



2018 Beekeeper of the Year is KSBA webmaster Trimboli



SHANNON TRIMBOLI (right) earned the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA) Beekeeper of the Year award, which recognizes someone who has helped the entire beekeeping industry throughout the year. Anyone, KSBA member or not, who visits the website ksbabeekeeping.org has benefited from her webmaster work. Other officers shown are 2018 KSBA treasurer John Benham (left) and past president Rick Sutton.

KSBA board discusses Kentucky honey certification program

At the board meeting the evening before the full Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA) meeting in Hopkinsville, the KSBA board of directors and representatives of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture discussed the continuing development of a Kentucky honey certification program.

To better market in-state honey, beekeeper associations in North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Texas have implemented honey certification programs. Details of such programs were examined and discussed by the group.

KSBA vice president **Chris Renfrow** nominated **Randy Rosbrook**, Madison County Beekeepers Association president, to lead the existing KSBA honey subcommittee and develop a concept paper detailing such a program.

The possibility that a honey certification program could boost association memberships was mentioned, along with the need to keep any certification process simple to accomplish.



Tana Peers (left), 2018 KSBA sergeant-at-arms, and Jake Osborne, 2018 KSBA president, took office at the recent Hopkinsville meeting of the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association. Jake also won the Black Jar contest. (Joe Taylor photos)

Secretary post open

2018 KSBA officers elected; here's your contact list

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State Apiarist's report

Hobbyist beekeepers make honey production gains in 2017

End of year totals and progress report:

Honey production reports in Kentucky are mixed, with this year's self-reported honey production to the State Apiarist being about the same as last year (2016) at approximately **130,000 pounds of honey** with honey reports still rolling in.

Many hobbyist beekeepers seemed to make much more honey this year compared to previous years, attributed to the warm January and February 2017. Commercial beekeepers seemed to make about the same as last year (averaging about 50 pounds per hive) or in some cases less.

While cases of **Israeli acute paralysis virus** were not as visible in October as in September, there were still some cases visible, along with **deformed wing virus** seen during migratory bee inspections.

Overall for 2017, Kentucky had **7,530 honey production hives** with overall **12,281 total hives** (only second-year or older hives make enough honey to be honey production hives).

Hive losses from 2017 totaled around **2,550**, with a variety of reasons for hive mortality: Varroa mites, small hive beetles, viruses, or complications as a result of early swarms (*i.e.*, queens were not available, or reduced hive populations were so small that hive beetles or wax moths took over).

* * *

In the November *BeeLines*, I mentioned the pesticide reports that accompanied the **2016 USDA Honey Bee Health Survey**. Because agricultural chemicals are of great concern to beekeepers, I include a fuller description of that report here.

Briefly: I took pollen samples from July 2016 through June 2017 from hives of 10 beekeepers who volunteered to have their hives sampled. These samples are expensive to process; each one costs about \$300.

My overall impression: While agricultural chemicals should be taken seriously, **Kentucky beekeepers are not seeing alarming amounts of any one chemical except in a few places.**

Clothianidin was found in three samples, with one of the three having trace amounts.

Three of 10 samples had no residues from chemicals.

Six of seven samples had trace amounts, and the seventh sample had significant amounts of **Apivar 2,4**

Dimethylphenal formamide (Apivar is a beekeeper-applied Varroa miticide).

Three samples had significant levels of **Thymol** (trade name **Apiguard**, a beekeeper-applied insecticide). Not surprising, since I had to take pollen samples in the fall.

Other chemicals found in trace amounts in my sampling:

- **Acetamiprid**: A neonicotinoid. This chemical tends to be used in apple orchards. Trace amounts in one sample.
- **Acetachlor**: Trace amount in one sample.
- **Atrazine**: Trace amounts in two samples.
- **Boscalid**: Trace amount in one sample.
- **Captan**: A fungicide. Trace amount in one sample.
- **Carbendazim**: Trace amount in one sample.
- **Fenbuconazole**, a fungicide. Trace amount in one sample.
- **Fluopyram**: Trace amount in one sample.
- **Novaluron**: Trace amount in one sample.
- **Pyraclostrobin**, a fungicide. Trace amount in one sample.
- **Tebuconazole**, a fungicide. Trace amount in one sample.

