



AIA



Newsletter for members of
Apiary Inspectors of America

State fair: A vital public education opportunity

Your state fair is a much-beloved agricultural tradition and a primary way to promote apiary science to a uniquely receptive general public.

Although each fair is different in size and scale, state apiarists play a role coordinating the bees and honey competitions, supervising the observation hives, and working with other agricultural industries to dovetail honey with ice cream (dairy) or pork (barbecue sauce), or display and/or sell beeswax products.

Fairs began in the Champagne region of France. Originally designed to promote quality livestock, the fairs expanded during the 12th and 13th centuries to include textiles, leather, cloth, and spices.

The fairs concept first developed when six French cities, located on ancient trade routes, worked collaboratively and operated in sequence to ensure traveler safety, monetary credit, and quality of goods.

According to Wikipedia, the series of six fairs, each lasting more than six weeks, were spaced through the year's calendar, occurring in early January, mid-Lent, the "May fair," the "hot fair" in late June, a fair in mid-September and the "cold fair" in early November. Scheduled on this seasonal basis, these fairs played an important part in establishing an interconnected European economy.

Fairs in the 21st century do not last six weeks, but apiarists have to work throughout the year to prepare for the typical two weeks of a North American fair.

Judges need to be invited well in advance of the Fair to share rules and judging schedules. In some states, a Bees and Honey judge will also judge the 4-H categories. Make sure that the contract with the judge clearly states exactly



2021 American Honey Queen Jennifer Hinkle appeared several days at the Kentucky State Fair, welcoming visitors and conducting cooking demonstrations. The pictured educational window display is by exhibitor Troy Winters. Other displays, next page.

which classes and categories the judge will cover. Some states have a honey culinary competition. If the honey culinary competition is in Bees and Honey, then another judge may need to be invited.

"I have the state beekeepers association newsletter include tips from a honey culinary judge, to help competitors prepare their entries," said Kentucky state apiarist **Tammy Horn Potter**. Some common tips for competitors:

- Use fresh ingredients, especially flour, butter, and spices.
- A judge wants to see what is done with honey as an ingredient. "It's not about the pretties," in the words of this year's Kentucky State Fair honey culinary judge.
- For the Kentucky competition, recipes are required, and honey must be the primary sweetener. Recipes without honey as primary sweetener are disqualified in this category by raising prize premiums.

See **STATE FAIRS**, next page



Tammy Horn Potter (left), a former EAS president and board member, is presented the Divelbiss Award by Eloise Naylor, EAS chair. Potter is Kentucky's first Divelbiss Award recipient. The award was first given in 1988.

Potter honored for public outreach

Kentucky state apiarist **Tammy Horn Potter** was awarded the **Charles and Evelyn Divelbiss Award** by the **Eastern Apiculture Society**. The award is presented annually at the EAS Conference for one who, over a period of years, has educated the non-beekeeping public on the value of honey bees in our lives.

Kentuckians “are fortunate to have someone willing to give seminars, collect samples for Varroa testing, wax contamination studies, and other special surveys with the USDA,” said EAS chair Eloise Naylor.

Kentucky State Fair honey window displays



Display by Lara Augustine.



Display by Tyler Blair.

STATE FAIRS ... from last page

Pennsylvania State Apiarist **Karen Roccasecca** is “lucky enough to be given custody of the recipe copies of honey food products.” She copies them for the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers newsletter. The recipes can be a revenue-generator when re-published.

Entries in the observation hive category have been declining for years because so many details of a good observation hive are out of a competitor’s control (e.g., are drones still available? will it be sunny the day before the observation hive is stocked? etc.). North Carolina’s **Don Hopkins** has encouraged entries in this category by raising prize premiums.

Typically, competitors can pick up the observation hives after judging. In Pennsylvania, a “Tools of the Trade” display is up each year, and can help if observation hives are opened/knocked over and broken.

The pandemic canceled many 2020 fairs, but **Royal Winter Fair** in Toronto may continue in 2021, said **Paul Kozak**. This is one of Canada’s largest fairs (sometimes the largest, contending with the Calgary Stampede in Alberta).

Honey vendors and booths are overseen by the Ontario Beekeepers’ Association, University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Center, and others. An exhibition gives awards for various categories of honey and wax.

