



The Producers



The Newsletter of the Empire State Honey Producers Association

A Statewide Organization to Promote and Protect the Interests of New York State Beekeepers

Spring 2020
Issue 104

President's Message

As ESHPA looks to move forward in 2020, we look to invite hobbyist beekeepers to become more involved in our year to year operations. Currently, ESHPA has nine board members that are classified as hobbyist or sideliners. ESHPA has continued its support of all beekeepers in New York State. All members of ESHPA are encouraged to get involved and to express support or opposition. As President, I encourage members to ask board members questions. To try and understand why commercial beekeepers think the way they do, and why hobbyist and sideliners should also be involved. We are all beekeepers in NYS! We all need to come together with one voice in Albany. There is strength in numbers and we need everyone involved!

We are very fortunate in ESHPA to have several board members on the National Beekeeping Organization board of directors. We are truly a wealth of respected knowledge nationwide. Albany sees our strengths and looks to ESHPA to answer many Ag related pollinator questions. At our November meeting, we were able to donate \$3300 to Project Apis M (PAM) Apis M is a national organization dedicated to pollinator habitat restoration. This includes both bee and butterfly habitats. ESHPA would like to thank members and speakers for the generous donations in this cooperative effort. I would also like to thank Ben Carpenter, 1st Vice President, on taking the initiative to have the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) 2022 annual meeting held in NYS. Congratulations! ESHPA would like to welcome ALL EAS members to Upstate NY and the Finger Lakes Region.

I urge all beekeepers to attend our meetings, bring a friend and get involved. It's a great time to be a beekeeper! Let's continue our professionalism and move forward in 2020. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.
Beeman.dan@icloud.com

Thank you,
Dan Winter

ESHPA Summer Picnic

**July 18, 2020
9am – 4pm**

**Dyce Lab for Honey Bee Studies
at Cornell University**



209 Freese Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850

*Cost : \$35
Lunch included with preorder
Walk in registration, lunches limited
Preorder cut off 7/8/20*

*Meeting Theme:
To be announced*

Save the Date!

**Fall Meeting
November 6th & 7th
Embassy Suites, Syracuse**



Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Pesticide Programs Update

First Beehive Uses of the Currently Registered Active Ingredient Bacillus thuringiensis, subsp. aizawai strain ABTS 1857

EPA is proposing to register a pesticide product containing *Bacillus thuringiensis*, subsp. *aizawai* strain ABTS 1857 (Bta ABTS 1857) to prevent and control wax moths in beehives. This product offers beekeepers a new tool against destructive wax moth larvae.

EPA has opened a 15-day public comment period on this proposed registration. Comments are due on or before January 24, 2020.

The active ingredient in this pesticide product (Bta ABTS 1857) is part of a large group of bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, that occur naturally in soil. Bta ABTS 1857 controls wax moth infestations by producing a crystallized protein that is toxic to wax moth larvae.

The Greater Wax Moth (*Galleria mellonella*) is a significant pest of honey bees. Adult female moths enter hives at night and deposit eggs in cracks and crevices within the hive. The moth larvae then burrow through and destroy the honeycombs as they feed on the wax, pollen, and larval honey bees. The moth larvae will similarly damage stored honeycomb frames under the appropriate conditions (e.g., temperature, lighting, and ventilation) in short order.

To use this product, commercial and hobbyist beekeepers would apply a dilute solution of Bta ABTS 1857 to empty honeycomb frames prior to winter storage. When wax moth larvae attempt to feed on the honeycomb, they would also ingest some Bta ABTS 1857, which will release a protein into the larva's digestive system that attaches to the gut, eventually causing it to rupture.

The toxicological data for Bta ABTS 1857 demonstrated a lack of toxicity, pathogenicity, or infectivity to humans. Bta ABTS 1857 has a tolerance exemption for use in or on honey and honeycomb and all other raw agricultural commodities (40 CFR §180.1011). EPA expects minimal to no exposure to honey bees and other nontarget organisms because of the method and timing of application. As noted, beekeepers would make a one-time treatment directly to empty honeycomb frames prior to winter storage. And hives maintain temperatures above 35°C, thus preventing Bta ABTS 1857 spore viability (which declines at 30°C) when hives are returned to the treated frames in the spring,

The risk assessments and other documents supporting this decision can be found on [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) in Docket # EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0247.



