



KSBA payouts to associations working the Kentucky State Fair Honey Booth in 2016

Bluegrass (2 days)	\$ 646.00
Oldham County (2 days)	646.00
Allen County	323.00
Grayson County	323.00
Shelby County	323.00
Audubon	323.00
Green River	323.00
Capitol City	161.50
Mammoth Cave	161.50
Butler County (Green River Swarm Catchers) . . .	161.50
Nelson County	161.50
 Total payout to associations. . .	 \$ 3,553.00

It pays to work the Honey Booth!

Kentucky State Beekeepers Association treasurer **John Benham** has announced \$53,558.95 in honey and candle sales made during the 2016 Kentucky State Fair at the Honey Booth. Candles represented about \$1,950 of total sales.

KSBA members who sold honey and products at the fair received **70 percent** of the proceeds.

The associations working the booth, and the compensation they received, are listed at left.

From total revenues KSBA paid premiums for the honey, wax, gadget and culinary winners; liability insurance; storage fees; credit card processing; and supplies, such as tasting spoons and candle supplies.

The KSBA, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the American Beekeeping Federation sponsored the week-long visit of **American Honey Princess Tabitha Mansker**.

A portion of these revenues is set aside to support the KSBA Booth and premiums for the 2017 Kentucky State Fair.

A complete treasurer's report will be made this spring.

Report honey bee losses to FSA within 30 days for emergency assistance

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized up to \$20 million in a fiscal year for the **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)**. ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish. It covers losses due to eligible adverse weather or loss conditions, as described further on page 7.

State Apiarist's Report: A busy December

The perception is that December is a slower time of year for a beekeeper, but that is not really true for me.

First, **Dr. Greg Hunt** included Kentucky in a grant he wrote for USDA CARE last summer, and not only did his grant receive funding, it was ranked first of all the applicants.

The grant, briefly summarized, is focused on queen bee diversity, and helps states in the Heartland distribute not only "mite biter" queens but also rear-area queens, and allows for breeding local queens with the "mite-biter" stock if breeders so desire.

The immediate result from 2016 inclusion in **Heartland Bee Breeders Cooperative** has been that Kentucky queen producers have formalized these discussions by creating a new association focused on queen bee genetics and production. **The Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association Inc.** met on Dec. 3 in Elizabethtown to choose officers, discuss bylaws and articles of incorporation, set dues amounts, and conduct the other efforts that go along with creating a new association.

In my opinion, Kentucky is well-positioned to be a good queen production state. Beekeepers can use good quality queens to address a lot of health problems, if American foulbrood is not the problem. Requeening will help a hive deal with chalkbrood and sacbrood, break Varroa mite reproduction cycles, *etc.* So, having an association that prioritizes that skill will be a nice addition to the Kentucky beekeeping industry. If you are interested in joining the Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association Inc., please see the **membership sheet** at the end of this document.

* * *

The next weekend, I attended the **Bee Audacious!** conference organized by Mark Winston in California.

This dialogue-based approach to addressing some of the beekeeping industry's problems was unusual as far as bee conferences go. No PowerPoint presentations were allowed. How refreshing!

We were encouraged to come with an audacious idea. My audacious idea is to create a **Bee Corps**, based on the premise of the Peace Corps and military ranks, building on the tech transfer teams currently in place but expanding these nationally. **Marla Spivak** (U. of Minnesota) and **Dennis vanEnglesdorp** (U. of Maryland) have been successful in getting the funding for three technical transfer teams, but these teams primarily work with

commercial beekeepers. I would like to expand this idea so that we have more teams in all 50 states working on a variety of pollinator-centric topics such as landscape management, queen bee management, even a youth-focused program such as the ROTC program, just focused on honey bees. It will take a lot of beekeepers working with their political representatives and on a national level. Stay tuned!

Also, **Meghan Milbrath** (U. of Michigan) has been working on an idea for a virtual reality app in which non-beekeepers can play a game of taking care of a hive without spending money, getting hot, or even getting stung. We created a GoFundMe account for this game.

I felt energized by the efforts to try to prioritize pollinators in the forthcoming years! Many of us followed up our dialogues at the American Beekeeping Federation Conference in January in Galveston, Texas.

