

"Promoting the Craft, Science, and Future of Beekeeping since 1947"

THE BEELINE



Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

ISSUE

Summer, 2019

Editor: Valerie Just

JUNE EVENT

June 15, 2019

IHPA Summer Field Day

Iowa State Horticultural Research Center

CIBA JULY MEETING INFORMATION

Saturday, July 20, 2019

Andy Joseph's Apiary

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- ✓ Tour
- ✓ Demonstration and Hand's On
- ✓ Potluck at Chichaqua Longhouse
 - 8700 NE 126 Avenue, Maxwell

Any questions contact:

Linn Wilbur

(515) 382-4882

lwilbur50201@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION

DEADLINE: August 1, 2019

Email Submissions

beyersbog@aol.com

Mail Submissions

Jamie Beyer

269 U Avenue

Boone, IA 50036

You may make updates to your subscription, or add a subscription by sending a notification to:

justiawahoney@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMIE BEYER

This is my first report to the membership since being elected as your President last March.

CIBA has been very busy since our meeting in March. As many of you know we had one of the most successful auctions on April 20th. A large part of the success of this auction was the generous donations by some of our members. Please read more about this later in this newsletter. Julie Sander did an outstanding job of organizing all the buyers, sellers and volunteers. She is a pro at it!! Thank you, Julie!!

To have a successful event like our Auction takes a team!! There are so many people that helped that to Thank all of them would take way too much space. Our Donators, Directors, Volunteers, our Queen Abigail and our Princess Makayla, our Auctioneer Bill Van Roekel, the sellers and the buyers all did a super job of making this Auction go smoothly. Thank you so much. We then had a Directors meeting on May 13th that was full of ideas for the future of our group. We appointed a new Secretary - her name is Cheyenne Sisson. She will need to be elected at our next membership meeting that will be in July. Thank you, Cheyenne!!

We still need an Editor for the Beeline. I have asked several potential candidates without success. I have learned that you ask the busy person since they already know how to get things done. Of course, a person may simply not have time but I will ask. If you are a person that would like to do the Editor position please let me know. Our leadership team will be able to show you how easy it really is.

We are proceeding on making the Queen/Ambassador program more streamlined and easier for the Queen to understand what is expected. We have a committee that is overseeing this.

We are closer to becoming a non-profit status organization due in a large part to the efforts of Marlon Mormann, our lawyer, that is doing pro bono work for us. Once we have this status, we can proceed with getting liability insurance and then the Bee Yard can follow.

The program committee is hard working on lining up future Programs for us. Please read what he is planning. I can guarantee you that our programs are unique and everyone will want to come.

See ya at the IHPA Summer Field Day on June 15th at the ISU Horticulture Farm in Ames and then the CIBA Summer Field Day on July 20th at Andy Joseph's (our State Apiarist) Bee Yard. More on these meetings later in this BeeLine.

[go to the top of the document](#)

Table of Contents

Editor's Note: Page references are not accurate, and I cannot get them to update appropriately.

Events: Program Details	3
May CIBA meeting	3
July CIBA meeting	3
CIBA Beekeeping Auction Update	3
Auction Financial Results	3
Membership Directory	5
Calling all Volunteers	5
CIBA Bee Yard	5
Food Committee Formation	6
John Johnson: Recognition for Dedicated Community Service	7
The Queen's Corner	8
NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK	8
Get to Know Your Club Leadership	9
CIBA Member Contributions	9
Meet a Mentor Extraordinaire	9
Weed Killer Residues Found in 98 Percent of Canadian Honey Samples	10
2019 Iowa Honey Producers Association Summer Field Day	13
Beekeeping Banter	13
CIBA Leadership and State Organizations	15





Events: Program Details

May CIBA meeting

No meeting in May as we encourage members to attend the day long June 15th Iowa Honey Producers Association Summer Field Day at the Iowa State Horticultural Research Center. We have additional information [here](#) in this newsletter, or visit <https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/> for more information.