Why bad news for Western Montana Beekeepers could mean bad news for New York State Beekeeping

By Andy Card



Spotted knapweed never gets a break. Despite the importance of this plant in providing both nectar and pollen to insects including honeybees, bumblebees, numerous species of butterflies, and other wild pollinators, spotted has been called out repeatedly by the anti invasive species crowd for numerous infractions against “native” plants.

Spotted knapweed is the most important pollinator plant in NYS today due to it's distribution throughout many parts of the state, timing of bloom as an alternative to corn with it's potential neo nic exposure, thus providing late summer buildup of winter bee populations In many areas it constitutes a considerable portion of the annual NYS honey crop. Cornell University under the direction of Scott McArt, is currently exploring the extent of benefits of knapweed to all pollinators.

In many states spotted knapweed has been under attack for close to twenty years. Tillage, herbicides and biological controls are the weapons of choice. In Montana 8 flower head insects and 5 root boring insects have been released. Flower head insects bore into the center of the flower and have suppressed knotweed populations resulting in reduced build up and honey production according to beekeepers familiar with this matter.

The Empire State Honey Producers Assoc. are opposed to the use of biological remedies because there is no way to control the spread of these agents across property lines where interested parties like beekeepers might oppose their application.

Beekeepers are encouraged to discourage the use of biological remedies to control knapweed, purple loosestrife, and Japanese knotweed, as these plant species are a critical food source for all pollinating insects in NYS.

Beekeepers and all interested parties are encouraged to contact the NYS invasive species committee, the NYS DEC (<http://nyis.info/new-york-state-invasive-species-advisory-committee/>) or Renee St Jacques (RSt.Jacques@nyfb.org) at the NYS Farm Bureau in Albany to oppose bio remedies.

Tell them pollinator lives matter!



On January 7th, the British newspaper; *The Guardian*, published a scathing opinion piece on “the deadly truth behind your almond milk obsession”. You can read it here:

(<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/07/honeybees-deaths-almonds-hives-aoe>).

American Honey Producers member, Jack Meyer wrote a response.

I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS AN ABSURD THEORY AND THE DIRECT OPPOSITE OF THE TRUTH. The almond industry is the only reason we still have bees at all. The native bee populations are nearly wiped out leaving us with only domestic bees in any great numbers. The only reason we have the domestic bees? Because beekeepers keep them alive. Why do beekeepers keep bees alive? To make money and since the American honey packers simply refuse to buy U.S. honey anymore in favor of cheaper honey from Asia almond pollination is becoming the only way that they can do that. Even when the honey price is good it's not good enough to sustain the beekeeping industry without almonds.

If the dairy industry wants to go after competing products with these kinds of articles let them go after soy since all that soy does is replace good foraging crops for the bees. Better yet, just stand by your own products if it's superior rather than this kind of propaganda.

If you want to know what's going to kill the bees it's going to be making it impossible for beekeeping to be a viable business. Once beekeepers can't make enough money for it to be worth it anymore we just won't have any bees in this country.

U.S. honey packers only have to use 20% U.S. honey of the honey that they pack in the bottle to Mark it U.S. Grade A honey and even that's not really being enforced right now.

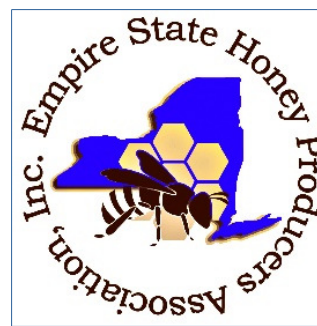
Half of the American market for honey is on the industrial side and nobody is testing that honey, it's mostly adulterated with cheaper sweeteners. Do you actually care whether there's actually honey in your Honey Nut Cheerios? The stuff on the shelf is almost never adulterated because it can be tested so easily, but it's what we used to call baker grade honey. Baker grade honey is dark and usually has a pungent taste and it's what we used to sell to the industrial honey market. Now with most of the market being taken up with the cheap adulterated honey/rice syrup coming from China via India the baker grade goes on the shelf and the good honey sits in beekeepers warehouses waiting for someone to want it. Good honey can be any color, but if it's marked clover it should be VERY light in color because clover honey is white. A tag proclaiming that the honey you're buying is local also is no guarantee now many packers are now packing honey in regions and calling it local, but the bulk of it is coming from the other side of the world. If you think that you're buying local honey in a big retailer such as Walmart or a large grocery chain chances are that you're actually buying Argentine honey if not Vietnamese.