Finally, **MacKenzie Jones**, a Presidential Scholar at Murray State University and former Kentucky Department of Agriculture intern, attended the American Beekeeping Federation Conference as she begins to develop a research project focused on locally raised queen bees.

State Apiarist's schedule

- **Jan. 10-15:** American Bee Federation, Apiary Inspectors of America, and Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, and American Honey Queen meetings at the national conference in Galveston, Texas.
- **Jan. 17:** Paradise Beekeepers Association, Muhlenberg County.
- **Jan. 20-21:** Eastern Kentucky Winter Bee School, Hazard Technical and Community College, Hazard. See details below.
- **Jan. 24:** Evan Brothers' Farm, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Beekeeper Education 2017

Bees store honey for winter; beekeepers store knowledge. Plan now to spend your winter season adding some sweet new beekeeping techniques.



JANUARY

• **Jan. 21: Eastern Kentucky Winter Bee School,**

Hazard, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. EST. **Dr. Ric Bessin**, University of Kentucky Integrated Pest Management director, speaks on Pesticides and Pollinators. **Dr. Tammy Horn Potter's** lunchtime topic will be Veterinary Feed Directives. \$20 per adult by Jan. 13, \$25 at door. Lunch included, family rates available, vendors present. Mail pre-registration to Perry County Cooperative Extension Office, 933 Perry Park Road, Hazard, KY 41701.

For questions about registration or event cancellation: Charles May (606) 436-2044 or cmay@uky.edu.

• **Jan. 21: Ohio County Basic Beekeepers Workshop.**

Ohio County Extension Office, 1337 Clay Street, Hartford. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. CST. Free. **Chris Renfrow**, speaker. Lunch not provided. In the event of bad weather, class will be rescheduled.

To register, call or text Kristi Willoughby, (270) 775-2446, or register online at ohiocountybeekeepers@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY

• **Feb. 4: South Central Bee School.**

Allen County Intermediate School, 720 Oliver St., Scottsville. \$10 per person. 8:15 a.m. - 4 p.m. CST, registration 7:30 a.m. Pre-registration not required. Guest speaker, **Jennifer Berry**, University of Georgia apicultural researcher and lab manager. Lunch not included with registration, may be brought in. Classes in all beekeeping levels, beginning to advanced. Kelley Beekeeping and Dadant vendors will attend with supplies for sale. Contact the vendor directly for onsite delivery of pre-orders.

Allen County Co-Op Extension Office, (270) 237-3146.

• **Feb. 4: South Eastern Bee School,**

Whitley Co. High School, Boulevard of Champions, Williamsburg. **Mike Studer**, Tennessee state apiarist, speaks on myths and misconceptions. Registration 8 a.m. EST. \$20 for pre-registered attendees (by Jan. 30), \$25 at the door. \$30 and \$40 for couples; under-18s free. Lunch and refreshments included. Vendors present.

Directions: Take I-75 to Exit 15. Go east on 25-W 1.3 miles and turn left. Go a quarter-mile and the school is on the right.

• **Feb. 25: Discovery Trek: Introduction to Beekeeping.**

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, 3501 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST. Learn everything you need to get started with beekeeping! \$55 fee includes admission and 20 percent off dining voucher. Dining reservation

recommended, (800) 734-5611, ext. 360. Shaker Village is home to 40 hives that produce spring and fall crops of honey. Learn the basics of setting up your own hives from experienced Shaker Village beekeepers. Topics: The honey bee life cycle, choosing hive equipment and assembly, hive site selection, pest management, beekeeping costs, how to establish your first hives, and what to expect in your first year as a beekeeper. Participants receive a beginner beekeeping book.

Pre-registration required online at <https://shakervillageky.org/event/introduction-to-beekeeping-3/>

For more information, call Merin Roseman at (800) 734-5611

• **Feb. 25: Northeastern Bee School,**

Maysville Community and Technical College, 1755 U.S. Highway 68, Maysville. Registration 7:30 a.m. EST, school 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. All aspects of beekeeping. Lead speaker is **Dr. Clare Rittschof**, assistant professor of entomology, University of Kentucky. \$20 for pre-registered adults (deadline Feb. 22), \$25 at the door, \$7.50 for 12s and under. Lunch included.

