

Washington State Beekeepers Association

Keep the "Bee" in Business

Publication of Washington State Beekeepers Association

www.wasba.org

March 2008

President's Message

The new year is off and running. So far we seem to have very mixed results. Bee losses nation wide are around 500,000 colonies. Shortages have been appearing in California in the almonds but doesn't seem to be severe. Looks like the legislation that we are supporting for beekeepers was down for the count but came back from the dead after the TV show describing all the problems beekeepers were having, especially the commercial beekeepers. I believe the hobbyist is experiencing even greater losses that go unreported. The executive board feels we should be more active with the legislature and will be appointing a government affairs committee to work issues important to beekeepers. As we survey our members for honey bee losses there doesn't seem to be one thing that is causing those losses. The pollination season in the almonds is very late and this could cause problems with bees getting north to pollinate in Oregon and Washington. We had a good executive board meeting and you can read all about it in the minutes.

Our convention will be at the Red Lion in Vancouver Washington. Dates for the convention will be Oct 16, 17 and 18th...put those dates on your calendar. This will be a joint meeting with Oregon. Lets all plan on attending.

The next executive board meeting will be June 14 at the Bar 14 in Ellensburg. All are welcome to attend. We especially urge local association presidents to attend if at all possible.

Jerry Tate

Some Interesting web links on CCD:

Subject: ARS : Questions and Answers: Colony Collapse Disorder
<http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=15572>

Subject: Honey bee colony collapse disorder | Pesticides | US EPA
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/about/intheworks/honeybee.htm>

Washington State Updates

Program Calendar for the Association.

June 14, 2008:

WSBA Executive Board Meeting
Bar 14 Ranch House Restaurant
1800 South Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA
10 AM to 2PM

October 16, 17, 18:

Fall Conference 2008
Red Lion Inn, Vancouver WA

**If you have not paid
your 2008 dues,
this is your last newsletter.**



Board Meeting Minutes

WA State Beekeepers Association
February 16, 2008 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Jody Lynn Pilarski, Secretary

The meeting location was at the Bar 14 Ranch House Restaurant in Ellensburg Washington. The Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Jerry Tate, WSBA President.

Reports

The Secretary's Report - WSBA President Jerry Tate began the meeting requesting the approval of the Secretary's minutes as published in the newsletter.

Motion/Second/Approved

The Treasurer's Report – Paul Hosticka, submitted a current balance summary and profit /loss financial statement. A motion was requested to approve the reports.

Motion/Second/Approved

Membership Report – A request was made to approve the membership report as stated in the newsletter.

Motion/Second/Approved

Master Beekeepers Report – Paul Lundy reviewed the Master Beekeepers Committee's goal for the coming year. The previous year the committee members reviewed and undated the apprenticeship test questions. This year the group will be reviewing the apprenticeship curriculum book. The task will be divided among the members to review and make recommendations for changes. However, anyone that has any recommendations is encouraged to contact Paul or any of the committee members.

Paul also reminded everyone to review the WSBA web site for educational web links and basic association information. It is a good starting point of information for the general public and anyone interested in becoming a beekeeper. The local organizations also need to review the site to update their information.

A motion was made to accept all of the above stated committee report.

Motion/Second/Approved

(Continued on page 3)

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Board Meeting Minutes, continued

(Continued from page 2)

Area Reports

Robert Arnold – Area #6

Bob reported that the Deer Park/Spokane area had a lot of snow this season. He noticed cavities/wells developing at the front of the hives from the colony heat so the bees seem to be okay. He reported about a 1/3 loss and the total area is reporting significant colony loss. The area also seemed to have a poor honey flow and poor brood rearing throughout the season. Bob also noted that it seemed they needed more pollen patties and syrup than the previous season.

Bee classes are going well; they are conducting 10 week classes and some weekend courses. They are also scheduling 3-4 field days with the classes involved with package installations. They are still looking for results on the WSU Queens and feel unsure as to how well they are really doing.

Arlene Massey – Area #3

Arlee is the Lower Valley Representative.

Arlee reported all of the colonies they have that are alive are in California! When placing their bees they met a Wisconsin beekeeper who lost 1700 out of 1900 colonies. The beekeeper was unsure as to why; all of the colonies were dead outs.

Paul Hosticka – Area #5

Paul reported a snowy year for the Dayton area. They have been under snow since Mid-November. He stated there were variable reports on the colony loss and honey production. Everyone is unsure of why the losses, but most suspect mites.

Jim Smith – Pierce County Beekeepers

Jim stated that he has not heard a lot from the local members. The WSU Queens seem to be doing well in the PCBA club apiary. The club currently has 6 queens working, otherwise, not much news.

Tim Bueler - Snohomish County Area

Tim reported a bad honey flow for the season. He felt it was a year of one step forward and two steps back. Tim said it was a very mediocre season.

Jerry Tate – Spokane Area

Jerry said that anyone that took their bees to the fireweed didn't do well and those that didn't take their bees to the fireweed are doing better. He had no speculation as to why.

Eric Olson – Yakima Area

Eric reported heavy losses for Western Washington. He experienced an 80% loss and he knew of others who reported 90-100% losses. From the beekeepers he has had contact with, the losses have been horrible.

Jim Bach- - Area # 3

Jim is the Upper Valley Representative.

Jim conducted a telephone survey of registered beekeepers prior to the legislative hearing in front of the Agriculture Committee. Of 88 registered beekeepers, Jim talked with 54. He produced a handout of which he shared with the group. The report stated an average loss of 41.84 % for the 2007 season with a variety of reasons as to why. The overall basic concern seemed to be poor performing queens.