What used to be honey's strength and milk's weakness is now with globalization reversed. Honey's strength was always that it doesn't spoil as milk's weakness was that it does. Now though, milk isn't threatened by globalization. You can't make milk in China and import it into the States, but you can with honey.

Continued on the next page

The American consumer typically doesn't know what honey is supposed to taste like or look like so packers can also easily adulterate it. The stuff that these packers produce has never been all that great, but it's worse than ever. If you've never had honey that you just couldn't stop eating or if you think that you don't really like honey then chances are the product you've had is the blended up crap that large honey packers produce. If you've had decent, single floral source honey you'd know it because when you do have it honey suddenly becomes a revelation in your life and you can't get enough of it. That's what's truly irritating to those of us in the industry because we've all given good honey to people that haven't had it before and had them coming back for more mere days later. We all know what a sellable product it is before big packers make it into the garbage on the shelves.

You want the bees to live? It's the commercial beekeepers keeping them alive. Farm practices have changed to the point that bee populations cannot be sustained on their own without love and care. The best beekeepers to ever exist are living in this country right now keeping our bee populations alive. Beekeeping is a business though and the only two sources of revenue are honey (which is non-existent at the moment as American honey packers aren't buying) and almond pollination. If it weren't for almonds right now there wouldn't even be any bees left by this time.



Minutes from the Business Meeting of ESHPA Friday, November 8, 2019

3:45 the Meeting was called to order by Dan Winter.

Dan asked for nominations for the Board from the floor. There being none, the following Slate of Officers and Directors was presented by Dan Winter.

Dan Winter, President
Ben Carpenter, 1st Vice President
Christina Wahl, 2nd Vice President
Tom Schultz, 3rd Vice President
Katherine Kiefer, Secretary
Kimberley Ess, Treasurer

Chuck Kutic, Director at Large
Andy Card, Western Region
Mark Fiegl, Northern Region
Ben Rulison, Northern Region
Steve Dodds, Southern Region
Bob Finch, Southern Region
Tom Wilk, Long Island Region
Hans Junga, Chairman of State Fair
Eliazara Campbell, Newsletter Editor

Dan Winter called for a vote by a show of hands. The Board was approved by a large majority.

Recorded by Katherine Kiefer



**Urge the Governor to veto
Chlorpyrifos ban bill**

Legislation has been passed by both the Senate and the Assembly that would ban the use of Chlorpyrifos in the state. The Governor's office is being flooded with letters from environmental groups in support of this legislation. Farms across New York depend on this product to protect their crops from pests and, in many cases, there is no alternative for use. We need your help to voice opposition to this legislation. Please write to the Governor and urge him to veto this bill here (<https://www.nyfb.org/engagements>).

This bill would prohibit the use of Chlorpyrifos, a required pesticide product that is critically needed to grow apples, berries, cabbage, onions and other crops. Farmers rely on pesticides to combat against pests like American plum and black stem borers which bore holes into the trunks of fruit trees and will eventually shut down the vascular system of the tree. Limiting the use of known pesticides that combat these and other pest with few or no alternative products would put New York's farms at a competitive disadvantage and would further hinder the farm economy.

**NYSDOL Announces
Farm Labor Wage Board Hearings**

The New York State Department of Labor (DOL) has announced that the wage board will hold five hearings across the state beginning this Friday and going through April. The wage board was created by the recently enacted Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act and is statutorily required to hold its first hearing by March 1st to consider lowering the current 60-hour work week threshold for overtime.

New York Farm Bureau was given one seat on the three-member board and will be represented by NYFB President David Fisher, a dairy farmer from Madrid, NY. The other two members include Brenda McDuffie, appointed by the DOL Commissioner, and Denis Hughes, representing AFL-CIO. McDuffie is the chair of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency and President and CEO of the Buffalo Urban League. Hughes has served as chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and is past President of NY AFL-CIO.

The wage board is scheduled to meet at the locations below. All meetings will begin at 11 a.m.