July CIBA meeting

Saturday, July 20, 2019. Tour, demonstration and hands on at Andy Joseph's apiary near the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt. Followed by a potluck lunch at the Chichaqua Longhouse (8700 NE 126 Avenue, Maxwell). Plans are still being finalized but reserve 10-2 for this event. More details to follow. This is being planned as a family event and anyone not wanting to attend the apiary tour can stay at the Longhouse.

I understand Andy is planning to invite his 2019 Beginning Beekeeping Class to attend, so we will have the opportunity to meet and talk with new beekeepers and see how their new hives are faring. As well as learning new info--regardless of how long you have been keeping bees. As Andy is the Iowa State Apiarist as well as an ardent sideliner beekeeper, he has a lot to share with us. Plan to bring your bee suit and other protective gear for the tour.

Any questions please contact Linn Wilbur, (515) 382-4882, lwilbur50201@gmail.com



CIBA Beekeeping Auction Update

Julie Sander, Auction Chair

The 2019 auction was another year of growth. It was exciting to see the large number of consigners, bid numbers and buyers. This year was a new location that turned out to be a great fit. It allowed more space for consigners, indoor check-in and check-out, a kitchen for the Queen's Cafe and even indoor plumbing.

This year we had 23 lots of consigners, 78 buyers. We had a lot of great volunteers helping as well as donations to auction off. A big thank you to John Johnson, Andy Joseph, Linn and Ann Wilbur and Jim Crandall for those donations and all those that made the auction run smooth. Abigail, Andy, Ann, Bernie, Bethany, Britta, Jamie, Jeni, Jeremiah, Joanna, Linn, Makayla, Margaret, Mike, Olivia, Sean, Steve, Sue, Tricia and Val worked extremely hard for the club that day and did a great job. A big thanks also to Christina Nigon for donating the eggs for the burritos.

The auction is one of the main fundraisers for the club, so this year as your finding stuff you are not using or changing out start your auction pile for 2020! We have ours started.



Auction Financial Results

Valerie Just, Treasurer

As a result of generous seller donations by John Johnson, Andy Joseph and Linn Wilbur, our organization had the best financial results since I have been treasurer over the last three years. For the second year, Jim Crandell generously donated his seller proceeds to the Honey Queen program. Once expenses are accounted for, we had a net business profit of \$2,541.66; the Honey Queen program had a net profit of \$597.56!! Congratulations and thank you to all of the people that donated their time, food and equipment!

The following tables provide details on our financial results:

Net CIBA Commission	
Total Sales	\$9430.00
Seller Payments	(\$6540.26)
Membership Deduction	(\$10.00)
Net Donations	(\$1665.00)
Total	\$1214.74

Fundraisers and Membership	
Hat Sales	\$55.00
Cookbook Sales	\$18.00
Membership	\$165.00
Total	\$238.00

Net Commission & Donations	
CIBA Commission	\$1214.74
Expenses	(\$338.08)
Sub-Total	\$876.66
Seller Net Donations	\$1665.00
Total	\$2541.66

Queen Cafe			
	Debit	Credit	Totals
Food Court Donations		\$601.84	\$601.84
Food Expense	\$36.28		\$565.56
Seller Donation		\$32.00	\$597.56
Total Profits			\$597.56

The following tables denote a three-year comparison on auction results – please note that the 2019 results are only a comparison of commission results, and do not reflect the additional \$1665 in net seller donations for 2019. Additionally, the Queen Café had a 65% increase in profits this year!

CIBA Business Profits

Description	2017	2018	2019	Gains/Losses
CIBA Equipment Sale Net Proceeds	\$667.83	\$870.51	\$876.66	+\$6.15
Membership Dues Collected	\$75.00	\$270.00	\$165.00	-\$105.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$13.00	\$0	-\$13.00
Fundraisers	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$73.00	+\$63.00
Totals	\$742.83	\$1,163.51	\$1114.66	(\$48.85)

Honey Queen Program Profits

Description	2017	2018	2019	Gains/Losses
Net Proceeds	\$337.25	\$333.96	\$565.56	
Seller Donation (Jim Crandell)		\$26.35	\$32.00	
Totals	\$337.25	\$360.31	\$597.56	\$237.25



Membership Directory

Our CIBA 2019 Membership Directory is sent out annually in June if you indicated on your membership form we could share your information. The Board has determined that the directory will only be provided via electronic email. If you did not receive an electronic version of the 2019 CIBA Membership Directory, please contact Val Just at the information provided in this article.