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See **APIARIST**, page 3

State Apiarist's schedule

- **Dec. 2: Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association Inc.**, meeting at Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 109 Corporate Drive Complex, Frankfort. Featured speaker is **Kevin Hale**. (*See story, page 7.*)
- **Dec. 3: Unitarian Fellowship**, Richmond.
- **Dec. 9-10: Nashville Beekeepers Association**, Nashville, Tennessee.
- **Dec. 11: 4-H Teen Leaders Council**, Lexington.
- **Dec. 18, 2017 - Jan. 2, 2018: Huddling for warmth at the home hive.** Please leave messages at (502) 229-2950 or email tammy.potter@ky.gov.

APIARIST ... from page 2

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture **Pollinator Protection Plan** launched its **electronic map-based program** Nov. 15.

This tool enables row crop farmers and other chemical agricultural applicators to notify area beekeepers *via* email if a product's label requires such communication.

This tool is one part of broader strategies to reduce hive mortality in Kentucky due to drift from agricultural chemical sprays. The goal is to reduce hive mortality from 33 percent to 15 percent in 2017.

Vik Bangaru and I demonstrated this program Nov. 15 for many Kentucky pollinator protection stakeholders, including the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association, Columbia Natural Gas, Kentucky Utilities, Kentucky Farm Bureau, and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. (*See story, pages 4-5.*)

* * *

This year ends with the **Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association Inc. (KQBBAI)** meeting Dec. 2 at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Corporate Drive complex in Frankfort.

This association had a full slate of events this year. Under the able leadership of **Dorothy Morgan**, and the board's tenacity in having regular meetings *via* teleconference, the association provided much education and opportunities for networking and friendship in one year.

At the Dec. 2 meeting's morning session, the Board will consider revising bylaws, budgets, and its 2018 schedule of events. In the afternoon, **Kevin Hale**, a queen bee producer and nuc producer in eastern Kentucky, will provide a program on queen production. (*See story, page 7.*)

The treasurer's report, submitted by Joe Taylor, indicates that at the end of 2017, KQBBAI had a balance of \$6,758.67, with income during the year of \$10,110.90 and expenses totaling \$3,352.23.

* * *

My personal thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year's activities possible, including the Honey Booth at the Kentucky State Fair, the USDA sampling effort, the Honey Committee, and the beekeeper schools. The best of the holiday season to you, and here's hoping for healthy, productive hives in 2018.

KSBA Treasurer's Report

Submitted by John Benham

Beginning balance, 6/1/17 \$ 33,648.63

Bank fees — 199.96

(Monthly fees \$50; deposit charges from Honey Booth, \$112.96; check fees \$37)

Ck 1844 - ABF expenses / Sutton . . . — 1,284.95

Ck 1845 - Honey Booth liability ins . . — 167.72

Ck 1846 - Johnson Co. startup — 100.00

Ck 1847 - Jason Conley gift card . . . — 100.00

Ck 1848 - Martin County startup . . . — 100.00

Ck 1849 - KEFC — 900.00

Ck 1850 - Honey Booth apartment . . — 585.00

Ck 1851 - KRC — 10.00

Ck 1852 - Licking River school . . . — 666.00

Ck 1853 - Member card print fee . . . — 105.95

Ck 1854 - EAS dues — 50.00

Ck 1855 - ABF dues — 200.00

Ck 1856 - KRC — 10.00

Ck 1857 - EAS Research Fund — 150.00

Ck 1858 - Ky Ag Council dues — 250.00

Ck 1859 - Pollinator Stewardship Council dues — 500.00

Total Debits — 5,279.58

Deposits. 693.75

Ending Balance, 10/20/17 \$ 29,062.80

2017 KSBA Payouts

Bee Schools. — \$ 2,529.00

New Association start-up funding . . . — 500.00
(Johnson, Lawrence, Martin, Ohio, and Perry counties, \$100 each)

Dues to various honey bee/pollinator and research groups . . . — 2,300.00

Meeting expenses, including speaker fees and catering — 3,570.56

Total KSBA membership for 2017 — 528

(up from 2016, and increasing yearly since 2014)

KSBA Apiary Beekeeper Education Account remains unchanged at \$4,869.43.

Pollinator protectors meet to coordinate efforts

By Tammy Potter
Kentucky State Apiarist

Forty people central to coordinating Kentucky pollinator preservation activities reviewed progress and strategies last month at a pollinator stakeholder meeting hosted at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KTC) offices by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA).



