Public hearing set on inspection fee changes

The Kentucky Department for Public Health’s Food Safety Branch (FSB) has filed for public comment on two proposed regulations, said Leslie Y. Cobb, FSB food labeling compliance specialist:

- an amendment to 902 KAR 45:110; and
- a new regulation, 902 KAR 45:180.

The proposed amendment to 902 KAR 45:110 removes the food manufacturing fee schedule, and updates the retail food service establishment fee schedule. The new regulation, 902 KAR 45:180, is the proposed fee schedule for facilities including food manufacturing plants, Cobb said.

The FSB proposes to separate the food manufacturing fee schedule (via new regulation 902 KAR 45:180) from the retail food service establishment fee schedule (existing regulation 902 KAR 45:110), according to Julie Brooks, policy specialist in the Office of the Commissioner of Public Health.

“The proposed fee schedule for food manufacturing changes the structure from one based on the square footage of the facility to one based on the level of risk associated with the product being manufactured,” Brooks said.

“The existing fee structure for food manufacturing in 902 KAR 45:110 does not account for the inspection categories based upon the level of risks associated with the product being manufactured, which has an impact on the length of time required to conduct an inspection as well as the number of inspections completed per year.” Cobb said.

Statement from Dr. Ryan Quarles, Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture

“The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is aware of proposed fee increases from the Kentucky Department of Public Health’s Food Safety Branch. We only learned of these proposed fee increases in the last few weeks, and we are deeply concerned about them. We want to make sure that any fee increases are vetted by the public, and particularly our Kentucky Proud members and Kentucky family farmers. I will be filing my own comments on behalf of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and encourage you to submit your own comments to the Department of Public Health.”

Reserve by Aug. 17 to speak at public hearing Aug. 24

A public hearing for comment on these proposed changes to administrative regulations is set for 9 a.m. Aug. 24, in Suites A & B, Health Services Building, First Floor, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort. This hearing is open to the public. Anyone who attends can comment on the proposed administrative regulations.

To attend and speak at the hearing, notify the contact person below of your intent to attend, in writing, by Aug. 17. You may submit written comments on this proposed administrative regulations until Aug. 31.

Send your written notice of intent to attend the public hearing, or your written comments on the proposed administrative regulations, to the contact person below.

A transcript of the public hearing will be made upon written request. Copies of the statement of consideration and the amended after-comments version of the administrative regulations may be requested, pursuant to KRS 13A.280(8).

Contact person: Donna Little, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, 275 East Main Street 5 W-A, Frankfort, KY 40621; phone (502) 564-6746; fax (502) 564-7091; CHFSregs@ky.gov.

The proposed fee schedule for food manufacturing changes the fee structure to one based on the level of risk associated with the product being manufactured — high, medium, or low.

“Section 12 of 902 KAR 45:160, Kentucky food processing, packaging, storage, and distribution operations, indicates the inspection frequency for a food manufacturer is based on the degree of risk associated with the commodity processed, packaged, stored, or distributed by the plant. These categories are listed as high, medium and low,” Brooks said.

A producer’s honey is “exempt” if the producer sells less than 150 gallons (1,800 pounds) of honey in a year off the farm, as defined in KRS 217.187. Producers at this level are therefore not required to process the honey in a certified honey house or in a food processing establishment, nor shall they be required to obtain a permit from the Cabinet. The “non-exempt” honey producers selling more than 150 gallons of honey per year would be required to obtain a food manufacturing permit from the Cabinet and would be classified as a “low risk” facility. This legal citation was identified and furnished by Anita Travis of Public Health.
State Fair scaled down significantly

Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles believes the 2020 Kentucky State Fair is the most important ever, because so many county fairs have been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Gov. Andy Beshear has approved a state fair plan that would require masks for all staff, social distancing for midway lines and concerts, and reductions of livestock show entries. Officials anticipate a 50 percent reduction in attendance. More than 600,000 attended in 2019.

Some of the Expo Center will still be occupied by a field hospital ready to accept COVID-19 patients. None had been admitted, as of the end of June.