Jim also submitted for review a position paper/ research proposal on colony health. The proposal was handed out to everyone for review and support. The paper includes a vision statement, goals and project parameters. Much discussion ensued regarding data collection, research protocols, cost of the project and what is it exactly we are wanting from WSU and Dr. Sheppard. Jim requested a motion to adopt the position paper. He advocated that the project covered parts no one else is currently doing and that we need to look at all of the data. Jim also stated his concerns regarding lack of follow through by Dr. Sheppard and the WSU program.

Eric Olson stated that we need to work with WSU and that there is a lot of positive support happening with the Dean of Research and Agriculture Manager. Eric has been developing a liaison type relation with WSU. He stated there is support from the dean and that we need to work with the program. Dr Sheppard is supported by WSU and Eric tied the importance of our relationship with WSU to our legislative needs.

(Continued on page 5)

JUNE 14, 2008

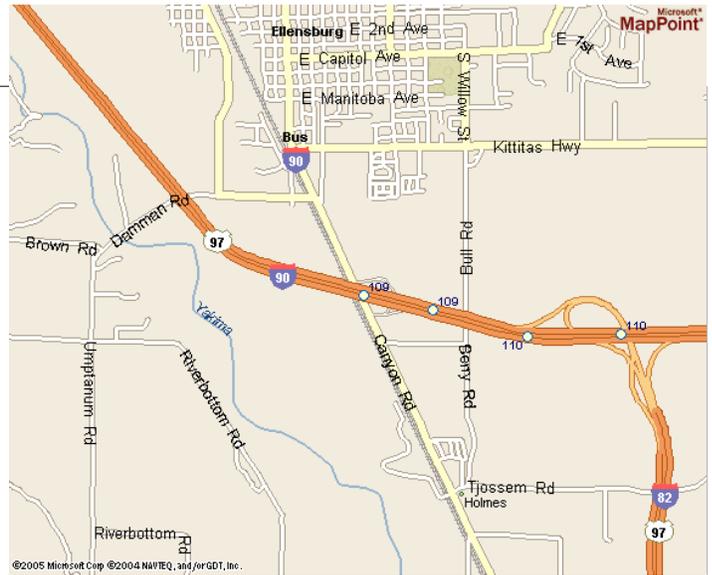
The next
WSBA Executive Board Meeting
will be held at the:

Bar 14 Ranch House Restaurant
1800 South Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA
Phone: 509-962-6222

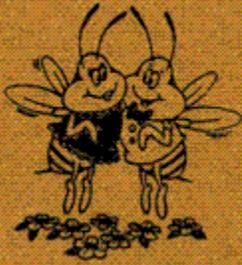
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Everyone is welcome.

Committees meet from 10 AM to 11 AM.



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Board Meeting Minutes

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The group seemed to be in agreement that on going, consistent testing was critical. We don't know what constitutes colony health and a lot of practices we are currently using no longer work. We currently have no base line to refer too. Testing is coming on board at WSU and we need to work collaboratively with the program. There are graduate students working on data collection right now. Although the project is focused on commercial beekeepers at this time, it is also important that local beekeepers sample /test and retest in a consistent matter. Protocols need to be developed and published to ensure consistence in the field. Everyone agreed that protocols are essential for proper treatment and that treatment needs to be adapted to the regional areas.

Jim again requested a motion to support the Colony Health Project Proposal.
Motion/Second/Approved

Old Business

Convention Report – No Report. Jerry is in the process of gathering hotel information. A report will be forthcoming.

WSU Report – No Report

Apiary Advisory Committee/Legislative Report – Eric Olson

The Apiary Advisory Committee report and Legislative Report were combined. The draft minutes are still not available from the first Apiary Advisory Committee meeting. Although the Department of Agricultural Apiary Advisory staffer was present at the legislative hearings, interaction with the WSBA participants was limited. Eric submitted a handout that reviewed the presentation given by Sue Olson. Eric proudly stated that his wife did a fabulous job in her presentation. The handout covered an overview of some problems with the beekeeping industry, the need for legislation, the need for research and a proposed plan for funding colony health research. Everything was going well until the proposed legislation reached the Finance Committee. Although the bills did not pass there is a definite commitment to return for the next session and build on the momentum that has begun.

The main lesson that was taken away for this year's experience is the need to educate the legislature and the general public regarding the importance of bees and the beekeeping industry.

New Business

1. WSU Field Day – No Report
2. WSBA Clothing – Lisa Knox will continue to coordinate the clothing and label products. She will however discontinue the special order items. The remaining special order inventory will be auctioned at the next convention.
3. WSU Queens – This item was tabled for the next meeting.

Managing our Funds – Paul Hosticka

Paul submitted a handout requesting discussion by the Executive Board regarding combining our three separate scholarship funds into one umbrella fund. The concerns voiced during the discussion included; placing donated money into more of an investment risk that the current certificates of deposits, maintaining the original intent of the scholarships, the emotional investments of the original donors and their families, ensuring distribution of funds were given in the name of the person memorialized.

A motion was made for Paul Hosticka and Bob Arnold to research and present to the Executive Board specific goals for the umbrella fund and a plan for fund distribution.

Motion/Second/Approved

Other Business

Discussion of goals Jerry Tate

Jerry reviewed his President's Message from the newsletter. He stated that he looked over the past three years of goals and accomplishments of the Association. He complimented everyone on their hard work and on the goals that have been realized.

