Honey donations requested for Farm Bureau breakfast by Aug. 25

John Benham would appreciate donations of honey to the Farm Bureau Breakfast during the Kentucky State Fair on Thursday, Aug. 27. The donations are needed by Aug. 25.

Last year, over 70 honeys from 120 counties were represented at the breakfast. “It’s quite a sight to see so many varietals of honey in our state at the breakfast,” Benham said.

Donors should contact Benham, who will ship 8-ounce bottles to fill. The Kentucky State Beekeepers Association will also pay for the donors to ship the honey to Benham.

If you have some extra jars to donate, consider bringing them to the State Fair with you too.

JOHN BENHAM, purebarrenriverhoney@gmail.com - Phone (270) 404-0648

Upcoming Events and Tidbits of Info

Aug. 1: Bees and Honey Day. $5.00 admission fee. Classes and vendors. Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, 75 Theatre Court, Prestonsburg 41653.

More information: Trinity Shepherd (606) 889-1790

Aug. 9-14: Eastern Apiculture Society, Guelph, Canada.

More details: www.easternapiculture.org

Aug. 22: Big Bone Lick State Park. Jack Hunt will lead a two-hour bee seminar, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. EDT at the Museum Center, celebrating National Honey Day.

More information: Ossana Wolff, park interpreter, (859) 384-3522

Aug. 20-30: Kentucky State Fair, Louisville.
Aug. 25-30: American Honey Queen Gabrielle Hemesath will be at the Kentucky State Fair Bees and Honey booth.

List your association with new KSBA email

John Benham has opened a new KSBA email account, ksbabeekeeping@gmail.com. If you want to receive KSBA emails, please contact this new email and request to be added to the notifications list. He is experiencing difficulty communicating with Kentucky beekeepers who are not receiving KSBA emails and newsletters. KSBA is trying to improve communications among members. We hope to expand our communications among our members and associations and have a more current website and email list.
Thanks to new KSBA webmaster SHANNON TRIMBOLI

Thanks, Shannon Trimboli, for agreeing to step up to the position of KSBA webmaster!

More people access information online now, and we gratefully thank Phil Craft for his service as webmaster, and welcome Shannon Timboli as KSBA’s new one.

Trimboli is education coordinator for the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning, and among other skills is a potter, a beginning farmer, and maintains a pollinator blog that can be accessed at www.shannontrimboli.com.

Her email is srtrimboli@glasgow-ky.com. KSBA officers, please check the KSBA webpage for your club’s listing, and contact Shannon with new info. Reminder: All updates should come from an association officer.
Varroa mites remain beekeeper enemy No. 1

After you have harvested honey, the work of getting your bees ready for winter begins. For a good overview of how the Varroa mite’s life cycle is intertwined with the life cycle of the honey bee, see Jeff Harris’ video.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2vg59Snt6c&app=desktop

Varroa mites prefer to breed in drone cells because they have more time to have more offspring. The first egg they lay is always a male. The rest are female, and the male mates with them as soon as they mature.

That is the only time they mate, so mated females come out of the cell with the bee. They then look for a large cell with an excess of royal jelly and a five-day-old drone larva right before capping to crawl into, and wait until the pupa stage to start laying eggs.

Varroa mite treatments

Drone frames. Using drone frames to control mites (trap mites) has been shown to help. Put two frames in the top box of your hive on the outside edges of the brood. Remove them once the drone brood has reached the pupa stage and feed them to your chickens.

Once the brood is capped, it can be cut away or the entire frame can be frozen for 48 hours and then returned to the hive.

The only danger with drone frames is not removing them before they emerge! If they emerge, you have just set off a huge infestation of mites.

www.honeybeesuite.com/reduce-varroa-mites-by-culling-honey-bee-drones/

Mites and high temperatures. Mites can’t take the same high temps honey bees can, so they don’t do as well in hot climates as in cooler ones. If your hive gets hot, it may be good for your bees in their fight against Varroa, so think twice before you try to keep your bees cool.

Here is a study done on the effects of heat on European honey bees and mites.

www.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/Place/64133000/PDFFiles/301-400/384-Harbo--Heating%20Adult%20Honey%20Bees.pdf

Many people prefer to use powdered sugar as a treatment. Keep in mind that Jennifer Berry’s research at the University of Georgia found applying powdered sugar twice to the brood nest was only minimally effective. Here is a study on the use of powdered sugar, which can be helpful as another control:


Apivar (amitraz) has good results. It uses control-release technology over a six-week period, which means, in simple language, do not get impatient if you think it is not working. It is just one application, and needs time to work.

Apiguard (thymol) is still effective on mites.