Health first emphasis

The plan calls for wider aisles indoors, with some one-way aisles; fewer people allowed indoors; and more hygiene stations. Masks will be worn by all staff, vendors, judges, and livestock participants, and are suggested for visitors.

Many activities that took place indoors will move outdoors. The inside areas will be closed entirely or scaled back significantly, with only 18 percent of last year’s space available.

There will be no competition in the Bees and Honey or any other general non-livestock categories. (There were almost 21,000 entries in the fair last year.) There will be no exhibits in the West Wing pavilion.

Youth livestock shows will be allowed but with exhibitors only. Entries in livestock competitions will be significantly reduced.

Monitor late changes to the Fair plan at kystatefair.org/covid-19-plan.

Two KSBA booths

As last year, the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA) presence will be in two places:

- The KSBA honey sales booth will be among the outdoor vendors.
  A limited selection of products will be sold in the West Wing courtyard. Because the space is only 10 x 10 feet, vendors must bring a limited selection of products that will not melt in August sun on a paved lot. The list of items and prices are at right. Prices are unchanged from last year.

- The Certified Kentucky Honey Program (CKHP) information booth will be in the outdoor AgLand area. No honey sales will happen here. Both booths will be smaller than in years past.

Call for volunteer associations

Beekeeping associations across the state are invited to staff both the KSBA sales booth and the CKHP information booth. Staffing needs: Three (3) volunteers in the KSBA sales booth and two (2) volunteers in the CKHP information booth. To join the volunteer effort, contact CKHP program manager Sarah Preston.

Email program manager Sarah Preston (manager@kycertifiedhoney.com).

2020 ITEMS AND PRICES

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<th>Type</th>
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Comb honey

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<td>26.00</td>
<td>18.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-pound box</td>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>9.75</td>
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<td>Ross Rounds</td>
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Creamed honey

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-pound jar</td>
<td>16.50</td>
<td>11.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**KSBA Summer Meeting**  
**July 25, 2020**

**Admission:** $10 for KSBA Members  
$25 for non-KSBA members (includes membership in KSBA)  
RSVP with Joe Chang at kybeesecretary@gmail.com by July 22

Perryville Civil War Battlefield State Historic Site,  
1825 Battlefield Road, Perryville, KY 40468

Please bring your own **Bee Veil** and other PPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:45</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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</table>
| 9:00 - 9:45| Keynote Speaker: Setting Up a Honey House  
**Paul Rice**, Ky. Department of Food Safety (Shelter House) |
| **Track**  | 1st Year Beekeeper  
Field 1 (Beehive)  
10:00 - 10:45  
Basic hive inspection  
Dr. Leonard Davis  
11:00 - 11:45  
Basic hive inspection  
Dr. Leonard Davis  
12:00 - 1:30  
Box Lunch (Shelter House) |
| **Location** | 2nd Year or Advanced Beekeeper  
Field 2 (Beehive)  
Making splits/nucs  
Jessica Mayes  
Frame Management  
Chris Renfrow  
12:30 - 1:30  
Abbreviated Walking Tour of Perryville Battlefield with Chuck Lott (Friends of Perryville Battlefield) and Sarah Preston. Meet at Shelter House. |
| **Lab** (Civil War Hall) | Presentations (Shelter House)  
Basic Hive Equipment  
Mike Mabry  
Swarm Catching  
Dave Sperow  
Looking For Mite Biting  
Dorothy Morgan |
| **1:30 - 2:15** | 48-Hour Queen Cells  
Dorothy Morgan |
| **2:30 - 3:15** | Nosema, pollen digestion, and the internal anatomy of the honey bee  
Dr. Tom Webster |
| **3:30 - 5:00** | KSBA Business Meeting (Shelter House) |
| **5:00** | Adjourn |

*Beelines • July 2020 • 3*
This “shopping list” of bee hive medications was compiled by State Apiarist Tammy Potter and the Honey Bee Health Coalition. “A sheet like this is long overdue. It could be very helpful for beginner beekeepers,” Potter said.

