KDA sponsorship program can help your association launch a local bee school

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) is offering sponsorship assistance to state beekeeping associations who want to set up 2019 beekeeping schools, announces Melanie Blandford, KDA executive director of the Office of Agricultural Marketing.

Blandford said organizations qualify for the sponsorship of up to $250 value by:

- hosting a workshop on bee management and honey production;
- featuring Kentucky Proud® products and local honey in the schools' breaks and meals; and
- promoting KDA/Kentucky Proud programs at the event.

State Apiarist Tammy Potter, sponsorship coordinator, will administer the grant program and help the organizations coordinate the bee schools. The downloadable application packet contains all the application forms, cost reporting/reimbursement forms, and the list of commitments the sponsorship requires.

In addition, KDA will donate a grand-prize basket as a door prize for each of the first five beekeeping schools set up in 2019 under this program, said Tim Hughes, deputy executive director of KDA’s Marketing Office.

KDA will provide baskets “to the first five organizers that submit and are approved for the sponsorships in 2019,” Hughes announced. “We ask that the baskets be given away at the sponsored meetings, and that the meetings promote and connect to Kentucky Proud.”

The prize baskets will be assembled by Sharon Spencer, director of KDA’s Direct Farm Marketing Division.

Rules, commitments, and application downloadable from kyagr.com/statevet/documents/OSV_Bee_Sponsorship.pdf.

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Those New Year’s guests that never want to leave!

Barbara Bloetscher, Ohio state apiarist, furnishes us this photo of an oppossum family discovered inside a beehive that was not secured for the winter.

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HoneyBear, new Dadant dealer, to open in Louisville Jan. 26

HoneyBear Farms KY, Louisville area’s Dadant & Sons dealer, will open their 14005 Taylorsville Road beekeeping store Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. EST, announces owner Joel Gonia.

The store will also carry products from Antler Ridge Beekeeping and Guardian Bee Apparel, cypress woodenware from Peter Zook, and five-frame Kentucky nucs from western Kentucky, Gonia said.

The store is located on six acres at the entrance to Pope Lick Park on Taylorsville Road, almost a mile east of Exit 155 off the Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265).

The store is being remodeled to resemble a vintage train station, to be known as the Honey Depot. Gonia invites beekeepers statewide to provide honey for sale there.

The Honey Depot will also host mentoring sessions, seminars, workshops, and a bee school, Gonia said. One of the first seminars will be on winter survival and spring preparation, he announced.

Up to 40 hives will be actively managed onsite to provide ample educational opportunities, Gonia said.

The Honey Depot will also provide a commercial kitchen with honey extraction and bottling equipment available to area beekeepers, he said.

Facebook page: facebook.com/events/250044782288316/.
Website: honeybearfarmsky.com.
Email: honeybearfarmsky@gmail.com.
BEEKEEPER EDUCATION

JANUARY


• Jan. 14: “Beekeeping: D to Z (After the ABCs),” Pulaski County Extension Office. Coordinator: Dorothea Morgan. Topics: Helping your hives survive through spring; different breeds and behaviors of queens; hygienic behavior; and why it matters to order queens early. Dorothea Morgan email: lavenderlanefarms@gmail.com.

• Jan. 19, 2019: Eastern Kentucky Winter Bee School, Perry County Central High School, 305 Park Avenue, Hazard (new location). Registration $20 by Jan. 11, $25 at the door. Lunch included. Speakers: Dr. Jen O’Keefe and Dr. Deborah Davis, discussing honey analysis. The school will not be rescheduled if cancelled by inclement weather. Send pre-registration checks or questions to Charles May, Perry Co. Extension Office, 933 Perry Park Road, Hazard, KY 41701-5322, or phone (606) 436-2044.

