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# THE BEE LINE

*The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association*

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**Volume 27, Number 7**

**August 2002**

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## **NEW AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION LEADERS**

**ANNOUNCED --6/20/02—Jesup, GA**

Pat Heitkam of Orland, Calif., was elected president of the American Beekeeping Federation at the group's annual meeting in Savannah. He has served as vice president for the past two years. Mr. Heitkam is principally a queen breeder and nuc producer. He also places bees in almond pollination for other beekeepers.

Replacing Mr. Heitkam as vice president is David Ellingson of Ortonville, Minn. He has served two years on the ABF Board of Directors. In addition to honey production, Mr. Ellingson operates DDD Wax Rendering.

There are four new members on the Board of Directors, serving two-year terms. Zac Browning of Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Doug Ruby of Milnor, N.D., were elected from the Delegates Assembly. Sharon Gibbons of Baldwin, Mo., was elected from the Honey Packing Special Interest Group. Bonnie Woodworth of Halliday, N.D., was appointed by President Heitkam. Darrel Rufer of Waverly, Minn., was re-elected to the Board from the Commercial Beekeepers SIG. Reg Wilbanks of Claxton, GA., was re-elected from the Package Bee & Queen Breeders SIG. The Board of Directors retained Troy Fore of Jesup, GA, as Executive Director.

Over 450 people attended the ABF Convention. There were 36 exhibitors at the annual ABF Trade Show.

Colleen Henson of Bruceville-Eddy, Texas, was crowned 2002 American Honey Queen.

The annual ABF President's Award was given in memory of three industry leaders who had died during the year: beekeeper and queen breeder Roy S. Weaver, Jr., of Navasota, Texas; honey packer W. Ralph Gamber of Lancaster, Pa; and honey scientist Jonathan W. White, Ph.D. of State College, Pa.

*The 2003 ABF Convention will be held Jan. 13-16 at the Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri.*

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## **WHAT'S INSIDE**

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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To join the OSBA, complete the membership application in this issue and send with payment to: Phyllis Shoemake, 1702 Toucan Street NW, Salem, OR 97304

Editorial Offices: Send news, announcements, letters, comments and advertising to: Diane Varner, Editor  
PO Box 123 Yamhill, OR 97148-0123  
Tel. 503-662-4559 Fax 503-662-4594  
e-mail Raybee@bandwidth.net

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## ANTIBIOTIC UPDATE RE: AFB

(Synopsis of article reprinted from the Fall 2001 issue of the *Manitoba Beekeeper*.) UC Apiaries, University of California--May/June 2002 Newsletter)

Two new antibiotic ingredients are being considered as replacements for OTC (oxytetracycline), tylosin tartrate (tylosin) and lincomycin hydrochloride (lincomycin). Although both antibiotics appear to be as effective against American Foulbrood (AFB) and safe to bees as OTC, they are more persistent and increase the hazard of contaminating honey with unacceptable antibiotic residues. While OTC is a more desirable antibiotic, tylosin and lincomycin allow for the management of cases of AFB not responsive to OTC treatment. Fortunately, there currently are tylosin and lincomycin products registered for veterinary use in Canada, however, there is not an approved label for use with honey

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## President's Message

By Ray Varner

This last month has been a blur. We kept busy getting caught up on all the things we weren't doing while our son was ill. Our kids sent us on a cruise to Alaska, which gave us a complete change of routine and scenery. We came home feeling renewed and ready to ease back into things.

Work on the Fall Conference is slowly progressing. There is more specific information on that in another article in this edition. The registration form and motel registration information will be forthcoming next month. We are hopeful that presentations will be made on all three of the federally funded grant projects: OSBA, Willamette Valley and Lane County. Watch next month's *BeeLine*!

There will be openings for officers at the Fall Conference. I will not be running again so the President's position is open. Dave Graber has indicated the Vice President's position is open. Secretary/Treasurer Phyllis Shoemake expressed interest in retiring some time ago. If you are interested in any of these positions please let us know.

Are you planning to attend the State Fair? Want to get your parking and admission FREE? There's an easy and fun way to promote beekeeping and take in the Fair at the same time. Contact a member of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers, the hosts for the OSBA booth at the Fair. They are looking for volunteers to work a six-hour shift at the booth, either morning/afternoon or afternoon/evening. The booth is inside a cool building with lots of other exhibits. The rest of the day is yours to spend enjoying the exhibits, rides and all that fun fair food.

Have a good summer!

## Beekeeping in Western Oregon -- August

Harry Vanderpool

- Remove all honey supers to extract before starting medication program. Supers with

excessive amounts of uncapped honey should be dried with a steady current of warm air for a couple of days. Test the frames by probing random cells with a toothpick and measuring the resultant honey with a refractometer. Readings under 17% should be okay.