Areas that Jerry believes we need to concentrate on in the coming year include honey bee pest management, WSBA training opportunities, continuing to improve communication the local organizations and the general public, and finally, improving our working relationship with WSU.

Jerry again thanked everyone for their perseverance and hard work.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Executive Board Meeting Agenda

Executive Board Meeting Agenda for
JUNE 14, 2008

10-11 will be committee meetings
11-2 will be general executive board meeting with lunch for 1 hour.

Reports:

- The Secretary's Report-minutes from newsletter
- The Treasurer's Report
- Membership Report
- Individual Membership
- Association Membership
- Master Beekeepers Certification Committee Report
- Area Reps
- Bee yard Reports

Old Business:

- WSU Report-Steve Sheppard
- Convention
- Report by Paul and Bob on finances and how to handle investments

New Business:

- Filling open position on executive board
- Legislative committee

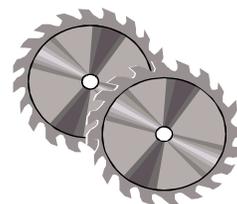
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New Bee Disease Service Coming

With all the publicity that CCD has been getting and the way it has dramatically affected commercial and hobbyists' beekeepers with huge losses, we decided it was time to learn more about healthy bees.

A group was formed with the purpose of determining what it takes to have a healthy bee. This group consists of Matt Hutchinson, Victoria Christenson, Jenine Miller and Jim Miller. Matt is a commercial beekeeper. Victoria has a degree in Biomedical. Jenine and Jim Miller have been hobbyist beekeepers for the past 15 years. Jim has taught beginning beekeeping and advanced beekeeping for IEBA over the past 7 years.

Part of our mission is to find ways to treat bee diseases without killing the honey bees.

We have purchased the necessary microscopes and lab equipment to analyze what is going on inside the honeybee. We have used standard lab procedures and perfected our process to count Nosema Spores and see the presence of Trachea Mites.

The microscopes that we have purchased have a camera lens. It is our intent to capture the images that we see through the microscope.

We are interested in identifying even more problems within the honeybee and will list those services on our web site as they become available.

Remember to enjoy beekeeping.

Jim Miller
Miller Homestead, Cheney Washington
www.millershomestead.com



A. woodi female in honeybee tracheal tube

WSBA Officers & Exec. Committee

President:

Jerry Tate, E. 8900 Maringo Dr, Spokane, WA 98212
509-924-6669, President@wasba.org

Vice President:

Eric Olson, 93 Camfield Rd., Yakima, WA 98908
509-966-2867

Secretary:

Jody Pilarski, 9125 Edgewater Drive SW, Lakewood, WA
98499-1925, 253-988-3090, Secretary@wasba.org

Treasurer:

Paul Hosticka, 517 S. Touchet Rd., Dayton WA 99328
509-382-8939, Treasurer@wasba.org

Area #1 Representative:

Jerry Robnett (2010), 360-387-3693, Area1@wasba.org

Area #1b Representative:

OPEN, Area1b@wasba.org

Area #2 Representative:

Robert Smith (2008), 15525 Castle SE, Yelm, WA 98597
360-894-2159, Area2@wasba.org

Area #3 Upper Valley Representative:

James Bach (2009), P.O. Box 397, Selah, WA 98942-0397
Area3a@wasba.org

Area #3 Lower Valley Representative:

Arlene Massey (2009), 2781 Hornby Rd, Grandview, WA
98930, 509-882-4601

Area #4 Representative:

Dave Sabold (2010), 17 Bean Road Winthrop WA 98862,
509-996-2522, Area4@wasba.org

Area #5 Representative:

Paul Hosticka (2010), 517 S. Touchet Rd., Dayton WA 99328
509-382-8939, Area5@wasba.org

Area #6 Representative:

Robert Arnold (2010), 42615 N. Division Rd., Deer Park,
WA 98006, 509-276-2399, Area6@wasba.org

For more information,
please visit us at:

www.wasba.org

Last of the National Honey Board? You bet, if honey packers get their way.

USDA SETS DATES FOR HONEY PACKERS AND IMPORTERS PROMOTION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM REFERENDUM

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29, 2008 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it will conduct a referendum from April 2-16, 2008, for eligible first handlers and importers of honey and honey products to establish a new national Honey Packers and Importers Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order.

The program will be implemented if favored by a majority of the first handlers and importers, and a majority of volume voting in the referendum. Voters consist of first handlers and importers of 250,000 or more pounds of honey per calendar year.

If implemented, the program would be administered by a 10-member board and its alternates who will be responsible for carrying out activities intended to strengthen the position of the honey industry in the marketplace. In addition, the board will work to develop, maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets for honey and honey products.

The national coordinated generic program would be financed by a mandatory assessment of \$0.01 per pound on honey and honey products paid by first handlers and importers that handle or import at least 250,000 pounds of the commodity annually.

The proposed order, referendum order and referendum procedures for the program will be published in the March 3, 2008, *Federal Register*, and posted electronically on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/fv/rpdocketlist.htm and www.regulations.gov.

On March 24, 2008, AMS will mail the ballots, voting instructions and a summary of the proposed program to all known eligible first handlers, and importers of honey. Eligible first handlers or importers who do not receive a ballot should contact Kathie Birdsell, Research and Promotion Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, Stop 0244, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-0244; by calling (888) 720-9917; faxing (202) 205-2800; or e-mailing Kathie.Birdsell@usda.gov.

