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American Honey Producers Association



Diverse Spring Pollen in California in Late March. Photo Credit: Ben Sallmann, Honey Bee Field Specialists (bensallmann@gmail.com)

Beekeeping in the East

by Wesley Card, AHPA Executive Board

For many in the industry, California almond pollination marks one of the busiest times of the year and the first pollination no matter where your hives are located. In the east, pollination season usually begins soon after, in April and is often marked by the blossoming of apples, cherries, and blueberries further to the south. Later, in May, Maine wild blueberries historically follows which are then later succeeded by cranberries in June. Those beekeepers that attempted to do all three, following the bloom, were among the first migratory beekeepers, for pollination, in the country. Much of this began with a study published by UMass in the 1950's emphasizing the

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increased production in apple farms from pollination. Although, these days apple acreage in the Northeast has greatly diminished as urban sprawl has replaced

orchards with subdivisions. Hives are still transported to each of these crops.

Overall, beekeeping interest is growing. There are more sideline and hobby farms and many people now understand the benefits of pollinators to the food supply and the benefits of eating raw honey. Urbanization continues to play a role in beekeeping. For example, our former home base now stands as a primary retail outlet. Locations to maintain large groups of bees no longer exist as they once did. Managing bees to the needs and concerns of neighbors is a major factor in most decisions. For many, urban beekeeping is a popular alternative with rooftops replacing turnrows as prime locations. All of these are not without their challenges.

Pesticides, in all forms, continue to be an ever-increasing challenge to raising bees in populated as well as rural areas. Management of ornamentals and control of undesirable insects can often lead to unintended harm to pollinators. It seems that no matter where you place your hives these days pesticide exposure is a factor in your management. Growers must carefully balance protecting their crops with protecting the bees hired to pollinate them. These competing interests, along with the overlapping nature of spray applications among multiple growers in the same flight patterns leave the bees little chance of coming out ahead.

In more recent years, the effect of warmer springs and milder winters can be observed in earlier and more volatile seasons and a longer pollen dearth in the fall. Warmer temperatures along the coasts have been creating earlier time frames for Maine blueberry pollination. In many ways this makes us all better beekeepers as everything must be managed to tighter tolerances. The timing of feeding, supering, and harvesting is more critical than ever. Often, pests like hive beetles have greater opportunity to get ahead due to a warmer more humid climate. At the end of the day, every place has its own set of unique circumstances, with which we can always be thankful for another day.



The USDA NASS 2022 Ag Census reported a record high 3.8 million honey bee colonies in the United States, an increase of 25% since the last bi-

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March 29th, 2024 article. These recent USDA numbers are in direct contradiction with the other USDA NASS yearly [honey report](#) and [honey bee report](#) estimating honey bee colonies at 2.5 and 2.9 million colonies respectively for the exact same 2022 year.

Read the full Washington Post article [HERE](#)

What are your thoughts? AHPA would like to make a statement to the press but we NEED some feedback from you beekeepers! Please email annemarie@ahpanet.com with your comments!

Published Science

Queen Bee Gut Microbiota Extends Honey Bee Lifespan by Inhibiting Insulin Signaling.

Read the latest in microbiota researcher showing once again the importance in gut microbiota for honey bee health. Although this publication goes into a lot of details regarding the mechanism by which the microbiota seems to increase lifespan, their methodology is interesting and gives us hope for increasing lifespan in in workers?

Read the whole story [HERE](#)

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Honey Producer



AHPA members, be on the look out for the first quarter Honey Producers Magazine to be delivered in your mailbox in the next few weeks!

TODAY's big Eclipse!

Are you in the path of totality? Do you plan to experience the solar eclipse? I am all set, eclipse viewing glasses and lawn chair ready. However, I plan to look at the bees as much as I look up at

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SAVE THE DATE
December 3-6, 2024

AHPA

American Honey Producers' Association
2024 Convention
 Westin San Antonio North
 9821 Colonnade Blvd.
 San Antonio TX 78230

When you visit the www.AHPANET.com website, you will notice that our information has been updated. Next, we will be working on Members' pages and logins. Stay tuned and thank you for your patience!



AHPA App

As AHPA continues to work on behalf of all beekeepers, one of our initiatives is advocating with the FDA in Washington D.C. to update honey labeling guidelines. As part of this effort,

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Secondarily, we need examples of any labels which misrepresent country of origin or are purposefully confusing to consumers so that we can advocate for positive changes and updates.

Search the App Store or Google Play for "AHPA app". We need to collect as many pictures from honey on the store shelf as possible. Please take a few minutes to help collect this data.

Please do not respond to this message.

This email is sent from an unattended mailbox, email info@ahpanet.com for all inquiries.

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