Also, please review your individual information; if you find wrong information, please contact Valerie Just so we can ensure that our records are accurate:

JustIowaHoney@gmail.com

(515) 278-4835



Calling all Volunteers

CIBA Bee Yard

Jeremiah Kusel, Bee Yard Committee Chair

As the chairman of the CIBA bee yard committee, I wanted to provide an update on our bee yard. We are so appreciative of the work that Marlon Mormann, one of our CIBA members as well as a Des Moines attorney, completed in filing our Articles of Incorporation. The finalization of this work was the catalyst in enabling the organization to move ahead with our bee yard. We are now ready to start program discussions and planning.

Ray Meylor has generously offered the club the opportunity to locate our bee yard at his Cherry Glen Learning Farm. The mission of our bee yard is to impart honey bee awareness and education for not only our members, but the public, as well. As a committee, we will make determinations on beneficiaries of our harvest.

We need passionate volunteers to plan and execute on this new organizational effort! Please text or email me, or any of the board members, if you have any questions. Please also contact me if you would like to discuss the needs of the committee, or gain further clarity on the needs ahead.

My contact information is as follows:

12beeshoney@gmail.com

(515) 447-3203

Food Committee Formation

Ann Wilbur, Food Committee Chair

At the last board meeting it was decided to create a committee to take a leadership role in organizing the food provided at CIBA events. The Queen's Café at the auction, the meal at our field day in July and the food at the Winter Seminar are the main events, but other events may crop up.

If you have any interest in joining a fun group who loves to organize projects and feed people, please contact Ann Wilbur at (515) 291-6203 or abwilbur54@gmail.com OR Jenny Burton at (515) 577-9828 or jennibeas@boho.com

If you don't want to be on the committee (as in...you can't stand meetings or are pressed for time) but you enjoy cooking, let us know about your interest. We will contact you for specific help and we won't make you come to committee meetings! Promise!



Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship News

News from our State Apiarist, Andy Joseph

By Andy Joseph

Hello.

Summer is nearly here. End of May and it's been kind of a rough month. The bees have built up well in spite of the cold and rain. It sure has been a beautiful looking spring, but bee foraging opportunities have so far been limited. We haven't had any big late freezes to harm the early blooms. We're coming into what could be a honey flow now. All we need is some warm sunny days to give the bees half a chance to get out and get after it.

We experienced plenty bee loss across the state over winter. Maybe as much as 60+% dead between October and April. I spent quite a bit of time looking through dead outs and taking samples these last couple months. I wrote last time on some clues to look for when doing winter loss detective work. Most of the losses seem to be the sadly typical Varroa-related damage ending in dwindled down winter clusters unable to support themselves. This type of loss has sadly become pretty normal. There were also some really high Nosema counts coming out of winter – not everyone across the board – it was more like either no problem at all or really high infection. We don't have access to any good Nosema treatment, so my only plan is to keep an eye, probably doing more counts later in the season and again come next spring just to see if there's any pattern or reliable early warning. Most of the higher counts were associated with dead hives, so now that we're into spring, spore counts I've done more recently have looked better.

As you watch for early signs of swarming, also keep an eye for EFB. European Foulbrood was a relatively rare bacterial disease up until the last several years. We've been seeing it increasingly though recently, and I can't exactly say why. It's not nearly as devastating as an American Foulbrood infection, especially since it doesn't end in the scale which ruins combs from future use. That said, EFB can take hives right downhill, and fast. It's a stress-associated bacterial infection. You'd typically see it this time of year – May through June, especially when weather / foraging conditions aren't the greatest. EFB affects honey bee larvae causing sickness and death prior to the stage at which they'd be capped for pupation. You'll see a spotty pattern of capped brood cells with shrunken, discolored (grey, brown, orange) larvae in the mix. Other bee health issues can create a similar appearance on the brood comb, but if you see this you know

something's not right and deserves a closer look. Mild EFB infection can sometimes clear up with good dry warm days and a good flow of nectar and pollen coming in. A break in brood, culling any particularly bad combs, and a full Terramycin treatment all can work wonders. Just keep a watchful eye!

