



# CAPPINGS

## The Official Newsletter of the Kansas Honey Producers Association

[www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org)

Promoting Mankind's Most Beneficial Insect - The Honey Bee!

### Special points of interest:

- Legislative Update
- State Fair Information
- Value-Added Programs
- Meet the Beek
- Recipe Corner
- Fall Meeting

### Inside this issue:

President's Corner	3
2021 State Fair	4
Around Kansas	4-5
What's Cookin'	6
Meet the Beek	7
Kansas labeling requirements	8
KHPA Fall Meeting	9

### The Legislative Committee 2021 by Jim Kellie

On June 23, the Legislative committee and KHPA President, Becky Tipton, were able to attend the State Agriculture Department Specialty Livestock meeting via Zoom. This is the category that honey bees currently fit into, along with ostriches, emu, quail, pheasants, goats, sheep, and others. This was our first meeting with the new administration under Governor Laura Kelly and with Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Beam. Prior to the meeting, I had written an introductory email of KHPA's focus on honeybees, honey, and most importantly, pollination. Additionally, I provided some facts and figures about honey bees, beekeeping, and its economic impact on Kansas. Our objective was to make them aware of our organization and possibly meet with one of Secretary Beam's program

managers in the future. During the zoom meeting, Secretary Beam asked Becky, our president, if he could meet with us in person. A date was set and we met at the KDA administrative building in Manhattan. Our team consisted of Steve Tipton, Brian Withrow, Becky Tipton, and myself. We were able to meet with Secretary Beam, Doug Bounds of USDA, Jeff Vogel-plant protection and weed control manager, and other KDA staff.

Secretary Beam and his staff talked about wanting to be available to help our organization and the issues regarding honey bees as a business in the state of Kansas. Prior to the meeting, our team came up with several issues where we felt the state could help us as an agricultural industry. Through our State Ag

meeting, we identified 5 areas which we could explore together and work to find solutions:

1- A department or individual to help us with education, honeybee viruses, and pest issues such as varroa. Perhaps an entomologist in the extension dept. who could provide this or an entomologist with the State Ag Dept. or in the Universities of either Kansas State or the University of Kansas. This particular department or entomologist could focus part time on pollination, research, and best practices of honey bees.

2- Have a good working relationship with the Dept. of Pesticide and Fertilizer. We discussed having the department come and speak at our convention on procedures that are conducted after a complaint has been filed and how their investigations

are conducted.

3- Make sure that the honey bee is stated as livestock in the state statutes. This is to assure beekeeping continues to be seen as a farming practice and is in line with the federal government and all other states.

4-Challenges in applying for a Veterinary Feed Directive for an antibiotic to combat European Foul Brood. These cases are few and far between but perhaps the Veterinary Department could educate veterinarians during one of their educational programs to help inform them when and when not to issue a directive.

5-Working with KDOT in regards to how and what plants could be used along Kansas highways and roadsides. We expressed our desire to be involved, if possible, and our interest in the progress of highway beautification as it relates to pollinator habitat.

We felt that it was a very good working meeting. The meeting was only to have been an hour, but at Secretary Beam's request, it ran another 45 minutes. We will meet via Zoom in the next 60 days to begin working on these areas we have identified. We look forward to working with various Ag Departments who will be helping us make the future brighter for beekeeping.

In one of my past articles, I had mentioned that Dr. Taro Eldredge of Plant Protection and Weed Control would do certificates for leaving the state and being able to enter another state where your bees will be moved to. Jeff Vogel, program manager, now has the application available online in the Agriculture Dept. of Plant Protection and Weed Control. The permit is "Weed Free Forage Inspection and Request Form". You can apply online or call. Staff will come out and inspect the colonies. If all goes well, a permit will be issued and sent to the state to which you are moving.

We had hoped to meet again with many different agriculture organizations at the Kansas Summit meeting in Manhattan; however, I received word that the meeting was canceled due to the rise in Covid and would now be a virtual meeting only. I apologize for being a little long winded, but I felt that you need to know that we are doing all that we can to help all beekeepers; whether you are a hobbyist with one hive in the backyard or a commercial beekeeper with thousands of hives. We strive to protect the purity of Kansas honey and the pollination of over one billion dollars of specialty crops in the state of Kansas.