• Jan. 26: Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association, Kentucky State University farm, Frankfort. General members meeting. No fee for members. An outstanding roster of guest speakers includes:
  - Gary Reuter, University of Minnesota research hives overseer, on bee biology and what is required to get a good-quality queen.
  - Winfred (Winn) Harless, a 10th-generation beekeeper, on cell punch technique and other alternate methods of queen rearing.
  - Dr. Hongmei Li-Byarlay, North Carolina State University bee biologist, on comparison of oxidative stress and survival between feral and managed colonies in Ohio.

More: Dorothea Morgan, lavenderlanefarms@gmail.com.

Wettest year threatens honey bees’ winter food supplies

By Tammy Potter, Kentucky State Apiarist

Honey bees “jog in place” through the winter, Dr. Jim Tew explains.

When temperatures drop to 64°F, the honey bees will form a winter cluster inside the hive. The house and nurse bees are inside the cluster, maintaining a steady temperature of 73°F. No one bee reaches 43°F for very long, as long as the bee has access to “fuel” honey.

The heads are the hottest part of bees’ bodies, so researchers think bees “sacrifice” their abdomens in an effort to process every drop of “fuel” honey.

As long as there is honey, and enough healthy bees in the cluster to process it, the cluster can survive temperatures to -20°F. The winter bees typically live about 100 days.

If the bees run out of honey, as they may since 2018 has been the rainiest year since 1882, they may meet an unfortunate demise, as illustrated by this photo from David Shockey (Hardin County).
Urgent: FSA programs need your colony count report by Jan. 2

It's time again for Kentucky beekeepers to fulfill their Annual Colony Reporting Requirement with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), especially if taking part in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the current year.

Kentucky beekeepers must annually report their number of honey bee colonies on form FSA-578 by Jan. 2 if enrolled in NAP for the current year or if they want to be eligible for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) in case of an eligible disaster-related loss.

If the Jan. 2 deadline doesn't apply to your situation, you still should report the number of your colonies within 30 days of the date colonies of bees are acquired, brought into, or removed from the county, said Lindsey New, FSA county executive director for Pulaski and McCreary counties. This is a very important step to ensure eligibility for participation in NAP and other FSA programs, New said.

More information: Lindsey New, County Executive Director, Pulaski/McCreary Co. FSA Office, USDA – Farm Service Agency, 45 Eagle Creek Drive, Ste. 101, Somerset, KY 42503-3473 Phone: (606) 678-4842, Ext. 125 Fax: (855) 784-0872 Email: lindsey.new@ky.usda.gov.

4-Hers: Submit your entry in February

2019 Honey Bee Essay Contest to distribute $1,500 in prizes

National First Prize $750
Second Prize $500, Third Prize $250

Active 4-H students who want to write a Honey Bee Essay Contest entry and compete for the $750 national first prize should contact their local 4-H offices for complete contest details. The selection of one statewide Kentucky winner will be done only through the Kentucky 4-H system.

Essayists should turn in their work to their local 4-H offices during February. The offices should each forward their one winning essay to Dr. Tom Webster (thomas.webster@kysu.edu), Kentucky State University, by March 5. He will choose the winning Kentucky essay and will send it to the 4-H national office by March 9.

Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words, even though some references spell it as one word.

The contest is sponsored by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Inc. The three national prizewinning essays will be published in the A&F Quarterly, the magazine of the American Beekeeping Federation.

Rules overview

- Essay must be 750 to 1,000 words, on the essay topic, typewritten or computer-generated double-spaced, 12-point Times or similar type style, on one side of white paper, following standard manuscript format.
- Essays will be judged on scope of research, 40 percent; accuracy, 30 percent; creativity, 10 percent; conciseness, 10 percent; and logical development of the topic, 10 percent.


Each jar of honey reflects an unrepeatable combination of climate, soil, weather and flowers. Each state has unique honey varietals that beekeepers can market to their customers.

Please identify one unique varietal in your state, discuss the flower’s uniqueness, and describe how beekeepers can effectively market that varietal.

In your essay, please include a photo of the varietal’s flower, an interview with a local beekeeper who collects this varietal, and a recipe that highlights the varietal.