The biggest news I have now is ... **We have a new Apiary Inspector!** Austin Miller has recently started with us at Iowa Dept of Agriculture & Land Stewardship as our North Iowa Apiary Inspector. Austin and his family live in north central Iowa. He's a knowledgeable beekeeper quickly building up an operation of his own. He's a hard worker for sure and importantly he has what I'd call a passion for helping others succeed with their bees. Austin is conducting apiary inspection work in a loose territory of the northern third of the state. Please don't hesitate to give Austin a call if you'd like him to visit your bees, particularly if something in the yard doesn't seem quite right or if you're selling bees / used equipment containing combs. His number is (515) 571-8991. Welcome Austin.

It really is great to work in a government program which is largely appreciated by the industry. I've enjoyed visiting a few beekeeping groups across northern Iowa, sharing the news that we have a new inspector working in the area, and having that news be happily well-received. This obviously is not a common experience for regulatory officials, and not all states share Iowa's support for this work. I enjoy my work, I know Arvin enjoys his, and it's completely safe to say Austin will also. So thank you, as always.

Let's get out there and make some honey. Hope to see you all at the Summer Field Day. It's going to be a great event.

Andy
515 326 5765 (text or call)
Andrew.Joseph@IowaAgriculture.gov

John Johnson: Recognition for Dedicated Community Service

By Jamie Beyer



John Johnson was recognized at the March 16, 2019, Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) meeting for the many years of service to the beekeeping community. John worked for Iowa State University Extension, was President of the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), served as President of CIBA and mentored an informal group of beekeepers for many years in the Ames area. He was also the Pioneer Award recipient at the 2018 IHPA Annual Meeting.

In honor of John's dedicated service, CIBA hosted a reception that featured an early spring bee and dandelion themed cake and other goodies. John's wife, Elaine, was also present at the ceremony. The reception was followed by a discussion during the meeting of how we have benefited from John's beekeeping knowledge and his willingness to share his experiences.

Editor Commentary: Linn and Ann Wilbur did a phenomenal job baking and decorating John's cake. It was the best cake I have ever eaten – and trust me, I've eaten a lot of wedding and graduation cakes – I know what I am talking about! Thank you to Linn and Ann for all of their hard work – this club would suffer without your dedication!



The Queen's Corner

By Abigail Kelly, 2019 CIBA Honey Queen



Happy Spring! I hope everyone's bees are doing well. In April I helped with the Queen Café (formally known as the concession stand!) at the annual auction in Minburn. I made BK Bars. We also offered made to order walking tacos and hot dogs, breakfast burritos, desserts, chips and beverages. Thank you to Betty Brandt, Ann Wilbur, Susan Kelly, Julie Sander and Jenni Burton for your food and beverage donations. We raised almost six hundred dollars for the queen program. I really enjoyed meeting all the beekeepers who came down to the Queen Cafe as well as getting to know the ladies who have been helping with the Queen Cafe for years.

On May 2, 2019, I partnered with Doyle Kincy to share the importance of honey bees to our world with over two hundred fifth graders from the Winterset, Interstate-35, and Earlham schools. We talked about pollination as well as answered many student questions. I now know bananas are NOT pollinated by honey bees.

As queen, I am planning on attending as many CIBA activities as I can. I would like to attend some of the central Iowa county fairs and talk to fair-goers about honey bees. I am planning on giving a presentation on beekeeping at the Polk County Fair through 4-H. I have some presentations at libraries scheduled, but am interested in scheduling additional events. I am currently working on presentations about honey bees in general, beeswax products, and honey bees as pollinators. If you would like to see me come to your county fair or local library, please contact either Jamie Beyer or Connie Bronnenberg.



NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what you can do to protect them

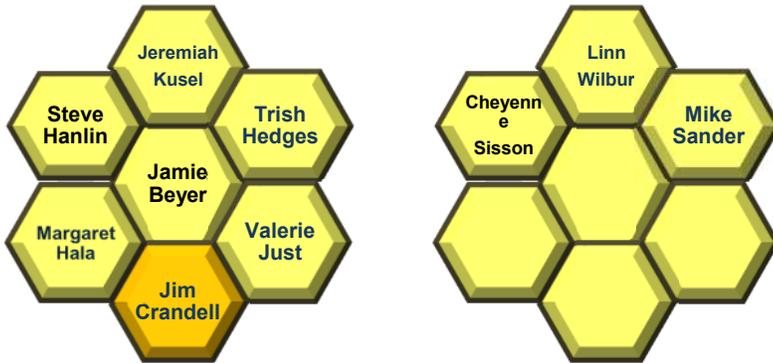
Twelve years ago, the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown into an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles.

The Pollinator Partnership is proud to announce that June 17-23, 2019 has been designated National Pollinator Week.

For more information, here is the website: <http://pollinator.org/pollinator-week>

Get to Know Your Club Leadership

Jim Crandell, Board of Director



Let me introduce myself as one of your new organizational Board of Directors. I'm Jim Crandell and I live in Newton, Iowa, with my wife of 48 years, Chris. We have one son, Jim, Jr. Jim and his wife, Jes, live in Minnesota. They have blessed us with seven incredible grandchildren, ranging in ages from seventeen down to three. I'm a former Machinist/Tool and Die Maker. Two years ago, after 13 years of service, I retired from Barilla in Ames. I'm also a former longtime Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader. Currently, I'm a Shrine Clown (Soapie); is that a clean name or what?!!

I'm a fourth year Beek. I have 8 hives and I am making my first splits this year. I built my first Nucs and swarm traps this year. They look good - I hope the bees like them! Prior to raising bees, I raised pigeons for 20 years. Bees are more fun and a lot less mess!

As a Director, I'm looking forward to learning more about our interesting hobby, and helping to make our club bigger and better.

CIBA Member Contributions



Meet a Mentor Extraordinaire

By Laura Miller, first published on her blog, Bee Lady Honey, <https://beeladyhoney.com/>



John Johnson did not have time for honey bees while growing up on his family's central Iowa farm in Marshall County. "They were mean and they stung me all the time," he recalls.

But now, after more than 45 years of keeping honey bees and mentoring dozens if not hundreds of new beekeepers throughout Iowa, John's biggest wonder is "why in the heck can't I keep on doing this?"

This has been the first spring that John hasn't donned his white suit on an almost daily basis to check his bees. At 87, health problems have forced John to hang up his smoker and sell a trailer-load of beekeeping equipment. The frames, tools, hives and even honey brought more than \$1,800 for the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) at a recent auction – all going to the organization. That's the kind of person he is, generous with his time and vast knowledge of beekeeping.

I was one of the many "newbies" John mentored during more than four decades of beekeeping. He patiently answered my questions and would drive to my house in the country to help me capture a swarm or figure out a problem with my bees.

In March, CIBA honored John and his wife Elaine for their work with the organization and promotion of beekeeping. A year earlier, the Iowa Honey Producers Association presented him with their prestigious Pioneer Award. Johnson served as

IHPA president from 1989-1991, when the Iowa Honey Queen program was adopted and about the time that the group introduced its popular honey lemonade at the Iowa State Fair.

A few days ago, my husband Dave and I visited John and Elaine to hear a few highlights of his long beekeeping career and see what advice he wanted to offer. We knew he would be thorough and meticulous – our bee notebook is full of John’s typed notes and we have spent more than a few hours listening to his lessons.

Given the “mean bees” on his family’s farm, how did he get back to tending his own bees? It was about 1974 and John was area extension director in northern Iowa. The Clay County office needed help setting up for a program by the state apiarist. “I guess I got interested and ended up taking the beekeeping course myself,” John said. He got two colonies of bees from his brother-in-law and that was it: bit by the bee bug.

Day-to-day details of keeping bees can be really confusing, and like other newcomers, John relied on help from established beekeepers to learn the ropes. A few years later, he moved to Ames to take a state-level extension job at ISU. The first thing he did was look for bee mentors.