Steve Tipton, Jim Kellie, Sec. Mike Beam, Becky Tipton, and Brian Withrow

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Becky Tipton

Bees take care of each other. Altruism is working for the good of all without expectation of payment. The summer bee who collects nectar has little chance of actually eating the bounty she produced. The eggs, laid by the queen mother, are tended for a few short days by each worker with great care. The field bee also collects propolis and the workers spread the resin mixture over the surfaces of the hive, creating a biological clean zone from which the hive will live and work. Bees exhibit hygienic behavior. If they detect illness, foreign bodies, disease within the hive, they will work to remove the pathogen(s) before they can infect the entire colony. This caring for the hive ensures their long-term success. The hive will prosper because they care less for self and all energies are focused on the well-being of the hive; altruism of the hive. We can learn a lot from our bees.

Our next meeting will hopefully be in person with the pleasure of enjoying a social as well as educational gathering. This is a hope to "return to normal." I think, much like our honey bees in a post varroa world, our post pandemic world is forever changed. Caution and precautions may be with us for years or forever more. Gone are handshake greetings. Clean paper masks are tucked into the glove compartment of the car, ready for wearing in a crowded store. Gone is the feeling of health security due to an overburdened health care system. Unpleasant Covid screenings are part of medical visits for other complaints. Hand sanitizer has replaced hand lotion in my messenger bag. We are consciously considering ways to balance the safety of all with the desire to congregate.

Kristi Sanderson, VP in charge of our Kansas State Fair Booth, has spent months in careful planning to make our fair booth a safe environment for our members providing manpower and our customers wanting to learn about honey bees and/or buy some delicious Kansas Honey. What will be different? The number of people working the booth, the arrangement of the products, sampling will not be offered, and plexiglass work shields may protect certain areas. Kristi has tried to think of everything to protect you and me.

At this time, less than 50% of Kansans have received a vaccine. (Children under 12 are currently not eligible for the vaccine.) We are all vulnerable. The horrid disease is mutating at an amazing rate because it is still being allowed to have access to our populations. We do not have a cure, we have a highly effective preventative measure, the vaccine. To eliminate the harmful viruses within our hives, we know we have to rid them of the virus carrying varroa mites. To rid ourselves of this deadly and damaging Covid virus, we only need to get our people vaccinated. This protects the babies who can't get vaccinated. This protects the elderly and those with other serious health issues. This protects us all from the possibility of new mutant strains. This is the altruistic action for the human race of this age; get vaccinated to save each other. Please get vaccinated. Then, please come join us to enjoy the Kansas State Fair. Get vaccinated and come learn with us at our meeting in Salina. Join us in keeping each other healthy. Be like the bee.

## Kansas State Fair– 2021 Volunteers Needed in the Honey Booth

This year volunteers will be needed from September 7-19 at the Kansas State Fair. The Pride of Kansas building will be open from 9AM-9PM the 10<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be needed to set up display area on the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and label products to be sold in the booth. Our time frames for selling will be 2, 6 hour shifts with the 1<sup>st</sup> one from 9AM-3PM and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one from 3PM-9PM. Don't be bashful and think, "I don't know enough about bees". You have more knowledge than the general public and there will be other beekeepers present to help. For every day an entry ticket is needed and one will be provided for you at the guest services office once you get to the fair. Here is the link to sign up to volunteer at the fair.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48ADA82BABF49-kansas2>

Signupgenius will be available for you to sign up for the times that fit your schedule. If you have signed up this way in the past you have received an email notification to volunteer once again this year. If you need assistance signing up to volunteer contact Kristi by phone or text at 913-768-4961. Thank you for your help and I will see you in Hutchinson.