- Honey extracting should be done as soon as possible after removing supers. Procrastinate on some other chore; like making your bank deposit for example.
- Don't tempt robber bees by exposing honey, cappings or comb.
- Make your hive inspections as brief as possible; stop if robbing starts. Try conducting inspections earlier in the morning to avoid pesky robbers. Reduce entrances on weak colonies after hot days are over, to reduce robbing. Combine small, weak or queen less colonies. Place a single sheet of newspaper between the supers when combining colonies this late in the year.
- Keep on the lookout for American Foulbrood.
- Varroa treatment must begin as close to the 1<sup>st</sup> of August as possible. Pull honey supers a couple of days before your Hive inspection / Strip placement. It is recommended that you alternate chemical varroa treatments every two years to thwart chemical resistance in the mites.
- Select a tracheal mite treatment strategy, and follow through with it. That is your reading assignment! Mites of the Honey Bee by Thomas Webster and Keith Delaplane published by Dadant is a must on every serious beekeepers bookshelf.
- Start Terramycin powder treatments while colony population is still high. Do not be stingy with this treatment. Too much (within reason!) is not a problem. Toss enough along the end bars to last 5 days and continue treatment insuring a steady supply for 21 days. After a month, remove and discard any remaining lumps of powder that remain.

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## Beekeeping in Western Oregon

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- Use only fresh, new Terramycin.
  - Check stored comb for wax moth infestation.
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- Place any extracted honey frames to be stored in a dry, cool area, with moth crystals.
- Leave 40-50 lbs. of honey in each colony for fall buildup or feed equivalent amount of sugar syrup (2:1) on colonies light in stores. Feed supplementary pollen patties if stored pollen is inadequate and pollen dearth exists.
- Prepare exhibits for the O.S.B.A. booth at the Oregon State Fair. Don't be afraid of a little competition! It's among friends; right?
- Your ideas are more valuable than you realize. However, they aren't worth a fiddy-dee if you don't share them at your local association's meeting. No excuses! Go!

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## ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT

(continued from page 2)

bees. Consequently, tylosin and lincomycin products cannot be used by beekeepers in Canada without a prescription from a veterinarian.

The initial package included information for only tylosin, as data to support the use of lincomycin has yet to be released by U.S. researchers. To learn more about progress on veterinary prescription for tylosin or lincomcin, contact Alberta's Provincial Apiarist Kenn Tuckey at (780) 415-2314.

Elanco and Pharmacia & Upjohn, companies with registered tylosin and lincomycin products, respectively, have indicated that they may be interested in submitting a request for a label extension to Health Canada, although at this time neither company has done so. Medivet Pharmaceuticals also has indicated interest in registering new products specifically formulated for beekeeping, however, a submission for these products has not been prepared. Company interest is critical, as they would prepare the submissions and pay for Health Canada's cost for review and registration. Medivet has gone a step further and is supporting research to develop safer formulations of both drugs.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the use of alternative antibiotics (it is suggested) beekeepers try to manage AFB without tylosin or lincomycin, using aggressive comb inspection, extensive culling of AFB-infected equipment and OTC. (It is submitted that) AFB, at low levels, could be managed with limited or no antibiotic use and a

beekeeper should strive to only use antibiotics when the risk of disease is very high.

Update provided by Adony Melathopoulos,  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge,  
Alberta

## **NEW TEXT AVAILABLE ON AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES**

(U.C. Apiaries, University of California, May/June 2002  
Newsletter)

“Africanized Honey Bees in the Americas” by Dr. Dewey Caron, has been released. The 228-page paperback can be ordered directly from Dewey for \$15, postage paid (in the U.S.)

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## **NEW TEXT ON AHBs**

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This new book provides details on what really happened in South and Central America between the 1950's and the present. It also discusses our future with AHBs.

Dewey has made numerous trips to South American to help rural people learn how to live around and actually use AHBs to their benefit. He has devoted significant time to researching the history of the spread of AHBs and the effects they have had on commercial and non-commercial beekeeping. The best feature of this book is that it is written in a more conversational style than one might expect from a “textbook.” Dewey has met with many South American researchers and beekeepers. He relates the information from those interviews and experiences, and sometimes the opinions differ significantly.

The idea of “barriers” (Panama Canal Zone, Mexico, Canada) is discussed in the book, as well as myths about AHB that provide support for the barrier ideas.