Discontinuing state fairs often places new emphasis on 4-H events and honey festivals for public education. According to **Mike Hansen**, Michigan has many county 4-H youth fairs. Livestock, horses, chickens, and rabbits are shown, mostly owned by the children who exhibit them. Hansen says the strong tie to 4-H makes these events special for families. Also the **Michigan Honey Festival**, held Aug. 7, brought together beekeepers, vendors, sponsors and volunteers.

State, province, and territory reports

FLORIDA. Just in time for hurricane season, the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences re-released a **Hurricane Preparation and Recovery** manuscript (2020), including a section dedicated to beekeepers: <https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Beekeepers%20Guide%20Florida.pdf>.

HAWAII. It's been a quiet year so far. We successfully weathered our queen bee season, which ended a bit earlier than normal (Canada cut off requests early this year). We've had no major shipping "snafus" for our queen breeders. We have no major disease outbreaks. We have a highly active swarm season in play. And lastly, we have a spike in complaints about ... *ahem*, disrespectful and inconsiderate beekeepers. — *Darcy E. Oishi*

KENTUCKY. While not a full-fledged outbreak in any apiary, European foulbrood has been a consistent presence through the state. In the past, most cases of EFB clear up by the beginning of June. Nonetheless, this year has been a blockbuster honey production year. The first case of American foulbrood was diagnosed the first week of August in Kentucky. Six hives were destroyed. Inspection of an apiary in the immediate vicinity did not show active signs of AFB. — *Tammy Horn Potter*.

MICHIGAN. Michigan State University (MSU) held two webinars for beekeepers in August and September. To receive updates about upcoming webinars, sign up for MSU's **Pollinators and Pollination Events Newsletter**. Videos and recordings of the past webinars are on the MSU Beekeeping YouTube channel.

The MSU Pollinator Initiative developed these pollinator stewardship resources for growers as part of the Michigan Managed Pollinator Protection Plan:

Blueberry Pollinator Stewardship Guide

Guía del Cuidado de Polinizadores de Arándano (Blueberry Pollinator Stewardship Guide in Spanish)

Vegetable Pollinator Stewardship Guide

Guía para la Gestión de Polinizadores de Hortalizas (Vegetable Pollinator Stewardship Guide in Spanish)

Pollinator Stewardship in Orchards Webinar Recording

MSU leads a **Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3) Working Group** for people who create and implement MP3s and other programs that support pollinator health. Our group includes extension educators/

specialists, apiary inspectors, pesticide safety educators, and professionals from agriculture departments. We meet monthly to learn about the work others are doing related to MP3s, to share resources, and to collaborate on projects that provide pollinator education and resources to pesticide applicators. — *Anna Heck*

NEW YORK. On June 26, 2021, the Governor of New York signed a revision of the Agriculture and Markets Law-Article 15 (AML) that better reflects today's bee husbandry practices and creates a **Cooperative Honeybee Health Improvement Program** to better monitor honey bee health in New York apiaries. The revisions provide for the Apiary Industry Advisory Committee and designate the commissioner as the chairperson of the committee. The commissioner is required to provide beekeepers with advance notice of apiary inspections. A cooperative honeybee health improvement program is established, which includes the registration of apiaries and contact information for the person responsible for the bees. An annual inspection of apiaries selling nucleus colonies is provided for. The Real Property Tax Law effect is clarified on the farm buildings property tax exemption for the bee industry; and AML section 301 (9) is amended to include more bee products in the definition of "gross sales" for the Agricultural Value Assessment program. — *Joan Mahoney*

VERMONT. We had our first case of AFB this year. This case was a reoccurrence from a case last year. This case seems to have originated from using old equipment from their storage shed.

Annual apiary registration deadline was June 30. We use the Apiary atlas to evaluate new apiary locations and verify colony numbers at some locations to assure the number of colonies exceeds 14, which provides a two-mile buffer from other commercial apiaries. — *Brooke Decker*

WASHINGTON (State). It was a good legislative year for Washington State. Katie Buckley has provided the following links to new bills that passed in Washington:

The pollinator bill: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=5253&Year=2021&Initiative=false>

The pesticide fee bill: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=5317&Year=2021&Initiative=false>

The fertilizer fee bill: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=5318&Year=2021&Initiative=false>



A truckload of beehives, en route to California.