Friday 2/28 - Albany – New York State Museum Cultural Education Center, Clark Auditorium, 222 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12230

Friday 3/13 - Syracuse – Onondaga Community College, Storer Auditorium, 4585 W. Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215

Monday 3/23 – Binghamton – Binghamton University, Symposium Hall, Center of Excellence Building Innovative Technology Complex, 45 Murray Hill Road, Vestal, NY 13850

Thursday 4/16 - Long Island – Brookhaven Town Hall, 1 Independence Hill, Farmingville, NY 11738

Continued on the next page

Thursday 4/23 – Batavia- Genesee Community College, William Stuart Forum, 1 College Rd, Batavia, NY 14020

New York Farm Bureau strongly encourages members to plan to attend and speak at one of the public hearings and/or submit public comments. Click here to register to speak and for more information on the hearings. NYFB will be working to assist farmers to share their stories with the wage board. Click here for a guidance document on how to organize your testimony. Click here for “do’s and don’ts” when speaking to employees about the hearings. Finally, here is additional information about what to expect when testifying.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your field advisor or member of NYFB’s public policy department.

In addition, NYFB released a public statement about the wage board hearings. It reads:

New York Farm Bureau President David Fisher will be one of the three appointed members of the wage board announced today to consider whether agriculture can withstand a lower overtime threshold beyond the current 60-hour work week.

What will be especially challenging for farmers and their employees alike is the timing of the statutorily required hearings. The law directs the wage board to hold its first meeting by March 1 with a report due by December of this year. It will be incredibly difficult for board members to reasonably determine if the overtime threshold should be justifiably lowered. Farmers have just started to implement changes on their farms to comply with the new law and are still determining what is best for their small businesses and employees. Further, crops are not even in the ground for the spring planting season, let alone having no real world examples of how this new law will impact harvest season. This short window of time also does not allow any ability to see how different growing conditions due to extreme weather can impact overtime needs.



New York Farm Bureau strongly believes it will take data from multiple growing seasons to appropriately evaluate the economic realities and labor challenges facing New York agriculture as a result of the new overtime threshold implemented only weeks ago. And until that can happen, it should not be lowered.

New York Farm Bureau appreciates that the Department of Labor accepted our organization's suggestion to hold the wage board hearings in areas of the state that provide easier access for the farming community to attend. We highly encourage our members to take the time to speak at one of the hearings or submit public comments to help better inform the wage board members.

Kutik's Nuc's & Queen's



Queen's
Available April 1st 2020
Pick-Up & Shipment
Call 607-843-2337 or
Email Info@kutiks.com
For Pricing & More Information



**Minutes from Fall Empire State Honey Producers Meeting
at Embassy Suites in Syracuse NY –
Board Meeting November 7
Open Meeting and Events November 8 & 9, 2019**

I. Motion to Accept the Minutes that Kim Ess wrote and submitted for the Summer Picnic Board Meeting – So Moved by Chuck Kutic, and Jon Ryan seconded – passed unanimously

II. Motion to re-join ABF, AHP, NY Farm Bureau, EAS and Pollinator Stewardship Council – All for under \$700 – So moved by Ben Rulison, seconded by Jon Ryan – Passed unanimously

III. Discussion of the \$1,500 advanced for the purchase of a computer for Angel Convey as secretary of ESHPA. After discussion of various ideas, Mark Fiegl moved, and Jon Ryan seconded that we ask for Angel to return the \$1,500. This Motion passed unanimously. Kitty Kiefer was directed to handle the correspondence. Kitty Kiefer suggested that we adjust the signatories on the checking account to reflect active participation by Board Members and Officers – the slate of signers: Kimberley Ess, Ben Carpenter and Katherine Kiefer. Chuck Kutic so moved, Jon Ryan seconded and the slate passed unanimously with Ben Carpenter abstaining.

IV. The Board asked Hans Junga to serve a three-year term on the Board as Chairman of the NY State Fair participation. Hans accepted the invitation. Chuck Kutic so moved and Jon Ryan seconded. Hans is a voting member of the Board.

V. Discussion, led by Stephen Wilson, about the “Birds and Bees” Legislation. The Farm Bureau appears to want ESHPA to actively support the legislation.

Most of the wording in the legislative bill(s) appears to have been written by people who are NOT beekeepers, so the issues are not highlighted if written with beekeepers present at the drafting-table.

Some of the Board Members are less than enthusiastic about the “pro” pesticide wording. Other Board Members were more neutral. This will be an ongoing discussion. ESHPA has a strong interest in supporting NY State beekeepers and habitat for honey bees – for commercial beekeepers, sideliner beekeepers and the hobby beekeepers. Finally, Chuck Kutic moved and Jon Ryan seconded that we, the Board of ESHPA, permanently table discussion of “Birds and Bees” legislation. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Discussion of the importance of registration of colonies by County in NY State. This is an ongoing discussion.