Vik Bangaru and Tammy Potter demonstrate KDA's Pollinator Protection tracking app during the recent KTC-sponsored meeting of pollinator stakeholders. (KDA photo)

KTC encourages action items

David Waldner, KTC director of the Division of Environmental Analysis, encouraged the audience to create "action items" that move forward efforts to protect pollinators.

Mike Smith, KTC roadside environment state administrator, and Ellen Mullins, KTC biologist, said pollinator awareness should influence design, construction, and maintenance of state transportation projects.

Their presentation included a summary of ongoing herbicides research with Joe Omelian of the University of Kentucky (UK) Department of Plant and Soil Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Omelian said many herbicide labels can be incomplete, and some are not derived for Kentucky. Omelian's field studies have shown some herbicides such as Fusilate and Pendulum are quite "pollinator plant friendly," though some species of Buckhorn plantain and marestail can be difficult to control.

The KTC maintains 23 rest areas visited by 25 million people annually, Smith said. Also, KTC district offices, such as the one in Bullitt County, are beginning to install monarch waystations, he said.

KTC had accommodated requests to delay mowing

See **POLLINATOR MEETING**, page 5

Tell NASS in December how your 2017 went

During December, The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) **National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)** will be conducting three surveys to collect bee and honey statistics.

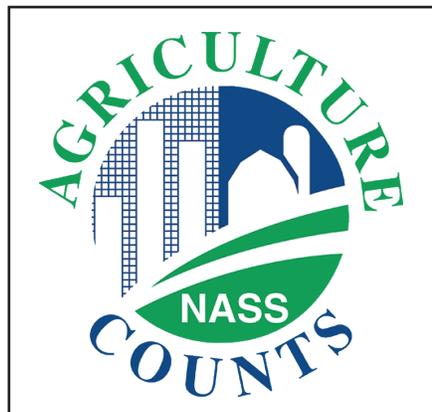
The three surveys will provide information about **bee colonies, bee health, and honey production.**

NASS gathers the data for the surveys online, by mail, by phone, and by in-person interviews.

Specific information for each survey is below.

Bee & Honey Inquiry (operations with five or more hives)

Data collected: Honey producing colonies, honey production and price by color class and marketing channel. Mail date: Dec. 21. 216 sampled beekeepers. Report to be published March 14, 2018.



Bee & Honey Production and Loss Inquiry (operations with fewer than five hives)

Data collected: Honey producing colonies, honey production and sales; income from pollination and other sources such as bees sold; expenses of queens, pest and disease treatments, *etc.* Mail date Dec. 29. 43 sampled beekeepers. Report to be published March 14, 2018.

Quarterly Colony Loss (operations with five or more hives)

Data collected: Colonies owned, colonies by state, colony loss, and colony health. Mail date Dec. 22. 73 sampled beekeepers. Annual report to be published Aug. 1, 2018.

Published reports available at nass.usda.gov.
Questions: Dan Palermo, statistician, (502) 907-3226
or daniel.palermo@usda.gov.

Events by Fish & Wildlife, Columbia Gas next June

until after Oct. 15 so pollinators could find more sources of nectar and pollen as they prepared for winter.

Mullins described **Local Public Agency Projects** (LPAP), in which federal dollars can be routed through KTC. She also described the **KTC pollinator conservation strategy**, a proactive effort to protect critical species before they are listed as endangered.

Pollinator Protection app demonstrated

KDA's **Vik Bangaru** and **Tammy Potter** demonstrated the new app for the KDA Pollinator Protection Plan.

This app meets the requests for simplicity, anonymity and frugality (it is free to users). It helps fill a gap that exists between chemical applicators and beekeepers.

If chemical applicators need to spray a product such as Clothianidin that requires communication with area beekeepers, they might have difficulty locating all the beekeepers in their area. This app, on which beekeepers have registered their beehive locations, automatically sends the registered beekeepers emails giving 48 hours' notice of the spraying. This app serves the larger goal of reducing hive mortality due to unintentional drift.

KDFWR two-day field event planned

Cody Rhoden of the **Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources** (KDFWR) provided a brief history of the **Conservation Reserve Program** and the **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**, both of which are funded by the federal Farm Bill.

Contracts with landowners under these programs typically run from 10-15 years. However, there are some unknowns since there will be a new Farm Bill in 2018.

Rhoden (with **John Morgan** and **Michael Hensley**, representing Casey Shrader) advised the audience many contracts are ending in the near future, and also funding rates may change in the new Farm Bill. Even with the funding uncertainty, some landowners may still want to continue "high quality" pollinator habitat.