California pre-inspects traveling pollinators

Project Apis m. and **Washington State University** have been working together to provide beekeepers with an online practical guide to indoor storage of colonies.

A newly released chapter addresses a common question for many beekeepers – “How can I find out more about **California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)** pre-inspections?”

The difficulties beekeepers face transporting bees to California include long lines and sometimes hours of waiting at border inspection stations. In 2018, the CDFA premiered a new program, allowing pre-inspections for beekeepers in some states, to save transport time. There are many questions about who can qualify and how to sign up.

World symposium includes two-way talk

An international online symposium on global trends in beekeeping is set for **Sept. 20-21**. The symposium promotes attendance at the upcoming 47th **Apimondia** Congress in 2022.

The symposium will focus on the role of beekeeping in regional development, bee biology and health, beekeeping economy, problems of honey falsification, apitherapy, and access to international markets.

A virtual meeting hall will allow session rebroadcasts, and an international virtual exhibition will allow 60 exhibitors groups in four different halls to take part in live chats with participants.

Free of charge advance registration: apimondia.seminar.live.
Symposium program: apimondia2021.com/docs/BK_2021_program.pdf?p=123.
Instructions on the virtual system: apimondia2021.com/docs/Virtual-System.pdf?p=123.

The new chapter in the online guide, written by **Kelly Kuhlanek**, explains why the pre-inspection program is important, tells what to expect, and provides resources to help interested beekeepers participate.

Download the **Guide to Indoor Storage of Honey Bees in the U.S.** at <https://www.projectapism.org/indoor-storage-of-honey-bees.html>.

Calendar Notes

Regular AIA Zoom meeting:
Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2-4 p.m.

New AIA/American Bee Research Conference (ABRC) meeting dates are **Jan. 11-14, 2022**. (AIA, 11-12; ABRC, 13-14.) This is being billed collectively as the North American Bee Research Symposium.

A planning meeting to draft resolutions for the January meetings will be held **Nov. 30 at 2 p.m.** More information:
Natasha Garcia-Andersen
(email: natasha.garcia-andersen@dc.gov)

The AIA Baton Rouge online meeting has been reset for **January 2022** to coincide with AIA/ABRC.

The Beeing Diverse event scheduled for Medina, Ohio **Oct. 1** has been postponed until 2022.



AIA conference in Shepherdsville

AIA members in attendance at EAS in Shepherdsville, Ky. (L-r): Bridget Gross (N.C.), Dave Priebe (N.H.), Emily Wine (Del.), Tammy Horn Potter (Ky.), Karen Roccasecca (Pa.), Keith Tignor (Va.), Meghan McConnell (N.J.), and Don Hopkins (N.C.), seated. Photo: James Roccasecca.

Recipe

Watermelon cucumber salad with honey lime dressing



For Dressing

2 T. extra virgin olive oil
1 t. lime zest
2 T. honey
4 T. lime juice

For Salad:

4 c. watermelon, cubed
1 English cucumber, sliced and quartered
1/3 c. fresh mint, thinly sliced
1/3 cup feta, crumbled
Sea salt to taste (optional)

In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, zest, honey and lime juice. Put the cubed watermelon, cucumber and fresh mint into a medium bowl and gently toss. Drizzle dressing over watermelon and then top with crumbled feta. Add sea salt to taste, if desired.

YIELD: 6 servings.

Recipe courtesy of Mitzi Dulan, RD, CSSD; made for the National Honey Board.

Honey Bee Vet Consortium opens access Sept. 18

The **Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)** extends veterinary authority to apiculture and honey bee veterinary medicine. Honey bees now fall under veterinarians' purview. Inspectors may be called upon to appropriately administer medically important antimicrobials.

The Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium conference focuses on what large scale or hobbyist beekeepers need for effective disease management. The group's mission is to educate veterinarians, novices, and experienced apiarists on how to integrate veterinary care into beekeeping.

This on-demand virtual conference will cover novice- to master-level beekeeper topics. Registration includes access until Dec. 31, 2021, downloadable/printable notes, and 18 hours of RACE approved CVME.

The conference is originated by the **North Carolina State University (NCSU) College of Veterinary Medicine**. Registration fee is \$200 for non-members, \$150 for members, and \$100 for students, at <https://reporter.ncsu.edu/index.html>.