VII. Treasurer’s Report reviewed and accepted unanimously.

VIII. Hans Junga discussed issues of safety and security of the funds taken in at the Fair for sales. We are going to research how to handle online (Square, Stripe, etc.) Point of Sale transactions.

IX. Membership Records. We discussed getting an interface with the website so that memberships will no longer have to be handled manually. This is an ongoing development

Continued on the next page

X. Newsletter: Ben Carpenter and Dan Winter recommend Eliazara Campbell of Akron, NY to be the Newsletter Editor. It was suggested that Eliazara be paid \$2,000 per 12-month cycle to organize the Newsletter content (content being generated by Board, Officers and Members). Mark Fiegl so moved and Jon Ryan seconded. Passed unanimously. Then more discussion of the Newsletter continued. Should we do a paper one that is mailed? Or not? Will we sell advertising? If we mail, then the membership lists need to generate mailing labels...

XI. Ben Carpenter is working to get EAS to have their 2022 Meeting here in NY State. Jon Ryan moved and Chuck Kutic seconded that Ben Carpenter write a letter from the ESHPA Board in support of having EAS using NY State as the site for the 2022 Meeting. Motion passed unanimously

XII. Andy Card gave an update about the brood damage that has been occurring in commercial pollinations. Part of "getting the word out" and into the public awareness is that the scientific names for these chemicals and the generic names used by the growers are often different. The naming of the chemicals causes confusion. Apparently, Best Management Practices is helping grow awareness of the mixes and damage to colonies.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Kiefer

***ESHPA members may attend
ESHPA board meetings.***

***Officers and directors welcome your
suggestions at any time.***



USDA announces updates for honeybee producers

**Will improve administration of
program and clarify existing program
requirements**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced updates to the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). These updates include changes required by the 2018 Farm Bill as well as discretionary changes intended to improve the administration of the program and clarify existing program requirements.

"Honeybee producers should pay close attention to the ELAP program changes to ensure they meet the new deadline requirements," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. "These changes better align two key disaster assistance program deadlines to provide consistency and ease of management for honeybee producers."



Continued on the next page

Program Changes

ELAP was previously administered based on FSA's fiscal year but will now run according to the calendar year. Producers are still required to submit an application for payment within 30 calendar days of the end of the program year. This is not a policy change but will affect the deadline. The signup deadline for calendar year 2020 losses is January 30, 2021.

Starting in 2020, producers will have 15 days from when the loss is first apparent, instead of 30 days, to file a honeybee notice of loss. This change provides consistency between ELAP and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, which also has a 15-day notice of loss period for honey. For other covered losses, including livestock feed, grazing and farm-raised fish losses, the notice of loss deadline for ELAP will remain 30 days from when the loss is first apparent to the producer.

Program participants who were paid for the loss of a honeybee colony or hive in either or both of the previous two years will be required to provide additional documentation to substantiate how current year inventory was acquired.

If the honeybee colony loss incurred was because of Colony Collapse Disorder, program participants must provide a producer certification that the loss was a direct result of at least three of the five symptoms of Colony Collapse Disorder, which include:

- * the loss of live queen and/or drone bee populations inside the hives;
- * rapid decline of adult worker bee population outside the hives, leaving brood poorly or completely unattended; absence of dead adult bees inside the hive and outside the entrance of the hive;
- * absence of robbing collapsed colonies; and
- * at the time of collapse, varroa mite and Nosema populations are not at levels known to cause economic injury or population decline

About the Program

For honeybees, ELAP covers colony losses, honeybee hive losses (the physical structure) and honeybee feed losses in instances where the colony, hive or feed has been destroyed by a natural disaster or, in the case of colony losses, because of Colony Collapse Disorder. Colony losses must be in excess of normal mortality.

ELAP also provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock and farm-raised fish including for feed and grazing losses. It covers losses because of eligible adverse weather or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires on federally managed lands. ELAP also covers losses resulting from the cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought.



More Information

For more information on ELAP, visit www.farmers.gov/recover or contact your FSA County Office.

To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov/service-locator

Beekeeper Spotlight



Hi ESHPA Members!

My name is Eliazara Campbell and I am the new newsletter editor. I have done newsletters for other organizations in the past, but I think I will enjoy this job as I am also a beekeeper. I have had bees for the past 8 years. I'm up to 12 colonies right now, but hope to double that this year.