Rhoden's team is planning a two-day **Pollinator Habitat Field Event** June 22-23, 2018, in Hart County's Canmer community. The event will synthesize pollinator awareness efforts across the state, provide information to landowners,

and celebrate **National Pollinator Week**. Stakeholders will meet the first day, and the public is invited on day two.

Sunni Carr, diversity program branch manager at KDFWR, provided information on Kentucky's inclusion in the north core of monarch butterfly migration routes.

Overall, Kentucky needs to add over 54 million additional stems of milkweed over 71 of its 120 counties. Furthermore, national authorities recommend improving current milkweed/nectar plant conditions on almost 1.2 million acres.

Others join the effort

Other stakeholders updated the group on 2018 plans.

- **Donald S. Dott Jr.** of the **Kentucky National Lands Trust** offered to augment the pollinators' cause with his group's efforts. The Trust manages approximately 50,000 acres.
- **Zeb Weese** from the **Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission** spoke about the organization's priorities to identify and monitor plant species. He also announced that a new entomologist is about to be hired, and Weese would be willing to use some sites as demonstration sites.
- **Lewis Bradley** reviewed **Bayer CropScience's** two bee initiatives, the **Feed a Bee program** and the **Bayer Bee Care Community Leadership Award**.
- **Linda Porter** reported the **Garden Club of Kentucky** is coordinating a garden tour in the Bluegrass region for 2018. She also emphasized the importance of grasses to small butterflies, appropriate to the club's focus on bluegrass under its new president.
- **Tavia Cathcart Brown** of the **Creasy Mahan Nature Preserve** in Goshen enthusiastically forecast that the state can increase the number of monarch butterfly gardens to 1,000. (Creasy Mahan has a holiday event set for Saturday, Dec. 2 from noon to 3 p.m. EST.)
- Although **Jim Embry** was not present, the group was briefed on his efforts in Madison County to raise pollinator awareness and increase habitat.

Columbia Gas extends invitation

The stakeholder meeting ended with an invitation from **Susan Murray** and **Tony Tipton** of **Columbia Natural Gas** for the group to visit their facility at 201 Mercer Road, Lexington, for an event set for 1 p.m. on June 18, 2018.

Discussion led by Lewis Bradley suggested the stakeholders could also meet earlier that morning, perhaps at UK's Spindletop Farm, to visit pollinator research areas.

EPA computerizing Varroa mite data

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking beekeeper input to create a computerized database that will compile input from smartphones to get the big picture on Varroa mite management

This citizen science project will promote honey bee health and increase understanding of how Varroa mites and pathogens are affecting hives.

You can voluntarily participate by downloading the HiveScience mobile app to your phone and reporting the following for a single honey bee colony:

- routine disease and mite inspections during the year;
- the Varroa mite load, and any necessary actions you took to control mite infestation;
- a small honey sample collected in the fall, using materials provided by the EPA; and
- overwintering success of the sampled colony.

Over time, the HiveScience app data will allow beekeepers to track the local spread of Varroa mites so they may be more able to protect their hives.

The data will also provide information about the real-world effectiveness of miticides registered by the EPA, according to David Leymann of the EPA Office of Research and Development.

Data will be securely stored and aggregated to protect individual identities and results, Leymann said. Data will be organized into geographic contexts to identify mite management trends as they relate to Varroa mite numbers.

To participate, contact David Leymann, (919) 541-0234 or lehmann.david@epa.gov.

Web site for more information: epa.gov/citizen-science/hivescience.

See what other beekeepers are doing: epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.

Holiday honey hits

State Fair Blue Ribbon Winners!

Light Honey Cake

1 stick butter (softened)	1 t. baking soda	FROSTING
1/2 c. vegetable shortening	1 t. salt	1 stick butter
1 1/4 c. sugar	1 c. buttermilk	8 oz. cream cheese
3/4 c. light honey	1 t. vanilla	4 c. powdered sugar
5 egg yolks	2 t. almond extract	3 T. cream
2 c. all-purpose flour	5 egg whites	1 t. vanilla
		2 t. almond extract

Combine butter and shortening in mixing bowl; gradually add sugar and honey. Mix well until well blended. Add egg yolks one at a time; mix well. In a separate bowl, sift flour, soda and salt. Add to wet mixture alternately with buttermilk. While still mixing, add vanilla and almond. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into mixture. Pour batter into three greased and floured cake pans. Bake for 45 minutes or until sides break loose from pans. Let cool in pans for 15 minutes; turn out onto cooling racks to cool completely.

