to the IHIA mailing list over the past year. The mailing list is comprised of 310 names or organizations.

RESEARCH: During 2018, a total of \$17,820 was invested toward industry research. The investment included two projects: \$10,000 to Project Aphis m. and a project conducted by Brandon Hopkins (WSU) “*Commercial Scale – Spring Season Induction of Broodlessness for Improving Management and Mite Control*”.

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 Branen 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. IHIA display was also used at the Meridian FFA Ag Expo with exposure to over 4200 first graders in 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 request for honey materials due to raising 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 that request. 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 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, June and October. The conference calls allowed interaction and planning by the board.

HONEY ZIP LINE: IHIA participated in The Farmstead Corn Maze and Pumpkin Festival in Meridian in sponsoring the zip line at The Farmstead. This year, IHIA entered into a new agreement with The Farmstead and a honey observation hive was constructed to allow visitors to learn and experience the life of honeybees. A local hobbyist manned the booth during peak times of The Farmstead. The new agreement is for five years at an annual expense of \$500/year.

INDUSTRY ISSUES: The IHIA on behalf of honey producers have addressed several issues this past year: Issues addressed were a simpler inspection station process for bees entering the state of CA and private property taxes on equipment used in the production of honey. We continued our dialogue with members of congress and other industries related to the electronic log and hours of driving time for the agriculture industry.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: We have recipe booklets and pamphlets from 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 available for a cost at the IHIA booth during the conference. 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 bookkeeper, for her work on the financial side of operations and Lisa Byce who handles minutes and correspondence on behalf of your industry. In August, Patxi Larrocea-Phillips joined the AMG staff and will be working in cooperation on many of the IHIA organization and public policy issues. Please feel free to contact us at any time and ask for assistance or 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,

Rick Waitley, Executive Director
Benjamin Kelly, Executive Assistant

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