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Senate Bill 6468 Favoring Washington Beekeepers Passed

The following article (used to inform our representatives this legislative session) is a great example of beekeepers with passion about beekeeping standing up and doing what it takes to convince our state representatives of inequities. Sue Olson, thank you for supporting Washington State beekeepers, you made a difference, with tax exemptions and helping inform Olympia of the risks of beekeeping and the future help we need.

WASHINGTON STATE BEEKEEPING REFORM TESTIMONY

90% of the honey bees in Western Washington will be lost this year. If we do not work to solve this problem, through research and support of beekeepers in the state, Western Washington will likely be the first area of the U.S. that will not have pollination available. The need for beekeeping reform in Washington State is now!

OVERVIEW

2007 proved to be one of the most difficult years for beekeepers in the United States. It would be nearly impossible to avoid the media coverage of the mysterious Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) that has taken a stranglehold over the industry. This recent publicity exposes one issue beekeepers have had to overcome. But this complicated and essential industry also struggles with several other bureaucratic and environmental challenges in its hope for survival.

You, the lawmakers, can provide vital assistance to this industry and therefore the overall health of agriculture in this state. The needs of beekeepers are twofold: a need for legislation and a need for research.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Pollination has been deemed non-agricultural. The director of the Department of Revenue has ruled that pollination is NOT an agricultural endeavor but instead a service likened to doctors and lawyers. This has been protested but to no avail. Legislation is the only way to overcome this most obviously misguided opinion. Beekeeping is most definitely farming as it deals with livestock, crops, etc.

Only six beekeepers currently pay this tax and out-of-state beekeepers not paying. There are few beekeepers left in this

(Continued on page 10)

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Queens, Bees, Honey & Pollination

Senate Bill 6468, continued

(Continued from page 9)

state, but there are definitely more than the six currently paying B & O taxes. The out-of-state beekeepers coming into Washington to pollinate do not pay this tax, putting Washington state beekeepers at a competitive disadvantage. This tax brings nominal funds to the state but it is significant for a company of our size (approx \$12,000 - \$15,000 per year in B & O tax).

Diesel sales tax exemption does not apply to beekeepers because of the non-agricultural label. Beekeepers do not qualify for the off road diesel sales tax exemption because they have been deemed non-agricultural. After the legislature passed the sales tax exemption for off road diesel for agriculture, the director of revenue told the fuel tax division that beekeepers do not qualify because they not agriculture. I ask you, if beekeepers are not farmers then what are they?

NEED FOR RESEARCH

Continued catastrophic losses in Western Washington may make 2008 the last year bees are available for pollination Western Washington.

At Olson's Honey we run one third of our hives in Western Washington, (4500 hives), one-third in Central Washington and one-third in North Dakota. In 2007, Central Washington and North Dakota resulted in "normal" losses (approximately 10%) but of those hives left in Western Washington over 80% will be lost. This 3600 hive loss is devastating and unrecoverable from year after year.

This loss will result in lost 2008 pollination income of \$1.26 million (\$900,000 pollination loss, \$360,000 to rebuild). This is the worst year we have had, but previous years have confirmed the trend that the bees run in Western Washington have had much higher than normal losses.

We will survive this disaster this year and I will return to Western Washington one more year to serve our customers – cranberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries. If we cannot discover the cause of these honey bee losses we cannot continue to pollinate in Western Washington. This would be devastating to those growers. When we started pollinating the cranberries twenty years ago the growers could not get adequate quality bees. I do not believe that they would get bees if we leave.

Proposed plan: Fund Washington State University to conduct colony health research

It is necessary to check hives on a monthly or weekly time frame to determine what is happening. By developing and funding a tracking study with ongoing analysis for mites, pathogens, viruses, disease and nutrition as well as chemical analysis at the WSU lab can give insight to solve this grievous problem. In addition to the tracking study, if beekeepers in the region feel they have a problem, they would call WSU and someone would respond promptly, assess the colonies and take samples to the lab for analysis. Live stock and tree fruits have these services available—honey bees don't.

Proactive, ongoing colony health research has not been done. Currently, researchers show up after a loss and try to figure out the cause after the fact. That's too late, the bees are dead and reconstructing the problems is often impossible. We need to know what is happening when it's happening, before it is too late. Some organizations on the East coast are currently exploring the new proactive way of research, but there is nothing being done in the West.

It is imperative that we do this research for Washington State and/or the Northwest region. We have different conditions and different problems that the rest of the U. S.

In requesting this funding I would caution against unfunded mandates of the University. We are working with Dr. Bernardo, Dr. Cavallini, Dr. Zack and Dr. Sheppard. It is essential that we have a great team effort for this magnitude

(Continued on page 11)

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Senate Bill 6468, continued

(Continued from page 10)

of research. If we don't fund this additional effort, I fear that the cooperative team effort that is starting to emerge could be damaged.

Other proposed solutions do not solve the problem, simply mask it

Other solutions have been proposed to try and overcome this issue: including reinstating the Apiary program as WSDA, adding a bee inspector and making indemnity payments. These measures would not help or be advisable as regulation would not help solve the problem and indemnity payments reward the wrong people, are too hard to administer, and don't promote more bees. Payments are often used for things other than restoring lost bees and therefore compounding the issue.

Sue Olson, 509.966.2867, Olson's Honey – Yakima, WA

Senate Bill 6468, Saves Beekeepers Money

Department of Revenue Fiscal Note from the Washington State Website for 2SSB 6468

Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Note: This fiscal note reflects House amendment AMH FIN H5932.1 to 2SSB 6468.