When I am not busy tending bees, I am creating webpages for clients, working on genealogy, moderating a large Facebook beekeeping group or working my boring "day jobs" ;)

As with any organization, we are only as good as our members allow us to be. I am always looking for local NYS beekeeping news and tidbits for our big quarterly newsletter and also for our much smaller and simpler monthly Buzz Blast!

If you have something that would be a good fit for this group, please do not hesitate to email me:

newsletter@eshpa.org

Dance of the honey bee reveals fondness for strawberries

Research team led by University of Göttingen investigates foraging behavior in ag landscapes

GÖTTINGEN, Germany — Bees are pollinators of many wild and crop plants, but in many places their diversity and density is declining. A research team from the Universities of Göttingen, Sussex and Würzburg has now investigated the foraging behaviour of bees in agricultural landscapes. To do this, the scientists analysed the bees' dances, which are called the "waggle dance". They found out that honey bees prefer strawberry fields, even if they flowered directly next to the oilseed rape fields. Only when oilseed rape was in full bloom were fewer honey bees observed in the strawberry field. Wild bees, on the other hand, consistently chose the strawberry field. The results have been published in the journal *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*.

A team from the Functional Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology groups at the University of Göttingen established small honey bee colonies next to eleven strawberry fields in the region of Göttingen and Kassel. The scientists then used video recordings and decoded the waggle dances. Honey bees dance to communicate the direction and distance of attractive food sources that they have visited. In combination with satellite maps of the landscape, the land use type that they preferred could be determined. The team also studied which plants the bees used as pollen resources and calculated the density of honey bees and wild bees in the study fields.

Their results: honey bees prefer the strawberry fields, even when oilseed rape is flowering abundantly in the area. However, honey bees from the surrounding landscapes are less common in the strawberry fields when oilseed rape is in full bloom. "In contrast, solitary wild bees, like mining bees, are constantly present in the strawberry field", says first author Svenja Bänisch, post-doctoral researcher in the Functional Agrobiodiversity group at the University of Göttingen. "Wild bees are therefore of great importance for the pollination of crops," emphasizes Professor Teja Tschardtke, Head of the Agroecology group.

"With this study, we were able to show that small honey bee colonies in particular can be suitable for the pollination of strawberries in the open field. However, our results also show that wild bees in the landscape should be supported by appropriate management measures", concludes Head of Functional Agrobiodiversity Professor Catrin Westphal.

—University of Göttingen



Big Congratulations go out to our own Mark Fiegl, ESHPA Northern Region Director, for 6 wins at ABF! Mark's comments below:

I attended the American Beekeepers Federation (ABF) conference, January 7-11, 2020 for the first time, and entered the American Honey Show. I had 7 entries total, four liquid honeys, a cut comb honey entry, a chunk honey entry, and a 3lb. piece in pure beeswax.

My results were:

- 1st place. White Extracted Honey*
- 1st Place. Extra light Amber Extracted Honey*
- No placing. Amber Extracted Honey*
- 1st Place. Dark Amber Extracted Honey*
- 1st Place. Cut Comb Honey*
- 1st Place. Chunk Honey*
- 1st Place. 3 lb. Piece of Pure Beeswax*

There were 177 total entries in the Show and my 1st place White Extracted Honey was selected as "Best in Show Honey". Rumor has it; it had a perfect score which I have never heard of before.



Showing Off Your Craft

by Mark Fiegl

Well, it's not really your craft, the bees have done most of the work (and perfectly, I might add). So where am I going with the title, "honey shows". Why not show off your hard work and the fine product you and your bees produce? It's not very difficult and very rewarding.

Showing honey and bee products takes just a small added effort on your part to produce that standout, "it looks too good to eat" product. That is an actual quote from a customer buying a jar of my chunk honey, and those comments are just as good as any blue ribbon. That being said, blue ribbons are very rewarding, too. I'm not going to give you a step by step procedure on how to successfully show honey and wax products in this short note, but look for more in future newsletters.

Here is a good place to start.

1) Read the rules. Every show is a little different from the next.

2) For all honey products, start early. It takes time to get air bubbles, wax, lint and dust to "float" out of honey. You would be really hard pressed to get honey clean in a few days or even a week's time. Fill your jars a month before the show, and save yourself some grief getting the tiny air bubbles out.

3) Wax is just the opposite. If it's poured too early you will get a bloom on the wax and it will lose its fragrance over time. I like to pour wax the week of the show.