Frosting

Cream together butter and cream cheese; add powdered sugar, vanilla, and cream. Mix well. Stack cake layers; spread frosting between layers and over top and sides of cake. Yield: About 16 servings.

— Lynn Rupley

Butter Button Honey Cookies

3/4 c. butter	1 t. vanilla
2/3 c. sugar	2 cups cake flour
1/4 tsp. salt	Strawberry jam
1 T. honey	White chocolate, melted
2 egg yolks	

Mix butter, sugar and salt until well creamed. Add honey, egg yolks and vanilla and beat for 2 minutes. Fold in flour. Roll dough into 1 1/2-inch-wide rolls, wrap in parchment paper and place in refrigerator until firm. Unwrap rolls and slice into 1/4-inch slices. Bake at 325 degrees on cookie sheet that has been lined with parchment paper. Bake for 12-14 minutes. Cool. Spread strawberry jam between 2 cookies to sandwich them. Dip in white chocolate.

— Rita Woolridge

First general meeting

Queen bee breeders group to meet Dec. 2

Memberships available to hear latest Kentucky queen-rearing information from queen breeder

Kevin Hale, owner of **Hale's Honey** in Menifee County, will address a meeting of the **Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders' Association Inc.** (KQBBAI) Saturday, Dec. 2 at the office of the State Apiarist, 109 Corporate Drive, Frankfort.

This first general meeting of the Association is for members only, but memberships for 2018 may be purchased at the meeting, said KQBBAI president **Dorothea Morgan**.

Hale is "a very successful beekeeper and queen breeder," who maintained 275 hives last summer, Morgan said. Honey production from Hale's hives averages up to 120 pounds per year, and some of his hives have produced over 175 pounds in a year, Morgan said.

Hale's Honey is of the wildflower variety, coming from a combination of clover, locust, and poplar trees and wildflowers, according to the Hale's Honey website.

Though his bees produce this substantial amount of honey, the main focus of Hale's enterprises is the development of about 150 nucs per year, and the breeding and sale of several hundred queens, Morgan said.

"Kevin runs Italians and Russians, and just recently added Purdue Leg Biter stock to his apiary," Morgan said. The Purdue bee is bred to employ a defense against Varroa mites in which the bee bites off a mite's legs.

Hale's website says that over the past few years, he has established a sizable and responsive clientele for Hale's Honey, typically selling 80 percent of his harvest before gathering even begins. "This past year, we were also sold out of nucs by Christmas," the site reported.

Currently, Hale produces honey from 25 percent of



(web site photo)

his hives. "The other hives are used to split for nucs and to raise our own queens. We typically create about 200 nucs to sell and to maintain our own hives," the site said.

Hale is sold out of queens for 2017 and plans to have more available in June of next year, the web site says.

Hale will bring some of the equipment he designed to display at the meeting at the State Apiarist's office, 109 Corporate Drive in Frankfort, in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture office complex.

Topics he will address include queen rearing challenges in Kentucky, selecting breeding stock, setting up nuc cell builders and finishers, using queen cells and virgin queens, evaluating new queens, queen introduction, and nutrition and feeding of queens and honey bees.

RSVPs are required because lunch is planned. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. EST, and the board meets at 10 a.m.

The organization's general meeting and officers' elections follow at 11 a.m., and Hale's presentation will take place after the noon lunch hour. There will also be drawings for door prizes.

Hale web sites: haleshoney.com and his LinkedIn blog,

Meeting and member information: Dorothea Morgan lavenderlanefarms@gmail.com or (606) 871-7300.

BEST WISHES OF THE HOLIDAY
TO ALL KENTUCKY BEEKEEPERS
AND ALL READERS OF
BeeLines

TAMMY POTTER
KENTUCKY STATE APIARIST



Used by permission.

“Sarah,” by Elypsis. (2016)

This geometric kaleidoscopic digital impression suggests bees, flowers, and nature in symmetrical harmony. It is comforting to think of the world as a harmonic structure into which, if we work at it, we all can find a place to fit neatly. Here’s a wish that you find the peaces that complete your mosaic this holiday season.

Elypsis is a co-creation collaboration of Lexington artists David Arnold and Sonya Blaydes, who produce geometric mandalas through computer manipulation of digital photos. Their works have been shown at Lexington’s Kentucky Theater art gallery and at the Woodland Arts Fair.

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