This legislation provides business and occupation (B&O) tax exemptions for the wholesale sale of bee products and pollination services provided by beekeepers who are registered with the Department of Agriculture. Honey bees purchased by apiarists are also exempted from sales and use tax.

This bill has an effective date of July 1, 2008 and expiration date of July 1, 2013.

ASSUMPTIONS/DATA SOURCES

There are approximately 300 beekeepers and bee brokers that are registered with the Department of Agriculture. Department of Revenue (Department) data were used to determine the impact of the B&O tax exemptions. Since the industry is small, it was assumed that all beekeepers would register their colonies. The Department of Agriculture list of registered beekeepers was the primary source for determining the revenue impact of this legislation. For the sales and use tax exemption, it is assumed that half of all queen bees will be replaced each year at an average cost of \$15 each. This equates to \$582,000 per year to replace bees in the 77,600 colonies registered with the Department of Agriculture. Since beekeeping is a small, specialized industry it is assumed that there will be no growth over the length of this fiscal note.

REVENUE ESTIMATES

State government would lose an estimated \$74,000 in Fiscal 2009 and \$162,000 in the 2009-11 Biennium. Fiscal Year 2009 represents eleven months of tax collections. Local government would lose about \$9,000 per fiscal year.

When this legislation become law, the Department will use the standard process to amend WAC 458-20-209, Farming for hire and horticultural services performed for farmers, and WAC 458-20-210, Sales of tangible personal property for farming - Sales of agricultural products by farmers. Persons affected by this rule-making will be eligible apiarists.

This bill, in the House passed; yeas, 93; nays, 0; absent, 0; excused, 5.

This bill, in the Senate passed final passage; yeas, 46; nays, 2; absent, 0; excused, 1.

Australian Honey importers stung for \$580,000

This article was originally published by *The Australian*
www.theaustralian.news.com.au February 15, 2008

Chinese Honey Illegally Exported From Australia to US with OZ Label.

Two companies and three people are convicted in Australia of customs fraud and fined A\$580,200 over an elaborate international import/export scam involving 1.7 million litres of honey that was shipped to the United States.

The fraud was part of a worldwide scam to circumvent anti-dumping duties imposed on Chinese honey by the U.S. The honey was exported from Australia to the U.S. as an Australian-made product, but was actually from China.

Australian Customs Service investigations national manager Richard Janeczko says the investigation was lengthy and complex. "This degree of complex fraud can be challenging to detect, investigate and prosecute," he says. "Commercial fraud of this type also has potential to damage Australia's relationship with our major trading partners." Between July 2001 and June 2002, some 28 consignments of Chinese honey were imported into Australia by CHS Enterprises Pty. Ltd. and JHM Trading Co. in 125 shipping containers.

The two companies claimed the honey was from Singapore - which does not have honeybees. Australian Customs said the honey, packed in 200-litre drums, was relabeled as Australian product by the importer and repacked for export. It was not blended with Australian honey and it did not undergo any other form of processing. The honey was then exported in 39 shipments to the U.S. described as Australian product.

An investigation by Customs officers found JHM Trading Co. was bogus. CHS Enterprises Pty. Ltd. and its freight forwarder AK Unicargo International Pty. Ltd. were charged with 38 offences under the Customs Act 1901 and 58 offences under the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905. Also charged were Robin Hu, his then wife, Hui Min Jing, and Gordon (Pui) Lam.

Jing pleaded guilty to all charges in the New South Wales Supreme Court and agreed to assist Customs with its inquiries. She was fined A\$129,200. At a subsequent Supreme Court trial, Lam and AK Unicargo were found guilty of all charges. Hu and CHS Enterprises were found guilty of charges relating to the original importation of the honey. The court imposed fines and costs against the two men and companies totalling \$451,200.

This message brought to you by Bee Culture, The Magazine Of American Beekeeping www.BeeCulture.com

Section 18 Update for Miticides in Washington State

Erik Johansen of the Washington State Department of Agriculture recently verified the letter of support from the WSBA for requesting Section 18 emergency exemptions for Api Life VAR (thymol, menthol, eucalyptus oil), CheckMite+ (coumaphos), and Hivastan (fenpyroximate). Here is the current status of these pesticides:

Api Life VAR has been registered by EPA and WSDA, so that it is no longer necessary (or possible) to request an emergency exemption for this pesticide.

A tolerance has been established for residues of coumaphos in honey and honeycomb, so that it is no longer necessary (or possible) to request an emergency exemption for this pesticide. The emergency exemption for coumaphos has expired and CheckMite+ has not been registered yet, so Erik contacted the registrant to find if/when they intend to submit an application for registration.

The emergency exemption for fenpyroximate expired on February 28, 2008, but the pesticide was never distributed due to a possible bee mortality issue. EPA has indicated that there is still an issue with fenpyroximate, and Erik has contacted the registrant to find out the status of this pesticide.

Wellmark (the manufacturer of Hivastan) stated they will support a Section 18 request for Hivastan (fenpyroximate) use in honey bee colonies to control Varroa mite in Washington for 2008.

Master Beekeepers Certification Program Meeting Minutes

Master Beekeepers Certification Program
Committee meeting February 16, 2008
Meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Lundy.

Attended by the following committee members:

Chair- Paul Lundy
Secretary- Tim Bueler
Jody Pilarski
Jim Bach

Treasurer's Report:: Treasurer was not present to submit a report. In his absence the stated bank balance as of Jan. 31, is \$ 2691.15 .