I will share some more specific pointers in the next Newsletter. If your club or association would like to have a demonstration on preparing wax and honey products for show, feel free to contact me, I would be glad to share what I do to prepare for a show.

mfiegl1@rochester.rr.com or call: 315-576-1930

New York has two honey shows scheduled which are partially or fully sponsored by ESHPA. The first is at the New York State Fair, Aug. 21 through Labor Day. The entry rules have not been printed yet, but be sure to read them carefully. There should be some improvements from last year on getting your honey dropped off and picked up from the fair. On Nov. 6th and 7th during the fall conference, ESHPA will again be sponsoring a honey, wax and mead show. Last year's rules and classes are on the website which would be very similar to what to expect this year. Also, if you haven't heard, EAS (Eastern Apiary Society) will be holding their annual conference in Canandaigua, NY in July of 2022. Yes, that's a long ways away but the point is, they have a huge honey show and it would be nice if our NYS bee products were well represented. So, think about getting a few practice sessions in by entering some honey shows this summer. "Practice makes perfect" and "if at first you don't succeed, try again".

Best of Luck,

Mark Fiegl

ESHPA Board of Directors

Cornell Master Beekeeper



**New York State Fair Committee
Report to the Board of Directors
Feb. 18, 2020**

Committee members:
Hans Junga & Christina Wahl

The 2019 NYS fair was a success. We were able to run the entire 12 day event with just 3 volunteer fair managers (\$1000 stipends provided to each of 3 people to help offset costs of participating during the entire fair) and 46 volunteers for one or more shifts (listed below).

We continue to be ESHPA's biggest moneymaker. Our gross deposits during the Fair were \$34,107.00.

After expenses (including T-shirts) our earnings in 2019 were over \$11,000.00, a return of 32% on investment.

We have leftover T-shirts and baseball caps.

For 2020 we face new challenges. Most importantly, the Fair has changed its format from 12 to 18 days in length. The immediate consequences for ESHPA are:

Fair Honey Booth manager stipends will have to increase. The current stipend is \$1000 for each of 3 managers, the future stipend (if continued at present levels) must be \$1500 for each of 3 managers.

**We need more honey to sell.
We need more volunteers.**

As you know Angel Convey has stepped back as NYS Fair Honey Booth manager to deal with family issues. Christina and Hans wish to scale back also. We are in negotiations with several ESHPA members to identify those willing to yoke themselves to the State Fair plow, and help earn ESHPA its spending money for 2020. We will report on our efforts in March or April. Members who have expressed interest in helping with managing the booth are Bill Kaufman, Bob Faulkner, and Ray Lowe.

1. We have several proposed shift rotations for managers and volunteers at the Fair. *These will be presented at one of the next Board meetings.*

We currently give every volunteer a year's membership in ESHPA, in addition to NYS Fair admission and parking tickets. We propose that in 2020 each volunteer is given one T-shirt of their choosing as a thank-you gift in addition to the aforementioned benefits.

2. We propose to keep the State Fair honey prices the same, at \$10/pound or two pounds for \$18.

3. We propose that no T-shirts are designed or purchased to add to existing inventory in 2020.

4. The DIRECT COST OF THE NYS FAIR TO ESHPA FOR 2020 is approximately the following:

Stipends to Fair managers (for 2020)	\$4500
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$250

Admission/parking tickets are courtesy of the NYS Fair (to date) but this arrangement could change at any time in the future.

Rental for the booth in the Horticulture Building is FREE as per "grandfather clause" arrangement, and due to expectation that ESHPA will provide public education. ESHPA has been a participant at the NYS Fair for more than 100 years.

Continued on the next page

5. The **2020 NYS Fair Honey Booth Educational Exhibit** will be based on the theme “Be Bee Friendly”. *This exhibit is expected by New York State as part of the NYS Fair offerings to the public, and it is also partly why ESHPA does not pay rent on the space we occupy at the fair.* There will be no video/electronic presentations offered this year, due to staffing issues. The exhibit will be designed and implemented by Christina Wahl, Ph.D

6. Since the NYS Fair is first and foremost a FUNDRAISER FOR ESHPA, we propose that a letter be sent to every commercial and sideline beekeeper in NYS asking for honey DONATIONS. Several beekeeping businesses already donate to ESHPA. Hans and Christina volunteer to send these letters pending Board approval.