Send a check in Dewey's name to D.M. Caron, Department of Entomology, 250 Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, DE 19717. When Dewey runs out of copies, the book will still be available from the A.I. Root Company, 623 W. Liberty Street, Medina, OH 44256 (800) 289-7668, Ext. 3255.

When ordering from A.I. Root, make the check payable to them.

## **CAUTIONARY ON PESTICIDE MISUSE ISSUED, CHECKMITE+ IN PARTICULAR**

Bayer Corporation, along with State and U.S. EPA regulators, has become increasingly aware of reports of alleged product misuse and Section 18 label violations.

The following excerpted text was included in a letter issued by Bayer and sent to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, who forwarded it to OSBA:

“Dear CheckMite+ User:

The concerns are that the CheckMite+ strips are being misused and label directions for the product are not being followed. There are reports that the strips are used during honey flow, strips are either removed from the hive prior to the time interval required to provide optimal mite control, or strips are left in the hive for intervals longer than specified on the label. There are also reports of using a fewer number of strips per hive than indicated with the labeling. Misuse of the strips by not following the label instructions may result in exposing mites or beetles to sub lethal concentrations of active ingredient. Based on experience with other products, sub lethal dosing speeds up the varroa mite's ability to become resistant to the product.

Currently each state yearly must request the use of CheckMite+ Strips from the United States Environmental Protection Agency under a Section 18 exemption. The request can either be denied by EPA or not submitted by the states. Also, EPA or a state can cancel the Section 18s at any time.

Bayer will be submitting a complete CheckMite+ registration package for EPA's review soon. Once the full registration package is reviewed and accepted by EPA, Section 18 state authorizations will be eliminated. Registration of CheckMite by EPA is not certain, especially if it is suspected that the product is not being used according to label instructions.

Please assist your industry by using CheckMite+ according to label directions. Keep CheckMite+ a viable product for beekeepers for as long as possible.”

*It was also noted that a fluorescent, adhesive sticker will be placed on all packages of CheckMite+ Bee Hive Pest Control shipped from Mann Lake Ltd., Hackesack, Minnesota. The label advises users as to the State-specific Section 18 authorization requirements that apply to the product's distribution.*

## NATIONAL HONEY BOARD NEWS

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR HONEY 2002—A MARKETING AND SALES SEMINAR**

Several well-known food industry experts will speak at the National Honey Board's marketing seminar, October 24-25, Chicago. Topics will include market trends as well as foodservice, retail and ingredient use strategies and opportunities. Sure to be fast-paced and highly informative, over 15 dynamic food professionals are booked to present. More information will be coming soon, but mark the seminar on your calendar today!

### **ANOTHER NEW ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER APPROVED**

The Food and Drug Administration approved a new artificial sweetener called Neotame that is about 7,000 to 13,000 times sweeter than sugar. The water soluble, white crystalline powder can be used as a tabletop sweetener as well as in cooking and food processing.

### **ORGANIC LAW TO TAKE EFFECT OCTOBER 21**

A federal law governing organic food takes effect October 21. Sales of organic products are growing by 22% a year according to a new study by the Natural Marketing Institute and the Organic Trade Association. Retail sales of organic foods in 2001 topped \$9 billion and are expected to reach \$20 billion by 2005.

### **ALMOND PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO BREAK RECORDS**

Almond production in California will smash records this year, according to a new estimate. A June 27 government crop forecast set the almond crop at 980 million pounds, 4% higher than the forecast issued last month and 18% higher than last year.

Forecasters say almonds have experienced nearly ideal weather this year, apart from wintertime freeze damage in some Sacramento Valley orchards.

### **ETHNIC FOOD SALES CONTINUE TO EXPAND**

Sales of ethnic foods were expected to reach nearly \$400 million last year as the nation's population becomes increasingly diverse, according to The Fresno Bee. Family-run stores aren't the only ones

tapping this burgeoning market, major grocery store chains are stocking a growing number of ethnic food items and in some cases are building new stores in predominantly ethnic neighborhoods.

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## **OSBA HAS A NEW MEMBER ASSOCIATION!**

Thom Trusewicz has been successful in signing up enough members for the Clatsop County Beekeepers Association to be our newest branch. Look for them on the Who's Who page of this newsletter.

Welcome, Clatsop County!

## **Repeal of Kansas Apiary Inspection Act**

The 2002 Kansas Legislature enacted legislation to repeal the Kansas Apiary Inspection Act effective July 1, 2002. Beginning on that date, the requirements for inspection, certification and movement of articles regulated under this act, including bees and beekeeping equipment, into Kansas will no longer be in effect. Effective July 1, 2002, articles previously regulated under the act may be moved into Kansas without restriction or inspection.