Old Business;
No old business was discussed.

New Business;
Lundy has set a goal to update the Apprentice Book which was last revised in 1998. It was unclear as to whether or not there has ever been an electronic version of this book. Lundy volunteered to scan the book using OCR software and email to committee members for editing. It was noted that committee members should have the "track changes" option turned on when editing and to initial their edits for reference. Chapters will be assigned randomly to committee members. The desired goal is to have the first draft ready April 16th, the second draft ready for review at the next WSBA Executive Board meeting in June and to have the updates completed by the fall conference.

Lundy stated Matej is still interested in getting patches reinstated. It is unclear who has the patches. Lundy will check again with Bob Smith. Jo Miller may have some patches and Pilarski stated she may be able to find an old Fair vest with patches still intact. All committee members are asked to double check their archives for patches.

Bueler reported numerous Journeyman level books have gone out recently leaving the supply low. Bueler will get a cost for a quantity of books not to exceed the committees \$250 autonomous spending limit and submit via email for approval.

Bueler submitted for reimbursement for supplies and mailing costs associated with MBCP secretarial duties. Those committee members present approved reimbursement. Bueler will send the list to Treasurer Smith for payment.

The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing the Apprentice Book.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.
Respectfully submitted; Tim Bueler, Secretary MBCP

From Catch the Buzz: Check out Project Apis m. One of the best things going for honey bee research.

Project Apis m. Visit us on the Web at www.projectapism.org

What is Project Apis m? A non-profit organization founded in December 2006, Project Apis m is focused on finding practical solutions to beekeepers' challenges by supporting practical, results-oriented in-field research. PAm brings together representatives of the American Honey Producers Association (APHA), the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), the National Honey Board (NHB), California State Beekeepers Association (CSBA), and California almond farmers. PAm includes representatives from both the pollination and crop production enterprises.

Project Apis m. (PAm) helps beekeepers with virus screening -- Project Apis m (PAm) has pledged \$30,000 to support the purchase of IVDS (Integrated Virus Detection System) equipment. In addition to support from PAm, the Almond Board of California, California State Beekeepers Association, California Bee Breeders and the Idaho Honey Producers have contributed toward this project. The IVDS equipment involves an expensive detection device engineered by the Army that can detect virus particles and particle sizes. It represents a creative cross-over technology, originally built for virus screening of humans, but now with tremendous value in assisting with furthering our knowledge of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). In addition, it can be used for breeding purposes to screen out bees with viruses in a breeding program. This equipment should be in place and available for sample screening by early March, 2008, under the direction of Dave Wick, Biological Virus Screening, Inc. (BVS, Inc.) and Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk (Bee Alert, Inc. and U of Montana). A donation to PAm of \$40 per sample to be screened is being requested. This money will be re-directed to the IVDS working group to assist in covering the significant operating expenses necessary to provide this service to beekeepers. Please contact Dave Wick (mrwick@bvs-inc.us) or Jerry Bromenshenk (beeresearch@aol.com) for the protocol for sending in samples.

National Beekeepers Conference, Sacramento, California

The following article is from a compilation of notes taken by Jim Bach as he attended the National Beekeepers Conference in Sacramento California. While these are not his complete notes, and I admit I've taken some editorial license (sorry Jim), the notes tell an interesting tale of beekeeping today.

National Beekeepers Conference Sacramento, CA Jan 8-12, 2008

Notes by James C Bach
WA ST Apiarist, Ret.
jcbach@fairpoint.net

- USDA-ARS is hoping to get \$1 million per year over five years to conduct a "Honey Bee Health Area Wide Project." And, \$4 million for CCD. They are accepting study proposals at this time.
- The importance of bee diets is getting increasing attention.
- 250,000 colonies are used in four California counties for orange honey production. Navel oranges don't produce pollen and are the majority orange variety.
 - California Citrus Mutual is proposing in AB 7071, a two mile honey bee exclusion zone around mandarin orange orchards of six or more acres. That would almost preclude honey bees within four counties.
- Jerry Bromenshenk is working on a virus screening project.
 - Nosema apis has been classified as a protozoa but now is considered a fungus.
 - Combine colonies with mites with other colonies with mites, not with mite free colonies.
 - Research indicates that Fumidil-B (F-B) has no impact on Apis ceranae. (Fumidil-B is said to control Nosema ceranae in Europe. Fumidil suppresses the immune systems of mammals. Is it affecting the immune systems of bees?)
 - Virus sampling: Put 60 or more bees in a zip loc bag. Identify the sample site, collector and date. Transport in a cooler with blue ice, put in a refrigerator until shipped. Ship with blue ice in foam cooler box.
 - His Integrated Virus Detection System has found 14 currently named viruses and four to six new viruses. He has found Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus in 10% of samples.
- Steve Pernal, Beaver Lodge, Alberta, Canada: Nosema ceranae
 - 186,510 colonies had a 29% loss
 - 100 species of Nosema in insects

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National Beekeepers Conference, Sacramento, CA, Continued