“I couldn’t find anything going on in Story County and I couldn’t believe it,” he said. He offered to teach a class at McFarland Park with the Story County Conservation Board. “They were all for it,” he said. “We expected about 10 people but 36 showed up. It was one of the most pleasant classes I taught.”

Interest grew quickly. John taught in Des Moines and began to take new beekeepers under his wing. His apiary also expanded. At one point he tended 70 hives, selling at several farmers markets, even wholesale the year he had 10 barrels of honey in his garage. It was common to get 120 pounds from each colony.

“But the world for bees and beekeepers has really changed since then,” John lamented. Among the most drastic is habitat loss.

“Many of the flowers and trees they depend on for pollen and nectar are not there anymore,” John said. “Think of white Dutch clover; our lawns used to be filled with them, and all those hayfields and fence rows are gone. This is serious stuff.”



He has no trouble remembering his best colonies, two “boomers” in the late 1980s. He pulled out a framed photo of him and his granddaughter Jessica with two towering colonies between them – each with seven boxes of honey. That photo was taken in the early 2000s.

Thirty years ago, beekeepers fought American foulbrood, treating each fall and spring. Now he said it’s “doggone varroa mite” – if in doubt, treat, he advised.

The biggest mistake made by new beekeepers is to not keep watch over their hives. “They spend all this time in class and money for bees, and then they don’t check on the hives,” he said. “You need to give the bees what they need when they need it – like honey supers. I always carried some with me.”

John admits that he kept bees for more than the honey and their pollination services. “I just like bees,” he said, explaining the mysterious passion that many beekeepers feel once they get hooked. “Think of the wonders you will see if you keep bees. It is marvelous.”

We couldn’t agree more! Thanks for fueling that passion for us and many others!

Weed Killer Residues Found in 98 Percent of Canadian Honey Samples **Catch the Buzz, Carey Gillam, May 17, 2019**

As U.S. regulators continue to dance around the issue of testing foods for residues of glyphosate weed killers, government scientists in Canada have found the pesticide in 197 of 200 samples of honey they examined.

The authors of the study, all of whom work for Agri-Food Laboratories at the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, said the prevalence of glyphosate residues in honey samples – 98.5 percent – was higher than what was reported in several similar studies done over the last five years in other countries.

Glyphosate is the world's most widely used herbicide and is the active ingredient in Roundup brands as well as hundreds of others sold around the world for agriculture and other purposes. Use has grown dramatically over the last 25 years and consumers have become concerned about residues of the herbicide in their food.

The data provides fresh evidence that glyphosate herbicides are so pervasive in the environment that residues can be found even in a food that is not produced by farmers using glyphosate. The researchers noted in their report that they ran into delays trying to calibrate their testing equipment “due to difficulties encountered in obtaining a honey sample which did not contain traces of glyphosate.”

Bees pick up traces of pesticides as they move from plant to plant, unintentionally transferring residues from crops or weeds sprayed with glyphosate back to their hives.

In a different study, researchers on the Hawaiian island of Kauai took honey directly from 59 bee hives and found glyphosate residues in 27 percent of them. The Hawaiian researchers said bee hives located near farming areas as well as golf courses where glyphosate is used had higher concentrations of the pesticide.

The Canadian report also comes amid growing evidence that glyphosate herbicides can cause cancer, specifically non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

On Tuesday a jury in San Francisco unanimously found that Roundup, a glyphosate-based herbicide made popular by chemical manufacturer Monsanto Co., use was a “substantial factor” in causing non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in a California man. That echoed a similar unanimous jury verdict handed down in August in a separate case in which a cancer victim also alleged his disease was due to exposure to Monsanto's glyphosate-based herbicides.

Both verdicts came after plaintiffs' lawyers presented evidence of multiple studies showing the cancer-causing potential of glyphosate herbicides, including one published last month in a journal whose editor is a senior scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Canadians' decision to examine honey samples for glyphosate comes after a similar look at honey samples by a U.S. Food and Drug Administration chemist in 2017. That FDA scientist found all 28 honey samples he looked at had traces of glyphosate, with 61 percent of the samples having enough glyphosate to be measured. The other samples had residues of the herbicide too slight to measure.