The Kentucky Governor’s Office of Agriculture Policy (GOAP) wanted a list of approved medications, so that when a beekeeper applies for small animal grants, GOAP will immediately know which products are approved for reimbursement to the beekeeper.

Potter said the list can guide beginners who may be overwhelmed about the many products available, and about which conditions the products specifically treat.

**EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT & MEDICATIONS FOR HONEY BEE HEALTH IN THE U.S.**

Please note that these controls and medications must be applied according to the labels, and in some cases, a Veterinary Feed Directive is required. If you are using ingredients or formulations that are not listed on the label, there’s good reason why applying could be illegal and harmful to yourself and your bees.

### American Foulbrood Controls:
Highly recommended to bum the hive(s) if showing heavy infections as antibiotics are not effective against spores and will only mask the symptoms.

- **Oxytetracycline.** Terramycin® and Tetra-Bee Mix® are product names and these products require a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription.

- **Tylosin.** Can be difficult to find and requires a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription (note that this control is difficult to find)

- **Lincomycin.** Requires a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription. (note that this control is difficult to find)

### European Foulbrood Medications:
- **Oxytetracycline.** Terramycin® and Tetra-Bee Mix® are product names and these products require a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription.

### Nosema:
- **Fumidil-B®.** Does not require a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription. (Note: just came back on the market in 2019).

### Small Hive Beetles:
- **Checkmite+® (coumaphos).** Checkmite+® the product name and it can be difficult to find in bee supply stores. Does not require a Veterinary Feed Directive, but extreme caution should be used in applying this product.

- **GardStar® (permethrin).** Approved for use as a soil drench.

### Trachael Mites Treatment:
- **Mite-A-Thol® (menthol).** Does not require a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription.

### Varroa Mites Treatment:
The products that are approved for varroa mite control do not require a Veterinary Feed Directive, but they do require close reading of the labels for the appropriate season, temperature, and dosage.

- **Apiguard® (thymol)**
- **ApiVar® (amitraz)**
- **Formic Pro™ (formic acid)**
- **Hopguard® II, (hops beta acids)**
- **ApiLife Var® (thymol and essential oils)**
- **Mite-Away® Quick Strips, (formic acid)**
- **Oxalic acid**

### Wax Moth:
- **Para-Moth® (paradichlorobenzene).** Does not require a Veterinary Feed Directive.

- **B402 Certain™ (bacillus thuringiensis).** A biological larvicide
Keeping up with the Asian giant hornet

Multiple detection of several individual Asian giant hornets (AGH) in Washington state indicates a population in the area, but USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) does not consider the population as established, a process taking multiple years.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has surveyed for, but not found, an AGH nest. One insect recently found was a displaced queen. Washington state citizens report possible sightings to the WSDA website.

The AGH does not attack people unless threatened. Most of the time, the hornet feeds on insects, sap, and soft fruits. They are known to attack and kill beehives in the late summer and early fall.

In late June there was no evidence that AGH was present in any other state.


Left, Kentucky’s European hornet (Vespa crabro) and, right, the Asian giant hornet (Vespa mandarinia). Note the relative size, and the “drippy” brown coloration on the European hornet’s thorax. Sightings of several European hornets have been reported to KDA.

(Hanna Royals photo/USDA)
Unexpected adversary for monarch caterpillars

By Katie Pratt, University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
(Reprinted by permission)

An invasive paper wasp may be thwarting the efforts of urban gardeners to rebuild monarch butterfly habitats, according to recent research by University of Kentucky (UK) entomologists.

Adam Baker, UK doctoral student, and Daniel Potter, UK entomology professor, found Polistes dominula, more commonly known as the European paper wasp, preying on monarch larvae on milkweed plants in urban pollinator gardens.

The wasp was accidentally introduced in the U.S. in the 1970s and is well established throughout the country, particularly in urban areas.