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- Technician must look at several hundred spores to be able to differentiate between *N. apis* and *N. ceranae*.
- A pre 1994 bee sample was positive for *N. ceranae*
- Nosema patterns are similar all year in Europe – indicative of *N. ceranae*
- Visual symptoms of Nosema are not reliable
- Queen bees are most often infected as virgins – first four days as adults
- A 454 gram bottle of F-B will treat 50 colonies or 100 to 110 packaged bee colonies. Fumidil in queen candy provides good control.
- Bees' resistance to Nosema is linked to their longevity. Select bees for longevity in propagation programs.
- Diana Sammataro: Studying high fructose corn syrup. Syrup contains starches, two of which are toxic. Syrup reacts to metal containers resulting in higher HMF levels.
- Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman, USDA ARS, Tucson, AZ
 - Studying high fructose corn syrup (HFCS)
 - Comparing "FeedBee, Bee Pro and MegaBee" liquid and patty diets
 - MegaBee did best at brood rearing, slightly better than pollen
 - Measured protein in bee hemolymph: brewers yeast and Bee Pro after 20 days resulted in dead bees. MegaBee in a liquid and patty did best.
 - HFCS reduces bee life and causes death at 50 ppm of HMF (different than research a few years ago that found HGCS good food for bees)
 - 2-Heptone in a patty in the hive for 3 weeks acts as a bee repellent, like Bee Go but smells better, and is an adult wax moth repellent
- Dennis VanEngelsdorp, PA – Apiary Inspectors of America Survey:
 - Apiary Inspectors of America Survey found 51% of beekeepers had 40% to 100% bee losses
 - 17% had "normal" losses – bees "not healthy"
 - Hives had lots of brood, a queen and a few bees. Living or dead adult bees not found within apiaries.
 - 280 migratory colonies in three operations are being sampled monthly up and down the east coast
 - Entombed pollen was found in brood nests – bees put a wax cap on top of the pollen plug.
 - Has fed the entombed pollen to bees: 1 week post feeding = 6% dead vs 2.3% in control colonies. 37.5% affected in June. 44% dead in October.
- Maryann Frazier, Penn State University
 - 220 bee samples, 91 to 171 pesticides looked at – in parts per billion
 - Pollinators and plants are in a parallel decline
 - Neonicotinoids are systemic in most or all plant tissues
 - Analyzed 92 pollen samples: 43 different pesticides and 5 metabolites found, all pesticide classes were found
 - 13 fungicides and 6 herbicides were found, only 3 samples had no pesticides
 - Fluvalinate found in 67% of samples, Chlorpyrifos in 61%, Coumaphos in 51%
 - Fungicides synergize with insecticides and are more toxic when used in combination, Bifenthrin very toxic
 - 18 samples had both Fluvalinate & Coumaphos
 - The visually healthiest colonies had content of Fluvalinate & Coumaphos at LD-50 levels
 - Weak, dead and recovering colonies had highest levels of Fluvalinate & Coumaphos
 - More Fluvalinate was found in brood than Coumaphos
 - Fluvalinate formulations have changed - .2 ug/bee = LD-50; today formulations with .00964 ug/bee are much more toxic to bees
- Kevin Hackett, USDA, ARS, National Program Leader
 - Fluvalinate harmful to Queens at levels below EPA established tolerance levels
- Jeff Pettis, USDA, ARS, Beltsville, MD
 - Treat new packages with Fumidil-B
 - Three migratory operations were checked on east coast – with gamma radiation 22% more colonies lived
 - Seven operations on the west coast – of 10 operations 7 had used Fumidil-B in late summer plus protein supplements = reported higher losses but Nosema levels were very low after F-B use.
- Sue Cobey, UC Davis, CA
 - Importing *Apis carnica* from Germany, *A. caucasia* from Turkey, *A. ligustica* from Italy.
 - Genesafe Technologies Ltd of Ontario Canada, (cooperator)
 - Clip wing of drones – identify the genes and then use semen from them for artificial insemination

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National Beekeepers Conference, Sacramento, CA, Continued

(Continued from page 15)

- Honey bee toxicologist to be hired at the Weslaco TX laboratory
- Tom Rinderer, USDA, ARS, Baton Rouge, LA
 - VSH is Varroa Sensitive Hygiene, formerly called Varroa Mite Resistance
 - Lanie Bourgeois – genetic diversity is high in US Italian bees and in Italy, (S. Sheppard found that our U.S. gene pool was too narrow – only 400 queen source lines)
 - Our bees not the same as in Italy,
 - Looking toward a genome marker-assisted breeding capability.
 - Russian bees carry fewer Small Hive Beetle than commercial strains of bees
 - Working to produce larger Russian colonies for pollination – spring build-up
- Jeff Pettis:
 - Going to genetically sequence *Nosema apis* and *ceranae*
 - Bee larvae are only susceptible to AFB in first 24 hours
 - CCD bees do not have suppressed immune systems
 - Bees placed on irradiated combs had 22% more bee survival
 - Will study ozone treated comb and impact on colony
- LeRoy Brant, Oakdale, CA
 - It takes 175 to 250 pounds of almonds to pay for pollination (per acre?)
 - Colony strength inspections performed at 60°F.
 - Use 1 ¾ to 2 colonies per acre
 - \$150 for an 8 frame colony, \$170 for ten frames
 - Be sure growers don't use Captan fungicide on orchard
 - Check www.BrantApiaries.com for California honey bee import protocols.
- Ryan Coxyns, Madera, CA:
 - Sets or brokers 10,000 hives
 - Almond production costs \$1,800 to \$2,000 per acre
 - Almonds selling for \$2.25 / lb. (If prices go down to \$1.50 = 40% decrease in net income)

Author's comments:

- (175 lbs. almonds @ \$1.50/lb. = \$262.50 or \$131.25 per hive at 2 hives per acre; 250 lbs almonds @ \$1.50 = \$375 or \$187.50 per hive.
- 175 lbs. @ \$2.25 / lb. = \$393.75 , 2 = \$197 per hive and 250 lbs. @ \$2.25 / lb. = \$562.50 , 2 = \$281 per hive.
- Beekeepers are getting up to \$150 per hive or \$300 per acre, , \$1.50 / lb. = 200 lbs of almonds produced; and , \$2.25 / lb. = 133 lbs. of almonds to pay for pollination.
- Growers costs are \$1,800 to \$2,000 per acre (R. Coxyns). \$300 pollination fee = 16.6 % to 15% of production cost.
 - Joe Traynor says that growers should produce about 3,000 lb per acre. @ \$1.50 / lb. = \$4,500 and @ \$2.25 = \$6,750 income per acre. The cost of pollination at \$300 per ac. is then 6.66% and 4.44% respectively of wholesale value of almonds.)
 - Almond production costs of \$1,800 to \$2,000 and an income on 3,000 lbs. at \$4,500 or \$6,750 per acre suggest:
 - \$1,800 costs = \$2,700 profit or 60% at \$4,500 and \$4,950 profit or 73% at \$6,750, or at
 - \$2,000 costs = \$2,500 profit or 55.5% at \$4,500 and \$4,750 profit or 70.3% at \$6,750 to the grower.
- Dan Cummings, Chico, CA:
 - Bee rent used to cost almond growers 8% of their cultural costs, now it is 20% (Data above says its 16.6% to 15%)
 - Wind storm caused loss of almond trees up to 10%
 - 1 ½ % loss of trees = 15 to 20,000 colonies are not needed for pollination
 - Pollination fees of \$120 to \$190 per colony have been heard for 2008
 - There is a “huge disparity in price and quality”
 - The threshold of economic viability is \$1.75 per pound of almonds which is close to the production cost (\$5,250 per acre at 3,000 lbs. of almonds)
- Elina L Nino, NC State University:
 - Minor changes in queen quality causes serious impacts
 - 1 to 3 mating flights with 12 drones = 5-7 million sperm
 - Changes in queen pheromone profile

(Continued on page 17)

National Beekeepers Conference, Sacramento, CA, Continued

(Continued from page 16)

- Semen quality and volume results in long term effects in queens, CO2 also influences queen quality
- Use of Coumaphos causes impacts on queens
- Oxalic acid and imidacloprid impairs memory – queen cell acceptance and queen weight
- Imidacloprid reduces cell acceptance on day 7 = queenless, a decrease in queen weight and lipid weight
- Oxalic acid causes loss of larvae, reduces cell acceptance and queen survival but doesn't reduce body weight or lipid level
- Jeff Harris, USDA ARS, Baton Rouge, LA:
 - Varroa Sensitive Hygiene (VSH) bee behavior removes mites from capped worker brood but not significantly from drone brood – bees investigated cells but re-capped drone brood.
 - There is a 5% removal threshold – less than that and bees won't remove mites
 - 15 to 17% worker and drone brood infested
 - Bees remove pupae but not mites
- Frank Eischen, USDA ARS, Weslaco, TX:
 - Studied over wintering of nutritionally stressed colonies with Varroa
 - 9-17 mites per 200 bees = high load
 - 3 mites per 200 bees = low load
 - Feeding helps colonies without raising mite levels
 - Recommends feeding of *N. ceranae* infested bees over winter (in CA)
 - **Pacific NW colonies** (53 col.) 2,162,830 spores per bee, 75% infected
 - Upper Midwest: 96 colonies, 69.8% infected with 1,797,500 spores
 - Feeding low protein supplement and treating with Fumidil-B is best
 - There is a negative impact from feeding F-B but hopefully it is short term with long-term colony gain.
- Stephen Pernal, Beaverlodge, Alberta, Canada: Preliminary evaluation of Nosema control methods
 - Nosema shortens queen life span and results in supercedure
 - *N. apis* and *ceranae* equally distributed in Canada
 - Fumigillan (25mg/L syrup) effective on *N. apis* & *ceranae*.
 - Beekeepers use 2-5 times recommended dose, increases resistance; using less doesn't help either

SPECIALIZED CLASSES TO PROMOTE STOCK IMPROVEMENT, taught by Susan Cobey, will be offered at the Harry Laidlaw Honey Bee Research Facility at UCD, in Davis California.

Here is one example.

INSTRUMENTAL INSEMINATION & BEE BREEDING WORKSHOP, April 15, 16 & 17, 2008, is designed for commercial beekeepers who are involved in a breeding program and for laboratory personnel requiring the skill for research purposes. A practical hands-on approach to instruction is provided with emphasis on individual attention, therefore classes are kept small. Detailed instruction and hands-on practice semen collection and insemination of queens will be emphasized and facilitated with the use of a video camera and monitor. The preparation and care of virgin queens and drones will be presented. Basic bee genetics and various breeding systems will be reviewed. Demonstration materials, virgin queens and drones will be provided for the class.

Knowledge of queen rearing is required. Beekeepers must provide their own insemination equipment. Microscopes will be provided for use upon request. . Registration Fees \$400.

For Information:

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Washington State beekeeper/broker registration is due by April 1st every year. Here is the link to the form on the Washington State Department of Agriculture web site.

If you plan on taking advantage of the recent B&O tax exemption recently passing in the senate, you must be a registered beekeeper.

<http://www.agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/docs/ApiaryRegistrationForm.pdf>

If your mailing label does not have a 2008 at the bottom, you need to pay dues for 2008!!

P. Lundy
Washington State Beekeepers Association
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