Kristi Sanderson




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## News from Northeast Kansas

Our fields with the white of Queen Ann's Lace, the yellow of Black-eyed Susan's and the orange of Butterfly Milkweed are being replaced with the golden yellow of Sunflowers, purple from New England Asters, and hues of pink and purple from Joe Pye Weed. Days are beginning to shorten and the honey harvest is upon us. Across the northeast corner of the state, reports are mixed with regards to the quality and quantity of honey stores that the bees have collected for the beekeeper's benefit. Personal experience has been positive with the majority of my hives strategically placed on some quality floral sources. Many of our colonies have 3-5 honey supers each. The flow for the northeast corner of the state has been off and on again with a swing in temperatures and rainfall amounts from county to county. Reports are mixed with some seeing a flow still in full swing while others have reported the honey flow to be nonexistent. No matter how the honey flow was for each of us, the one constant is varroa mites. Mite treatments should be at the forefront of each of our late summer hive management plans. Hope everyone's harvest is looking good and your honey-bee colonies are in overall good shape.

Chad Gilliland-Northeast Region Representative

## North Central Region News

Greetings Bee Friends!

After the disappointment of looking at drawn honey supers that were still empty in late June and expecting a poor harvest, Kansas weather and the bees have seemed to redeem themselves after all for many in the North Central region. With all of the summer rain and humidity - Riley had 1.75 inches of rain last night - it'll be my latest harvest ever, but all of the supers are full and the bees are bearding nightly to get it all cured and capped. As usual in beekeeping, we just have to go with the flow. Thankfully mite counts have been low in the area and so treatment isn't an urgent need yet.

Themes I've seen with queens this summer have been beekeepers installing caged queens not noticing that's there is already a virgin queen running around in the hive. I encourage beekeepers to check for a virgin queen or queen cells when installing a caged queen and then checking again for a queen or eggs before releasing the caged queen. It's bittersweet to have someone think they are queenless and spend good money on a new queen, only to have a new queen already in there who ends up killing the purchased queen.

Another reminder is that a new queen can help with many conditions, such as a poor brood pattern from an older queen or a poorly mated queen. But not all brood pattern issues are the fault of the original queen. The colony may have a high mite count, virus, or other stressor affecting the brood, perhaps initiating hygienic behavior. A new queen may provide a few days of a brood break while she's being introduced in a cage, but she won't cure a mite, virus, or food issue. Some beekeepers may add a new queen only to find they have the same brood issues and spotty pattern with the new queen. As beekeepers we are often like detectives, trying to gather all of the information before attempting to solve the puzzle, such as a poor brood pattern. The first instinct may not be the right answer.

The North Central Kansas region had a great June meeting at Rolling Hills Zoo in June, and look forward to another meeting there on August 22 at 2 pm. If you are located in the region and would like to be added to the email list for local updates, contact me at [nikkibfarm@gmail.com](mailto:nikkibfarm@gmail.com)

Nikki Bowman-North Central Region Representative

### Red and Rover





## What's Cookin', Honey?

### Barbecued Spareribs

4 lbs. spareribs	1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 c. chopped onion	1 tsp. prepared mustard
1 garlic clove	1/2 tsp. black pepper
1 1/2 c. catsup	3 T. thick steak sauce
2 T. Vinegar	1 cup strained honey

Cut spareribs into serving portions. Simmer in enough water to cover, plus 2 teaspoons salt, for 1/2 hour. Mix the remaining ingredients and cook over low heat for 5-7 minutes. Drain spareribs and place in a shallow baking pain. Pour barbecue sauce over ribs and bake in a 350-degree oven for 45 minutes or until tender. Baste every 10 minutes with sauce.

## Extracting more \$\$\$ from your hives

These new, free, virtual, Value-Added programs will be presented on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7 pm via zoom. It is being sponsored by the Kansas Honey Producers Association as part of our membership drive. If you are not a member, please consider joining by going to [www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org) it's only \$15 per year. You will receive an email before the programs with a link to register. If you registered for a previous program, you will automatically receive the link to view each month via email.

To register for the meetings, click on the link below or copy it in your browser

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdOiqqTwvHNxk7aeR5Hrw7LoC6boCY4dh>

Zoom will send you the link. If you have a question, please call Joli at 913-593-3562 or email [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com).

Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> Cold Process Soap Making, Lotion and Lip Balm- Becky Tipton

Thursday, October 21 Making Liquid Soap-Robin Kolterman

Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> Beeswax- Cleaning and Candle making

Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> Holiday Gift Quickies

Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 Making and Selling Nucs- Kristi Sanderson

Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> Queen Rearing- Cheryl Burkhead

Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> Selling at Farmers Markets and Craft shows- Stephanie Brown

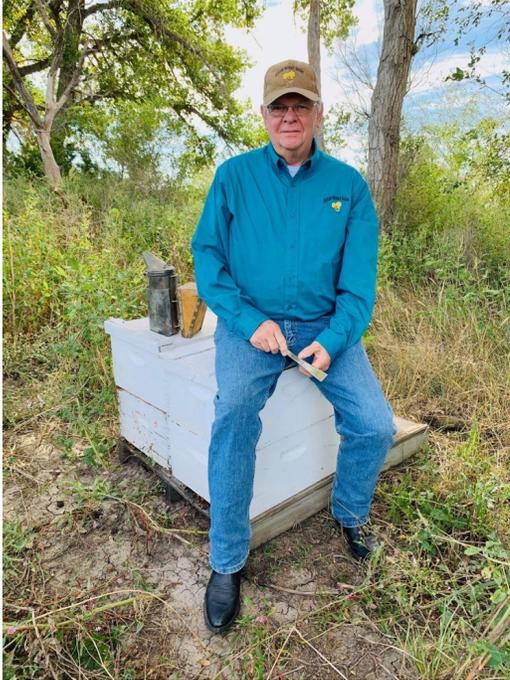
Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> Mentoring and Concierge Beekeeping- Nikki Bowman

Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> Making Mead and Honey Beer

These programs will be recorded and will be available on our

[www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org) website.

## Meet the Beek—Jim Kellie



My introduction to bees, as the saying goes, started off on the wrong foot. I grew up in Nebraska, home of Big Red Football. When I was 12 years old, I started a lawn mowing business that blossomed into mowing many homes in our very small village in the Blue Valley hills. One lady had a beehive in her backyard that was an old wooden box that was barely held together. It was topped off with a piece of old wood and rock for a top. I mowed the entire yard and then mowed around that decrepit beehive last. Each mowing session resulted in getting stung 2 or 3 times. Honey from that area, shall we say, was very strong and I didn't like the taste of it. Honey and bees were at the bottom of my list of appreciation. Fast forward after being in law enforcement for 8 years in a metropolis; I wished to get back to the outdoors and sanity in the world. We came back to small town America where I worked the rescue squad for a county at the border of Kansas. During this time, I became friends with Vernon Adee, a well-known beekeeper in the area. He sounded interesting but still bees were at the bottom of the list. One evening his son

Richard Adee gave a talk and slide show at a group I was attending. Something clicked at that meeting. A year later, I found myself in Kansas running the Kansas division of Adee Honey Farms, the largest beekeeping operation in the world. Thank goodness he was a great mentor, as I had a short learning curve and was now taking care of 13,000 colonies. Each spring our bees moved to Mississippi, where I was part of the queen production grafting where Richard and I produced over 70,000 queens.

In the 90's, agriculture drastically changed in Kansas with corn being king. All the good honey producing crops were being plowed up and what was left was now being heavily sprayed with pesticides. We all decided that the Kansas operation would close and they would move everything to California where they heard that you get paid for pollinating almonds.

Once again, our family decided to stay in small town American and I began running 1,200 colonies of my own for many years. I wintered bees in Texas and produced queens there, selling them to cover the cost of being there plus a little profit for those dry years in Kansas. Over the years we have gotten smaller and smaller due to age and health. Lanette and I have decided it was time to step out of the Commercial world. We now only run 150 colonies, sell a few queens, splits and honey to small packers throughout Kansas. Being small now allows us more time to do research, experiment, and just play with the bees. Most importantly, we have time to enjoy grandkids, the great outdoors and each other.



Jim Kellie



KHPA Life Member, Randall Braden and his wife, Verlene, of Hays, KS are seen transporting a newly captured swarm to its new location.