- All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a “resources” or “bibliography” list.
- On a separate page, a brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including birthdate, gender, complete mailing address, email address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
- Final judging will be by the Foundation’s Essay Committee, whose decision is final. National winners will be announced May 6, 2019. All national entries become the property of the Foundation. No essays will be returned.
- 4-H’ers who have previously placed first, second, or third at the national level are NOT eligible to enter.
- Each state winner, including the national winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

Questions: Molly Sausaman, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees.
Email msausaman@abfnet.org.

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Heartland Apicultural Society to return to Bowling Green

After considering other sites, the Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) has committed to holding its summer meeting on the campus of Western Kentucky University (WKU), Bowling Green, on July 8-10, 2019. The WKU campus last hosted HAS in 2016.

Almost all HAS sessions will be held in the WKU Downing Student Union, with apiaries located conveniently outside. Vendors and dining will also be located in Downing.

Six speakers are scheduled for presentations:

- **Jay Evans**, research leader for the United States Department of Agriculture Beltsville, Maryland Bee Lab;
- **Jerry Hayes**, Vita Bee Health, former Florida apiarist official;
- **Reed Johnson**, entomology faculty, Ohio State University;
- **Dr. Juliana Rangel**, associate apiculture professor, Texas A&M University;
- **Jennifer Tsuruda**, Clemson University Cooperative Extension apiculture specialist; and
- **Dr. Geoff Williams**, assistant professor of entomology and plant pathology, Auburn University.

You can sign up at the HAS website to be added to the HAS email list for online notification of registration and schedule updates. Updates will also be posted on the HAS Facebook page.

HAS website with updated meeting information and registration: www.kearthlandbees.org.

New pastime/career launched
Bell County Backyard Beekeepers president Bodie Osborne (right) and Lloyd “Junior” Snelson (left) present a new beehive to lucky winner Milka Woodring. She will also receive mentoring from the Association for a full calendar year. (Photo courtesy Patti Loveless)

State Apiarist’s schedule

- **Jan. 2**: Meeting at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Lexington.
- **Jan. 3**: Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association Board meeting.
- **Jan. 4**: Monarch Protection Plan and Rights of Way meeting.
- **Jan. 7-11**: Apiary Inspectors of America meeting, Phoenix, Arizona.
- **Jan. 18-19**: Eastern Kentucky Winter Bee School, Perry County Central High School, Hazard.
- **Jan. 26**: Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association meeting at Kentucky State University Farm.
- **Jan. 31**: Radio interview with Mick Jeffries, 7-9 a.m., EST, WRFL-FM, Lexington.

Email your labels for appraisal to sell at farmers’ markets

Beekeepers are required by law to have their labels to be permitted to sell honey at farmers’ markets. Label evaluation is a free service offered by the Food Safety Branch of the Kentucky Department of Public Health. We asked readers last month to email their honey labels to inspector Leslie Y. Cobb, R.S., but didn’t pass along her email address. Following is her full address information:

**LESLIE Y. COBB, R.S., Retail Food Program Technical Consultant, Food Labeling Compliance Specialist, Kentucky Department of Public Health, Food Safety Branch, 275 East Main Street, Mail Stop HS 1C-F, Frankfort, KY 40621. Phone: (502) 564-7181. Email: Leslie.Cobb@ky.gov.**

Leslie Y. Cobb, R.S.
**Beekeepers take story to American Public Television**

The Nashville Area Beekeepers Association worked with American Public Television to produce a TV special on honey bees that is airing online and in many southern states.

The 15-minute honey bees segment was part of “Wild Side,” a show produced jointly by Nashville public television, the Tennessee Department of Parks, and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

Nashville association beekeepers helping in the production included Larry Wilson and Mike Studer, Tennessee state apiarist.