Forms to **Bobby Fore**, 1338 Stevens Road, Owingsville, KY 40360, marked to the attention of "2017 Beekeeping School". Make checks payable to Licking River Bee Association.

• **Feb. 25: Small Farm and Garden**

Conference, Franks Building, Boyd Co. Fairgrounds, 1768 Addington Road, Catlettsburg. Free. Lunch not provided. **Dr. Tammy Horn Potter**, Kentucky state apiarist, plus UK extension specialists and agents. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST. Door prizes.

Caution: Google directions may not be reliable. For directions, visit boyd.ca.uky.edu (Boyd County Cooperative Extension website). link <https://www.google.com/maps/@38.3804321,-82.7226268,14.25z> to view online map.

MARCH

March 4: Audubon Beekeepers Bee

School, Henderson County Cooperative Extension Expo Center, 3341 Zion Road, Henderson, KY 42420. Guest speaker: **Debbie Seib**, president of Heartland Apiculture Society. Preregistration \$15 for adults. \$5 for 12 years and younger. Registration at the door, \$20. Lunch included.

More information: Larry Stone, (270) 339-7245 or Jan Powell, (270) 860-2942; or visit www.audubonbeekeepersassociation.com.

See **EDUCATION**, page 5

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

Make America buzz again!

A summary of problems facing honey bees and pollinators, explanations of their significance, and proposed solutions, presented for our incoming President by a University of Alabama honor student.

By Sophia Warner
Blount Honors program student
University of Alabama

Dear President-Elect Trump:

Please save the American honey bee!

Though this small insect weighs less than one tenth of a gram, it carries a large amount of weight in our world. ... BBC News explains, “[bees] are critical pollinators: they pollinate 70 of the around 100 crop species that feed 90 percent of the world.”... The nonprofit organization One Green Planet estimates that 90 percent of crops grown within U.S. borders depend on bees for their pollination. In the United States alone, the apple, watermelon, avocado, blueberry, and orange crop are all 90 percent dependent on bee pollination for their survival.

Keep the economic engine buzzing

It is estimated that in the U.S. alone, honey bees are responsible for \$30 billion each year in crops.

The almond industry, for example, depends almost entirely on bees. California produces around 2.1 billion pounds of almonds each year, which supplies 80 percent of the global demand for almonds. California’s almond crops require pollination from 1.6 million domesticated bee colonies. ... If bees stopped pollinating California’s almonds, the state could not meet the global demand for almonds, resulting in a spike in almond prices. ...

Research shows bee populations have been on the decline since 2006. Over the past decade, these populations have fallen 30 percent each year ... (From

State Apiarist Dr. Tammy Horn Potter: One in every three beehives will die of some reason — disease, pests, pathogens, beekeeper mismanagement, or pesticides),

A recent Ohio State University study found the state lost 80 percent of its bees in the winter of 2015. Bees cannot keep declining by these numbers.

Some major threats

Pesticides, poor nutrition, and parasites have caused the global honey bee population to decline by a full third in the past decade. ... Bees are also dying due to lack of proper nutrition. The U.S. Department of Agriculture found that the increase in temperature due to climate change has resulted in a lower quantity and quality of the protein in plant pollen. Thus, bees are unable to get the nutrients necessary to function. ...

Finally, parasites are also contributing to the deaths of bees. A 2014 article from *The Atlantic* magazine discusses *Varroa destructor*, the Varroa mite, which feeds on honey bees’ larvae and prepupae.

Jeff Pettis, a researcher at the United States Department of Agriculture, calls the parasite a major contributor to the “modern honey bee plague.” Once bees encounter this parasite, they are more likely to succumb to illness, disease, and death. Because the mite is native to Asia, American honey bees have yet to find a way to adapt to its attacks. ...

The global honey bee population declined by A FULL THIRD in the past decade. Ohio lost 80 PERCENT of its bees in the winter of 2015.