Authority for providing inspections of Kansas bees, beekeeping equipment or other related articles for shipment to other states is now contained in the

Kansas Plant Pest and Agricultural Commodity Certification Act. Our staff will provide inspection services on a request basis for those persons in Kansas wishing to ship regulated articles to a state requiring inspection and certification.

Contact information: Tom Sims, Program Manager, Plant Protection and Weed Control Program, PO Box 19282 Forbes Field, Building 282, Topeka, KS 66619-0282. Telephone 785-862-2180; Fax 785-862-2182.

### TIDBIT FOR THE MONTH

Ever feel like you're "caught between the devil and the deep blue sea?" Most people assume that this means "between Satan and the bottom of the ocean." However, devil in this case has nothing to do with the ruler of the kingdom of evil. The "devil" was the seam in a wooden ship's hull right down next to the waterline, and it was called that because it was "the devil to get at" when caulking. Hence the distance between the devil and the deep blue sea was a very small margin indeed!

Found in *The Dictionary of Misinformation* by Tom Burnham, "for reference, rumination, and pure delight."

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### FALL CONFERENCE UPDATE

The dates for this year's Fall Conference are Oct. 31-Nov.2 (Thursday/Friday/Saturday). It will be held at the New Kings Inn Best Western in Salem, at Market and I-5.

A committee is working on making final arrangements for speakers and other arrangements. A registration form and information for making room reservations will be in the next issue of the *BeeLine*. This would be a good time to hear project updates from those folks who won grants earlier this year. We are hopeful Harry Vanderpool, Chuck Hunt and the OSBA committee will share at the Conference. They are working on some exciting,

promising projects right here in Oregon – we can be very proud of them!

Mark your calendars, and plan to attend. See you there!

### NEWS RELEASE

From: American Beekeeping Federation  
July 8, 2002

#### **ABF Offers Counterproposal to Packer-Importer Honey Board to Protect U.S. Producers' Interests**

The American Beekeeping Federation, in response to the packer-importer controlled Honey Board favored by packers, importers and the AHPA, offers the industry a producer-protective counterproposal: A National Honey Board that preserves equitable producer representation and protects producer interests in honey promotion.

Like the packer-importer proposal, which was endorsed by most of the industry during a National Honey Board-sponsored Industry Roundtable in Chicago in May, the ABF proposal would have the current Honey Board cease operations and a newly-organized board take its place. Unlike the packer-importer proposal, the ABF proposal includes significant protections for the interests of U.S. honey producers.

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“We are proposing a positive alternative to address the issues which have been raised about the current Honey Board without sacrificing the interests of American beekeepers,” says ABF President Pat Heitkam.

The ABF proposal calls for:

- Assessments to be paid by importers and packers -- as does the packer-importer proposal.
- At least one producer to be a member of the board’s executive committee and/or an officer.
- At least one producer must be present to constitute a quorum of the board.
- Producer members must constitute at least 50% of the board members. The packer-importer proposal would give producers only two of nine board seats.
- At least 8% of board’s total revenue must be set aside for production research and available for other (emergency) needs only by a unanimous vote of the board.
- A simpler nominations system with each qualified organization submitting nominees for board positions and alternate positions, which represent that organization’s segment of the board.
- An assessment threshold of 100,000 lbs. The packer-importer proposal calls for a threshold of 250,000 lbs., which would reduce the assessment payer from the current 3,500 producers and importers to about 100 importers and packers.
- Provisions for promotion of domestic honey. The ABF proposes that the new board be directed to promote domestic honey with assessments paid by domestic honey and to promote honey generically with assessments paid by imported honey.
- Lastly, the ABF proposes that the producers and importers who are paying assessments to the current Honey Board vote to determine whether the current Honey Board is to be terminated and its activities and property turned over to the new board.

“We have a lot of questions to be answered before we form a new board,” says ABF President Heitkam.

“While a sense of urgency pervaded the Chicago Roundtable, we feel the urgency was forced on the

group in Chicago by the AHPA saying they intended to continue pursuing their course of destroying the Honey Board, as we know it, and the importers saying they had had enough and would vote against the Honey Board if the AHPA forced a new referendum. By the timelines provided by USDA-AMS, it will take years for the AHPA case to reach a conclusion. In the meantime, if AHPA decides to mount a petition drive and force a new referendum, we would be happy to cross that bridge at that time.

Our hope is that when the dust settles from this controversy, all the industry’s efforts will have resulted in a workable honey board, which can ensure that honey is protected and promoted. A separate, but equal, goal of ours is that all segments of the industry are treated fairly in this process. We hope the rest of the industry shares these goals.”

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