The Canadian report, published in a journal called Food Additives & Contaminants: Part A, said that glyphosate is currently an active ingredient in 181 herbicides registered for use in Canada and its widespread use has made it commonly found in the environment.

The study authors pointed out that Canada, like the United States, does not have a legal standard for how much of the herbicide is considered safe in honey. Regulators in different countries set what are referred to as “maximum residue limits” (MRLs) and tell consumers their food is safe if pesticide residues remain below the MRLs. In Europe, the MRL for glyphosate in honey is 0.05 mg/kg, also expressed as 50 µg/kg.

The Canadian study authors said that all of the levels they found were below the European limit, though the highest was just barely within the legal limit. Because the residues did not exceed the MRL, they said, “the risk to consumer health appears to be quite low based on the residues detected.”

Several of the residue levels found by the FDA scientist in U.S. honey were above that so-called safe level that applies in the European Union. But the FDA, like the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and EPA, assert that as long as pesticide residues are below the legal MRLs, they are not harmful.

Many scientists do not agree that MRLs actually are protective of public health, however.

“People think the standards are protective of public health but they are not,” Dr. Philip Landrigan, director of the Global Public Health Program at Boston College, told EHN. “The optimal amount” of pesticide residues in food is “zero,” he said. “Remember, many of the people eating honey are children.”

A team of Harvard scientists published a commentary in October stating that more research about potential links between disease and consumption of pesticide residues is “urgently needed” as more than 90 percent of the U.S. population has pesticide residues in their urine and blood.

The United States has fallen behind Europe, Canada and other countries in testing foods for residues of glyphosate. Though both the FDA and the USDA annually test thousands of food samples for pesticide residues and report the data in reports, both agencies have not included glyphosate in their yearly testing programs.

In fact, the honey test data gathered by the FDA chemist was never published by the FDA and was not included in the agency’s first-ever glyphosate testing data that was released late last year as part of the annual test data report.

The USDA has similarly balked at testing foods for glyphosate residues for decades. The agency planned to start limited testing in 2017 but dropped the plan with little explanation only a couple of months before testing was to have started.

Amid all the concerns about glyphosate and residues in food, U.S. Rep Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut this month introduced a measure called the “Keep Food Safe From Glyphosate Act.” The bill would require the USDA to routinely test food samples for glyphosate residues.

The bill would also ban the spraying of glyphosate as a desiccant on oats. The practice is employed by some farmers to dry their oats before harvesting. It makes harvest more efficient but leaves higher residues on finished oat-based foods.

Monsanto, now a unit of Bayer AG, has marketed glyphosate for use on oats as a desiccant for years, and the company also has successfully convinced the EPA to raise the MRL for glyphosate residues allowed in oat products. In 1993, for example, the EPA had a tolerance for glyphosate in oats at 0.1 parts per million (ppm) but in 1996 Monsanto asked EPA to raise the tolerance to 20 ppm and the EPA did as asked.

In 2008, at Monsanto’s suggestion, the EPA again looked to raise the tolerance for glyphosate in oats, this time to 30 ppm.

In her bill, DeLauro is looking to slash the MRL for glyphosate residues in oats to 0.1 ppm.

Canadian farmers are among the world’s top producers of oats, and desiccation with glyphosate has been a common practice there. Health Canada has rejected concerns about glyphosate safety, saying: “No pesticide regulatory authority in the world currently considers glyphosate to be a cancer risk to humans at the levels at which humans are currently exposed.”

In addition to testing for glyphosate residues, the Canadian scientists also tested for residues of glyphosate’s main degradation product, a metabolite called aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA). Like glyphosate, AMPA has long been considered to have low toxicity. AMPA was detected in 198 of the 200 samples up to a concentration of 50.1 µg/kg.

“The contribution of glyphosate and AMPA residues present in the ambient environment to contamination of plant nectar and subsequently honey itself is further complicated by the variations in the levels of these compounds in environmental matrices such as soil and surface water,” the scientists said in their report.