EDUCATION ... from page 3

March 11: Bluegrass Beekeepers School, Kentucky State University, Frankfort. Registration at 8 a.m. EST, opening session at 9 a.m., and school concludes at 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is \$25 per adult, \$10 for high school age and younger. Registration at the door is \$35 per adult and \$15 for high school age and younger.

For registration form and the latest information, see the Bluegrass Beekeepers Association web page, bluegrassbeekeepers.com, or contact Phil Clark at (859) 492-9910 or email pd3393@twc.com.

March 18: Kentucky State Beekeepers Association Spring Meet, Franks Building, Boyd County Fairgrounds, 1768 Addington Rd, Ashland, KY 41102. Also sessions in Catlettsburg. Guest speakers: **Stephanie Tarwater** (Tennessee inspector) and **Gabe Blatt** (West Virginia Heartland Queen Bee Breeders). The main hotels for the area are the Hampton Inn and the Fairfield Inn. There are several restaurants within a 10-minute drive from the Fairgrounds and within 2-3 minutes of the hotels.

Caution: Google directions may not be reliable. For directions, visit boyd.ca.uky.edu (Boyd County Cooperative Extension website).

You can also follow this link: <https://www.google.com/maps/@38.3804321,-82.7226268,14.25z> to view it online.

APRIL

April 7-8: Queen Production Workshop. Guest, **Dwight Wells**, Heartland Bee Breeders Cooperative. Pre-registration with Dorothy Morgan is required. \$75 cost to cover supplies. There are several hotels in Somerset.

Pulaski County Extension Office, 28 Parkway Dr., Somerset.
Contact: lavenderlanefarms@gmail.com (606) 871-7300.

April 12-15: Field Workshop. Kent Williams Apiary, 580 State Route 385-North, Wingo (Graves Co.) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. CDT. Each day similar in content. Lunch, snacks, and drinks are provided. There is no cost for the school, but donations are accepted to help defray the cost of food. Everyone is welcome, including kids and "trailing spouses." Lodging available in Murray and Mayfield, or primitive camping is welcomed on the Williams farm.

MAY

May 19-20: Kentucky State University Queen Production Workshop. Jenny Wiley State Park, Prestonsburg. Limited seating, registration required. **Tammy Horn Potter** and **Doug Potter**, coordinators.

Laura Rogers, KSU Small Farm Area Agent,
(606) 344-0712. Email laura.rogers@kysu.edu

BUZZ AGAIN ... from page 4

(Dr. Potter here reminds us that a 2015 USDA-APHIS survey reported in last month's newsletter showed Varroa mites present in 100 percent of Kentucky apiaries.)

Steps that can be taken

The relationships between bees and flowers is controlled by climate. Due to climate change, warmer spring seasons cause bees to emerge earlier, even if plants are not ready to be pollinated. ...

Scientist Pat Willmer explains, "Daily bee activity patterns are strongly thermally dependent." We must find a way to control warming due to climate change, so that bees can pollinate their flowers at the proper times. ...

Second ... more than \$71 million in United States Department of Agriculture-led research [into climate change and its effect on bee behaviors has been proposed]; however, Congress has yet to accept these funds. [Legislative support is needed to] better protect our bees, our environment, and our world.

Third, [we] must look at states already making progress in protecting their bees, and follow in their footsteps. San Francisco, as well as 30 other cities across the country, are now designated "Bee Cities," pledged to protect their local pollinators. These cities encourage bee-friendly initiatives such as reducing pesticide use and restoring bee habitats. ...

Mr. President-Elect: Save our bees. I know you will have a lot on your plate during the next four years — I hope you remember where the food on your plate comes from.

Works Cited

- Sottile, Leah. "Beekeepers try to keep bees - and livelihoods - from going extinct." *The Washington Post* 2015: General Reference Center Gold. 28 Nov. 2016.
- "To save local bees, San Francisco to make pollinator protection city policy," *States News Service* 2016: 28 Nov. 2016.
- Willmer, Pat. "Dispatch: Climate change: Bees and orchids lose touch." *Current Biology* 24(2014): R1133-R1135. *ScienceDirect*. Web. 28 Nov. 2016.