We welcome RAFFLE CONTRIBUTIONS. In 2019, Angel Convey ran a very successful honey raffle. One gallon of Irish Bee honey (about 12 pounds) earned ESHPA \$290 in a raffle, for a return of more than \$24/pound.

THANK YOU FOR 2019 HONEY DONATIONS TO:

Chuck Kutik, who donated honey that grossed ESHPA \$1,687.00

Mark Fiegl, who donated honey that grossed ESHPA \$800

Andy Card, who donated honey that grossed ESHPA \$414

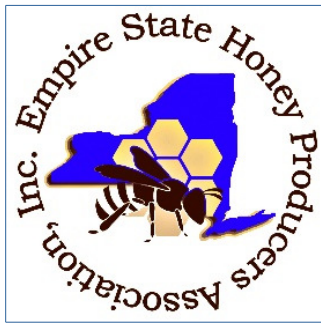
7. SUGGESTIONS from ESHPA members to improve the 2020 fair include:
Better T-shirt and non-honey product display.
The Fair committee is working to address this.

8. The 2020 NYS Fair Honey Booth will require some pre-Fair investment, as usual. The Fair committee is preparing an anticipated budget, and will request a 2020 State Fair investment budget from the ESHPA board in a future meeting.

2019 NYS FAIR VOLUNTEERS
(SEVERAL DID MORE THAN ONE SHIFT*):

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Abigail Flinn | Aleisha Haskings |
| Angel Convey* | Ann Sill |
| Barb Murphy | Bill Underwood |
| Betty Swartzentruber | Bill Kaufman* |
| Charley Kaufman | Christina Wahl* |
| Chuck Kutik | Conrad Sigona |
| Daniel Lewis | David Lewis* |
| Dawn Bartolomie | Debbie Convey |
| Deborah Blanchard | Don Streib* |
| Emily Schell | Hannah Pilkey |
| Hans Junga* | Heather Prado |
| Janice Grzesik | Jennifer Bitner* |
| John Ferguson | Jon Ryan |
| Karen Kutik | Ken Boyce |
| Larry Giglio | Laura Doan |
| Laura Martino | Laura McGetrick* |
| Leo Huggins | Linda Walters |
| Marv Swartzentruber | Mark Fiegl |
| Mary Michener | Matt Mallory |
| Melissa Flinn* | Michael Johnston |
| Mike Martino | Bob Faulkner* |
| Paul Landowski* | Perle Condon |
| Randi Cowles | Ray Lowe* |
| Richard Schell* | Robert Grajewski* |
| Robert Thomas* | Sheila Underwood |
| Susan Garing* | Stanley Kaufman |
| Dan Winter* | |





Empire State Honey Producers Association 2020 Officers

Daniel Winter, President

11299 Buchanan Rd
Wolcott, NY 14590
315-594-2634
BeeMan.Dan@icloud.com

Ben Carpenter, 1st Vice President

264 Saltonstall St.
Canandaigua, NY 14424
585-412-8745
Ben@hungrybearfarms.com

Christina Wahl, 2nd Vice President

36159 Route 12E
Clayton, NY 13624
607-342-6582
CWL5@cornell.edu

Tom Shultz, 3rd Vice President

9033 County Rd 15B
Canaseraga, NY 14822
585-245-4682
Toms4808@gmail.com

Katherine Kiefer, Secretary

PO Box 56
Otto, NY 14766
978-201-9680
beesweet1@gmail.com

Kimberley Ess, Treasurer

573 S. Marletown Rd.
Phelps, NY 14532
315-374-4108
Kimberleymess@gmail.com

2020 Directors

Chuck Kutik, Director at Large
kutikshoney@hotmail.com

TBD, Western Region

Andy Card, Western Region
mvaandy@gmail.com

Mark Fiegl, Northern Region
mfiegl1@rochester.rr.com

Ben Rulison, Northern Region
rulisonhoney@verizon.net

Steve Dodds, Southern Region
Sdodds42190@gmail.com

Bob Finch, Southern Region
bobfinch57@gmail.com

Tom Wilk, Long Island Region
WilkApiary@gmail.com

Hans Junga, State Fair Director
hans@castletv.com

Eliazara Campbell, Newsletter Editor
newsletter@eshpa.org

YOUR AD HERE

An affordable option for
reaching hundreds of NY's
beekeepers with your
message.

Advertising rates (per
edition): \$110 full page
\$70 half page
\$50 quarter page
\$40 for an eighth page

Contact Eliazara
newsletter@eshpa.org