The scientists also looked for residues of the weed killer glufosinate and found residues of that herbicide in 125 of 200 samples, with the maximum concentration detected being 33 µg/kg. Glufosinate is the active ingredient in BASF’s Liberty herbicide.

2019 Iowa Honey Producers Association Summer Field Day

June 15th, 2019

Iowa State Horticulture Research Center
55519 170th St. Ames, IA

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Field Day: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This will be an information-packed day!

- Field Day Guest Speakers:
 - Andy Joseph, Iowa's State Apiarist, will perform an on-site hive inspection to show you what you should be looking for when you're checking on your hives.
 - Melissa Burdick from The Brenton Arboretum will give an informative presentation on "Trees for Bees".
 - Ginny Mitchel, who will be judging the State Fair entries this year, will talk about the ins and outs of what she is looking for in fair entries while judging.
 - Additional presentations include Prairie Strips, queen marking demonstration using drones, a round table discussion with longtime beekeepers, plus a few other topics.
- Please mark your calendars and remember to bring your bee gear if you wish to watch the hive inspection.
- **Registration will be limited to 120 people**, so get your registration in early!
- A delicious lunch will be provided except for the dessert. You are asked to bring one to share!
- Bottled water, honey lemonade and coffee will be available throughout the day
 - Please refer questions to: Keri Kenoyer at kenoyerfarms@gmail.com Summer Field Day in the subject line, or call 515-490-2011.
- Registration: [IHPA Field Day Registration](#)



Beekeeping Banter

Q: What do you call a bee that lives in America?

A: USB

Q: Where do bees keep their money?

A: In a honey box!

Q: What do you get when you cross a race dog with a bumble bee?

A: a Greyhound Buzz.

Q: What is a bees favorite sport?

A: Rug-Bee.

Q: What TV station do bees watch?

A: Bee bee c one!

Q: What did the bee say to the naughty bee?

A: Bee-hive yourself!

Q: Why did the bees go on strike?

A: Because they wanted more honey and shorter working flowers!

Q: What do you get if you cross a bee with a skunk?

A: An animal that stinks and stings!

Q: What does a queen bee do when she burps?

A: Issues a royal pardon!

CIBA Leadership and State Organizations

Officers

Jamie Beyer, President
269 U Avenue
Boone, IA 50036
(515) 433-0194
beyersbog@aol.com

Linn Wilbur, Vice President
64626 170th Street
Nevada, IA 50201
(515) 382-4882
lwilbur50201@gmail.com

Cheyenne Sisson, Secretary
Temporary until member vote
11735 NE 56th Street
Elkhart, IA 50073
(515) 525- 6352
tsisson1205@gmail.com

Valerie Just, Treasurer
4609 Crestmoor Drive
Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 278-4835
justiowahoney@gmail.com

The Beeline
Official CIBA Newsletter
Jamie Beyer, Editor
269 U Avenue
Boone, IA 50036

Board of Directors

Steve Hanlin
1310 California Avenue
Ames, IA 50014
(515) 292-5802
Steve.hanlin@ars.usda.gov

Margaret Hala (1 year)
1988 Vine Ave.
Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641) 752-2981
mhala@mchsi.com

Jim Crandell
1417 N. 9th Ave PI E
Newton, IA 50208
(641) 791-9612
cranjccm@iowatelecom.net

Trisha Hedges
11735 NE 56th Street
Elkhart, IA 50073
(515) 979-6257

Mike Sander, President
1104 Scenic View
Altoona, IA 50009
(515) 957-8730
masander3@gmail.com

Board of Directors - continued

Jeremiah Kusel
306 2nd Ave. PO Box 163
Slater, IA 50244
(515) 447-3203
12beeshoney@gmail.com

State Organizations

Iowa Honey Producers Association
Eve Vanden Broek
134 Holland Drive
Pella, IA 50219
(515) 491-6760
mrstheo@iowatelecom.net

Iowa Dept. of Ag & Land Stewardship
Wallace Building.
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-5736

State Apiarist
Andrew Joseph
(515) 725-1481
Andrew.Joseph@IowaAgriculture.gov