Report weather-related honey bee losses to FSA within 30 days to participate in aid

... from page 1

ELAP-eligible honey bees include bees housed in a managed hive and used for honey production, pollination or honey bee breeding. Eligible honey bees do not include wild, feral honey bees, leaf cutter bees or other bee species that are not used for producing honey, pollinating or breeding honey bees.

Losses of colonies must be in excess of normal mortality. ELAP covers damage to hives and feed that was purchased or produced, including additional feed purchased above normal quantities to sustain honey bees until such time that additional feed becomes available.

The colony, hive, and feed losses must be due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition; and must be incurred by an eligible honey bee producer, in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred.

Eligible conditions

The losses must be the direct result of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including but not limited to:

- Entire colonies lost to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), **eligible winter storm, eligible extreme cold, or eligible sustained cold**;

Eligible extreme cold means, for honey bee colony losses, 14 degrees Fahrenheit or less for at least 7 consecutive days during the program year in which the loss is claimed.

Eligible sustained cold means, for honey bee colony losses, 23 degrees Fahrenheit or less for at least 40 consecutive days during the program year in which the loss is claimed.

Eligible winter storm means, for honey bee colony losses, a storm that lasts for at least 3 consecutive days and is accompanied by high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall, and extremely cold temperatures.

- Losses due to earthquake, excessive wind, flood, hurricane, lightning, tornado, volcanic eruption, or wildfire.

Colony loss payments

FSA has established a normal mortality rate for colony losses of 17.5 percent for 2016 program year. Payments for colony losses are based on the average fair market value of colonies in the program year in which the loss occurs, as established by FSA. FSA has established the average fair market value at \$135 per colony for the 2016 program year.

ELAP payments for honey bee colony losses will be based on a minimum of 75 percent of the result of multiplying:

- The number of colonies lost in excess of normal mortality (17.5 percent for 2016) due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, multiplied by:
- The average fair market value per colony for the applicable program year.

Hive loss payments

Payments for hive losses are based on the average fair market value of hives in the program year in which the loss occurs, as established by FSA. FSA has established average fair market value at \$240 per hive for the 2016 program

year. ELAP payments for hive losses will be based on a minimum of 75 percent of the result of multiplying:

- The number of hives lost due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, multiplied by:
- The average fair market value per hive, for the applicable program year.

Normal mortality and/or payment rates will likely be adjusted for program year 2017.

Applying for assistance

Producers can apply to receive ELAP assistance at local FSA service centers. The final date to file a Notice of Loss is 30 days after the honey bee loss is apparent. The final date to submit an Application for Payment is the Nov. 1 after the end of the program year in which the honey bee loss occurred.

For honey bee colony and hive losses, the participant must include proof of inventory at the beginning of the program year and ending inventory immediately after the eligible adverse weather event or loss condition. This is one reason filing an annual report with FSA and other beekeepers organizations can be so important.

The participant must provide proof that best management practices are being followed, such as honey bee colonies are provided proper nutrition, preventative treatment for Varroa mites and disease, proper maintenance of hive equipment and proper colony management, and any other supporting documents required for determining eligibility.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

More information: Lindsey New, County Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency, Somerset Service Center, 45 Eagle Creek Drive, Ste. 101, Somerset, 42503. (606) 678-4842, Ext. 125. Fax (855) 784-0872.

Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association Inc.

Membership Form - 2017

**Annual Dues are \$100 Per Household & Year
1 vote per household**

Dues that are paid by the last day of January shall be eligible for benefits during that year.
Exception to this shall be in 2017, where benefits will be eligible if dues paid as late as May 15.

Please type or print ALL information clearly. * *Indicates required fields*

* Name _____

* Address 1 _____

* Address 2 _____

* City _____ * State _____ * ZIP _____

* Association _____

Office phone _____ Cell phone _____

Other _____

E-mail address _____

Website _____

(While phone numbers are not required, this information will aid in communication, especially if we have questions about your address.)

Mail Forms and Checks or Money Order to:
Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association Inc.
C/O Joseph W. Taylor
P.O Box 234
Leitchfield, KY 42755

(For Treasurer use only)

DATE _____ CHECK # _____ CASH \$ _____ Money Order # _____