Website link: wildsidetv.com/video/urban-bees/Link for the show: youtu.be/DjMSGU_ygwc

**New Cornell University guide to pesticides on KDA website**

Newly posted on the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) honey bee website is this guide to pesticide toxicity for honey bees, published so the orchard manager can successfully balance the need to control pests and diseases with the well-being of honey bees and other pollinators at work in the area.

The guide summarizes the known effects of various pesticides on bees in a clear, concise, easy-to-use format to help growers develop an effective Integrated Pest and Pollinator Management (IPPM) program.

To download a copy, go to kyagr.com/statevet/honeybees.html and click on “Pesticide Decision-Making Guide” under “Additional Links.”

**Beekeeping public education award nominations due April 1**

Nominations for the EAS Charles and Evelyn Divelbiss Education Award are due April 1 at EAS offices. The award is presented to a person or couple who has over a period of years reached out to the non-beekeeping public to explain the value of honey bees in our lives. The nominee does not need to be from your own area.

To nominate, write a letter outlining how the candidate has reached the general public, including groups such as schools, civic clubs, community organizations, media interviews, and exhibits at county and state fairs.

Email nominations and letters of support to AwardNomination@easternapiculture.org.

**KWIA offering scholarships**

Deadline is June 30, 2019 to apply for a Kentucky Women in Agriculture (KWIA) $1,000 scholarship to a Kentucky college junior or senior, according to KWIA’s website.

A $1,000 scholarship recipient must be an upperclass female of at least junior standing in the fall semester.

See the KWIA web page for full information on this scholarship, and for other scholarship offers.

The application is on the last page of this issue of BeeLines.


For New Year’s Eve and Super Bowl parties!

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**Garlic Cheese Quick Bread**

3 c. self-rising flour
1 c. shredded (4 oz.) sharp cheddar cheese
1/4 c. honey
1 t. garlic powder
1 1/2 c. milk
1/4 c. vegetable oil
2 eggs

In a large bowl, combine flour, cheese, sugar, and garlic powder. In another bowl, whisk the milk, oil, and eggs. Stir into dry ingredients, just until moistened. Pour into greased 9x5x3 loaf pan. Bake at 350°F. for 55-65 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack.

Yield: 1 loaf.

— Kathy Cook, Louisville
A scholarship, sponsored by Mann Lake Ltd. and created and administered by the EAS Master Beekeepers, will be awarded to encourage a worthy young individual to pursue an interest in honey bees and beekeeping.

- The scholarship will pay the recipient’s registration fees for both the EAS short course and the EAS main conference.
- Conference expenses such as lodging and meals (including special social events, BBQs, Friday night banquet, etc.) will be paid from the scholarship fund.
- The scholarship will provide travel expenses up to $500, which may include airfare or mileage reimbursement. Travel expenses below $500 will be reimbursed at actual expense incurred.
- The candidate’s travel expenses to and from the conference will be reimbursed following receipt of documentation.

Scholarship eligibility

- The candidate may be any young person between the ages of 18 and 25 who is a full-time student, or is not a full-time student but is currently employed by a commercial or sideliner beekeeper and plans to pursue a career in apiculture. If the candidate is a veteran of any branch of the U.S. armed forces, the age limit is 30.
- The candidate must have been keeping bees for a minimum of one year by the time the conference for which the scholarship is requested begins.
- The candidate may have a beekeeping mentor, who can be a parent or other experienced adult, but the candidate must be primarily responsible for the care of his/her bees.
- The candidate must have participated in a local short course in beekeeping.

Scholarship application

- Qualified candidates must complete an application form (next two pages) providing their basic contact information, brief beekeeping experience and education, and other relevant data.
- Candidates must provide letters of recommendation from at least two experienced beekeepers, preferably a mentor and another beekeeping individual familiar with the candidate’s experience and qualifications. If possible, this individual should be a Master Beekeeper, state apiarist, educator, or research/extension specialist in the home state of the candidate. These letters of recommendation should be sent directly by the person providing the recommendation to the Master Beekeeper Scholarship Committee.
- Candidates must write an essay of no less than two, and no more than three, double-spaced typewritten pages describing their reasons for wanting to attend the EAS conference. The essay should also outline the candidate’s ambitions with respect to beekeeping, including both short- and long-term plans.
- Applications must be received by the Chairperson of the Master Beekeeper Scholarship Committee by April 1 of the year in which the applicant plans to attend the EAS conference.