“Only about 5 to 10 percent of monarchs make it from egg to adulthood. While some of their mortality is due to host plant defenses, far more is likely due to natural enemies preying on them,” Baker said. “In our study, P. dominula was the most common wasp seen hunting caterpillars in central Kentucky gardens. We think it may be a game-changer for urban monarch conservation.”

In 120 observed encounters between the paper wasps and various sizes of monarch larvae, the wasps killed most of the smaller larvae. In contrast, most large monarch caterpillars were able to escape the wasps.

In the study, wasps were far more likely to prey on monarch larva in urban gardens than in rural habitats bordered by woodlots. This may be because the urban gardens are near buildings or sometimes bird houses, structures the wasp prefers for nesting.

Their study also showed that ornamental butterfly boxes may be inadvertently attracting the wasps. “We found active wasp nests in 16 of 22 boxes in the six urban gardens we surveyed, but we saw no signs of butterflies using the boxes,” Baker said.

The UK entomologists said people interested in gardening for monarchs and other butterflies can reduce losses to wasp predation by repairing or securing any structures near gardens that might be attractive nesting sites, and taking down any nests found.

— UK press release

The study was recently published in the academic journal Scientific Reports. It is available for free online at nature.com.

BCTC testing lab continues closed

The Honey Testing Lab at Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) with Dr. Deborah Davis of BCTC and Dr. Jen O’Keefe, Morehead State University, remains in limbo with the lab closed since March, said Deborah Davis-Sullivan of KCTCS.

Lab officials tell BeeLines they have not been able to process samples they have received. They will be in touch when the lab re-opens.

Deborah Davis-Sullivan - deborah.davis@kctcs.edu.

Competitive best in the Southeast

ANDY SIMON, Bowling Green, won the Southeastern U.S. division of a honey competition sponsored by the Center for Honeybee Research in North Carolina.

(Julie Simon photo)
Starting July 8, Shannon Trimboli will host online classes and short courses on topics including honey bees, native pollinators, native plants, plants used by honey bees and other pollinators, and gardening for pollinators.

Registration is underway for her four-part short course, “Honey Bees, Native Bees, and Creating a Bee-Friendly Landscape.”

Trimboli is also planning a class in November titled “Planting for Honey Bees,” targeted specifically for beekeepers.

Future classes will also be designed for beekeepers, along with some for an audience interested in pollinators and native plants.

Trimboli is a beekeeper and farmer, native plant nursery owner, writer, editor, former Kentucky State Beekeeper Association (KSBA) webmaster, KSBA Beekeeper of the Year for 2017, scientist, artist, educator, and public speaker.

She has compiled a directory of the Plants Honey Bees Use in the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys.

Volunteers sought for hive analysis sampling

State Apiarist Tammy Potter went to Sigoglin Hills Farm, located between Paris and Georgetown, for a USDA apiary audit.

Potter took samples of bees from eight of their 25 hives to send to the Washington D.C. lab to check for diseases and pests.

“This is a really valuable service provided by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to make sure our hives are healthy and our management working well,” said Jessica Mayes of the Bluegrass Beekeepers Association.

“She provided some great insight into our hives, and in the process we found some beautiful frames of honey almost ready to harvest,” Mayes said.

Hive diagnostic tool: thebeemd.com is a web-based diagnostic tool to help beekeepers figure out what is going on in their hives. Featuring visual diagnostics of common problems.

Beekeeping podcast: beekeepingtodaypodcast.com/the-beemd-with-dr-jamie-ellis-s2-e34?tidest_id=1953590&fbclid=IwAR2ue3oJq4budjCkzy

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“The USDA Honey Bee Health Survey sample I did with Jessica Mayes was the last volunteer for federal budget year 2019,” said State Apiarist Tammy Potter. Potter will start taking samples this month for the 2020 report if her grant funding is approved. Volunteers are sought for sampling who have at least 15 hives available for sampling. She samples from only eight hives, but inevitably some hives are too weak.


Link to a course overview, registration details for the upcoming short course, and tentative list of future classes at shannontrimboli.com/virtualclasses.