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## Honey Labels and What's Required in Kansas

Many of you will be bottling your honey soon! Just a reminder that all labels need to follow federal label laws. On a state level, according to the Kansas Weights and Measures Law, every food in package form must be labeled-including HONEY! We have visited this topic in our association events but this is a good refresher. To comply, the following is required:

- The word HONEY must be very visible– the largest letters on the label.
- The label must have contact information, that is, your name as producer. Your name and address is all that is required. Telephone number/email is optional but it makes it easier for the customer to contact you for more honey!
- Weight in ounces and grams and visible in the lower 1/3 of the label.

Additional information on Kansas packaging and label requirements may be found at: [MF3138 Foods Sold Direct to Consumers in Kansas: Regulations and Food Safety Best Practices \(ksu.edu\)](https://www.ksu.edu/extension/food-safety/food-safety-best-practices/)

# The Kansas Honey Producers Fall 2021 Meeting

## Save the date- November 5 & 6, 2021

The Fall KHPA meeting is scheduled for Nov. 5 & 6 in Salina, KS. Whether we will meet in person is still undecided. I am hopeful that by Wednesday, September 22, the board will make its decision. This date is just after the state fair and I am hopeful that we will have a better feel for what is happening in Kansas with regard to Covid and the Delta variant. It is very possible that our guest speakers may not be allowed to travel. I feel it's in the best interest of the organization to wait before making a final decision. Please mark your calendars for the following dates: Friday and Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2021. We have scheduled our next few meetings in Salina. We will be meeting at the Courtyard by Marriot at 3020 Riffel Dr. in Salina, KS. If the board decides to have an in-person meeting, I will send out a special mailing/ email with the full program.

I have scheduled several guest speakers and I'm working on the program. If you have a topic you would like to hear, please let me know. I can usually get a speaker from among our group of "experts" to speak on it! Please feel free to contact me, Joli Winer, with questions or suggestions at 913-593-3562 (call or text) or email [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com).



Assistant Professor of Honey Bee Toxicology and Distance Education Coordinator, Dr. Cameron Jack has been interested in beekeeping since his youth and now teaches several courses related to honey bees and apiculture at the University of Florida. His goal is to create an educational program that prepares students for the many challenges associated with beekeeping and to train those interested in entering the beekeeping workforce. His topics will include his most recent research which has focused on the control of *Varroa destructor*, Varroa biology, and Integrated Pest Management of Varroa as a whole. He may talk about specific non-chemical or chemical control options. He has been speaking a lot recently about his work with oxalic acid vaporization. He also has a large teaching appointment, so he can talk about teaching others about beekeeping. His Master's research was on *Nosema ceranae* so he may speak on that or other honey bee pests and/or pathogens. We will have lots of choices from Cameron!



Randall Cass is the Extension Entomologist at Iowa State, in Ames Iowa, with an expertise in Honey Bees, Native Bees and Pollinators.

1. Hive health in an agricultural landscape and the potential rescue effect of prairie.
2. The effect of prairie strips on honey bee colony health in agricultural landscapes.
3. Lessons from working with beekeepers in rural El Salvador.
4. Attitudes about pollinator conservation best practices: a survey of Iowa beekeepers, farmers, and landowners.

Save the date for future meetings at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina, KS:  
March 4 & 5, 2022      November 4 & 5 2022      March 3 & 4, 2023

**Kansas Honey Producer's Association**  
**Cappings**  
**R Burns**  
**7601 W. 54th Terrace**  
**Shawnee Mission KS 66202**

**Address Service Requested**

**2021/2022 Kansas Honey Producer's Association Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_



Membership Kansas Honey Producer's Association per year (Jan.-Dec.) \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person \$1.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional family member's names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Membership (18 years of age or under) \$7.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
American Bee Journal 1 year subscription \$24.65 \_\_\_\_\_  
Bee Culture Magazine 1 year subscription \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer's Association or pay on line at [www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org)**

**Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202 Phone# 913-481-3504 or email-  
[rburnshoney@gmail.com](mailto:rburnshoney@gmail.com)**

The Kansas Honey Producer's Association is a non-profit IRC 501(c)5 agricultural-educational organization, run by dedicated volunteers, and supported primarily by membership dues (subscriptions). The IRC status means that the association is a tax-exempt organization. While donations are always welcome, they are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. However, membership dues and subscriptions may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.