Award criteria

- Preference will be given to candidates who, in the judgment of the Scholarship Committee, are serious in their commitment to apiculture. For example, a serious candidate may be planning to pursue a career as a commercial beekeeper, an entomologist, a researcher in apiculture, a queen breeder, or similar profession. A dedicated hobbyist may also win the scholarship, but preference will be given to candidates planning to pursue a career in apiculture.
- The candidate must be an EAS member.
- The candidate must be of good character, responsible, hard-working and honest. It is expected that, while attending the conference, the successful candidate will behave in a responsible and respectful manner.
- Following the conference, the scholarship recipient will prepare an article for the EAS Journal of at least one column in length, or as indicated by the Journal editor, describing his or her experiences at the EAS conference. The article should include photographs and discuss how attending EAS has influenced the recipient’s beekeeping knowledge and post-conference experiences. The article should be submitted no later than six months following the end of the conference.

Application and full rules follow, next two pages.
Mann Lake Eastern Apicultural Society
Master Beekeeper Scholarship Application

Applicant Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _________ Zip Code: ______________

Date of Birth: ___________________________ Citizenship: ☐ U.S. ☐ Canada

Email: ______________________________________________________________________

Home Phone: ___________________________ Mobile phone: _______________________

How and when did you get started keeping bees? ______________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

Tell us about your beekeeping experience (How many colonies do you have? Where you keep them?)

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

Have you ever attended any beekeeping classes on basic or advanced topics? Please describe:

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________
Mann Lake Eastern Apicultural Society
Master Beekeeper Scholarship Application

Applicants should provide at least two letters of recommendation from experienced beekeepers that they know. These letters should preferably be written by a mentor and another beekeeping individual familiar with the applicant’s experience and qualifications. If possible, these recommendations should be provided by a Master Beekeeper, state apiarist, educator, or research/extension specialist in the applicant’s home state. Individuals providing recommendations should send their letters directly to the Scholarship Committee at MannLakeScholarship@EasternApiculture.org or by mail to the address at the bottom of this page. These letters must be received no later than April 1.

Please list the individuals providing letters of recommendation on your behalf:

(1) Name: ____________________________

Email: _______________________________

Relationship to applicant: __________________________

Experience in beekeeping: __________________________

(2) Name: ____________________________

Email: _______________________________

Relationship to applicant: __________________________

Experience in beekeeping: __________________________

Please attach to this application an essay of two to three pages in length, typed and double-spaced, that describes your reasons for wanting to attend the EAS conference. You should also explain what your plans and goals are for future beekeeping activities, both in the short and long term.

__________________________________________  ____________________________
Applicant’s Signature                        Date

Submit this completed application, with your essay, to MannLakeScholarship@EasternApiculture.org or by mail to Brenda Kiessling, 10610 Hunters Valley Rd., Vienna, VA 22181.
2019 KWIA Scholarship Application

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Best Phone: ____________________________________________

Email Address: ____________________________________________

College or University Attending: ____________________________

College or University Address: ____________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

College or University Phone Number: ________________________

Major: _________________________________ Minor: ____________________________

Year: (Please circle one) Junior Senior Graduate Student

GPA: ______________ Enrolled full-time for 2019-2020 academic year: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Describe your career goals for working in agriculture and how this scholarship will support you in your academic pursuits. (500 words or less) Attached: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Names of references that will be providing letters:

(1) ____________________________ (2) ____________________________

I verify this information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature ____________________________ Date ________________

Send completed Application to: Kentucky Women in Agriculture Scholarship
P.O. Box 4409
Lexington, KY 40544-4409

Applications are due on June 30, 2019.