Varroa mites have been resistant to Apistan (fluvalinate) since 2009.

Varroa mites have been resistant to Checkmite (coumaphos) for a couple of years now. Checkmite is also toxic to humans, so if you decide to apply it to control small hive beetle, wear medical-grade gloves and a mask.

Brushy Mountain submitted the paperwork to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture on July 10 for approval to sell oxalic acid. It shouldn’t be too much longer before it will be legal to purchase oxalic acid as a mite treatment in Kentucky.
Kentucky Managed Pollinator Protection Plan

By Tammy Horn Potter

Since May, Kentucky Department of Agriculture officials have coordinated small meetings among industry, university, and association officers to begin sketching out a comprehensive pollinator protection plan for Kentucky.

Much work remains, and one requirement is that we have a public forum (date not determined yet) to introduce the plan when it is in better shape.

These meetings have brought me up to date with some neat efforts by the Kentucky Department of Transportation, for instance, to convert former rest-area sites to Monarch way-stations, and plant more wildflowers. The meetings have also yielded important contacts with the corn, soybean, and coal industries.

As of right now, the draft plan consists of seed mixes, memorandum, and best-management practices that need to be refined. I will make posters to present some of the projects already ongoing for public feedback and suggestions at the Kentucky State Fair.

Goals for the “plan-in-progress” (in no particular order):

2. Increase pollinator habitat on large-scale areas such as surface-mine sites, recreational sites, and highway rights of way.
3. Extension and outreach.
4. Communication, including consideration of electronic voluntary registration of hive location and electronic alerts to spraying schedules.

Please email suggestions to tammy.horn@ky.gov.

From USDA-APHIS report from 2014 Pollen Sample Analysis
(completed June 2015; represents only nine states)

- **21%** of the samples had no detectable contaminants.
- **42%** of the remaining samples had miticides (i.e., fluvalinate, thymol, coumaphos -- beekeeper-applied chems).
- **3%** of the remaining samples contained neonicos.
- **7%** of the remaining samples had herbicides.
- **16%** of the remaining samples had fungicides.
- **32%** of the remaining samples contained insecticides.

1 sample had 15 chemicals.

Harrodsburg bee group says honey bees are “six-legged livestock”

HARRODSBURG, Ky. (Herald) — A new beekeeping group is meeting at the Mercer County Extension Office.

“Honey bees are very important to horticulture,” said Jessica L. Cole, the county’s horticulture extension agent.

Honey bees have been called “six-legged livestock.” While they manufacture honey and wax, their most important role is pollination, transferring pollen from plants’ anthers to stigmas, for fertilization and reproduction.

**NASDA head boosts pollinator awareness**

Barbara P. Glenn, Ph.D., CEO of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, is optimistic about the current state of pollinator awareness.


Recipe of the Month

**Cool Latte**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double-strength brewed coffee</td>
<td>2 cups (470 ml)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>1 cup (235 ml)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 fl. oz. (85g) honey</td>
<td>2 cups (300g) ice</td>
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</tbody>
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In a large pitcher, stir together the coffee, milk, and honey until thoroughly combined and honey is dissolved. Chill. Just before serving, blend mixture with ice in blender until frothy and smooth.

(from Kim Flottum’s The Backyard Beekeeper, 1st edition)
Nectar/pollen plant of the month: Goldenrod, *Solidago spp.*

Beekeepers have a love/hate relationship with goldenrod! On one hand, it often brings a nectar flow that bees will use for their winter stores.

On the other hand, goldenrod nectar, when combined with asters, can also bring a foul/musty odor to the hives that alarm many new beekeepers and disgruntle beekeepers who haven’t been able to get their honey supers off before the goldenrod flow hits!

Honey that contains goldenrod is often dark and can be bitter. The foul odor will disappear the longer the honey ages, but honey can also crystallize a bit more quickly too.

Brent Harrel of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill to get more diverse habitat in place.

According to Harrel, if farmers would delay cutting their goldenrod after the goldenrod has bloomed, “it would be a good thing because the flower can help many pollinators, honey bees too, at a very critical time of their biology.

“From a wildlife perspective and pollinator too, it would be better to mow-burn it just before spring (very late winter) to allow that cover through winter (a mowed fescue field is worthless in the winter),” he continued.

But farmers won’t do that, he says, “so cutting after the goldenrod has turned is the next best thing.”

Here are some thoughts from Harrel:

Set-aside harborages are critical. But note: If they are not maintained or set up correctly, the invasive species take them over.

Just planting 10 species of wildflowers doesn’t do much. You have to kill back what is there and drill in the seed at a rate of over 35-45 native seeds per square foot. Prescribed burns and strip disking are necessary to maintain it.