



APIARY NEWSLETTER

Migratory Beekeepers

If you are planning to take your bees to California for Almond Pollination, please contact our office. We will have you sign a Compliance Agreement and can set up a fire ant inspection. All loads returning from California will need to be inspected by



California before they reenter the state (if it is cost feasible). If not, we will need to conduct an inspection above return in the drop yard. We will also be looking to conduct FABIS testing on loads returning to the state.

Veterinarian Feed Directive

VFD's will go into effect January 1, 2017. Right now Honey bees are included in this and this will change how certain treatments are obtained for use with your bees. This is a federal act.

In order to be prepared for the change that is coming, Dr. Heidi Ward with UA extension Service is planning a training course for veterinarians in the state.

This training will include Apiary staff, Jon Zawislak, and Dustan Clark (Extension Veterinarian).

Dr. Ward will lead the training and will be a vital role in the transition.

Updates will be provided to the beekeepers in a timely fashion to ensure we are all aware of the changes.



NEWS FROM THE HILL

Distribution of Invasive Parasites and Pathogens on Arkansas Honey Bees

University of Arkansas MS student, Dylan Cleary, is continuing to work with Dr. Allen Szalanski and Dr. Don Steinkraus using molecular diagnostics to detect the presence and distribution of invasive parasites and pathogens in Arkansas honey bee colonies. With the assistance of Arkansas beekeepers across the state, Dylan has received over 500 honey bee samples from 2015 to 2016. Thus far, she has found 13.5% of the samples were positive for *Nosema ceranae* and 45.5% of the samples were positive for *Varroa* mites. This research has also re-

sulted in detecting the first documented occurrence of a trypanosome parasite known as *Lotmaria passim* in Arkansas. Little research has been done on *L. passim*. However, *Crithidia mellifica*, another Trypanosome species, is considered predicative of winter mortality in honey bees. Of the samples tested, 13.6% were positive for *L. passim*, while none of the samples were positive for *C. mellifica*. If you have any questions about the research, feel free to contact Dylan at Dacleary@uark.edu



COMPLETE BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSES

Jon Zawislak from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service will be offering a series of beekeeping classes this fall in several locations. Courses will consist of three class periods that cover beekeeping equipment and tools, honey bee biology and behaviors, seasonal colony management, honey harvesting, and bee hive pests and diseases. These classes are a great introduction for beginners or a refresher course for the experienced beekeeper. For more information about the classes or how to sign up, contact the appropriate County Extension Office, or visit www.uaex.edu/bees.

January 23, 30 & February 6; 6-9pm

Southside Church of Christ
919 Dixieland Rd., Rogers, AR

479-271-1060

February 13, 20, & 27; 6-9 pm

UA Community College
Fine Arts Auditorium
Morrilton, AR

501-354-9618

March 20, 27, & April 3; 6-9 pm

Fort Smith, AR

501-671-2222

April 24, May 1 & 8: 6-9pm

Stone County Fairgrounds



New Honey Bee Pest Confirmed in the U.S.

A new honey bee pest, the Australian sap beetle, has been confirmed in the western United States. Read the details in the December 2016 American Bee Journal.

*The Australian Sap Beetle *Brachypeplus basalis* Erichson:
A New Honey Bee Pest in America*

by Michael Burgett¹, Ramesh Sagili¹, Andony Melathopoulos¹, Hannah Lucas¹ and Christopher Marshall²

¹Department of Horticulture
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

²Oregon State Arthropod Collection
Department of Integrative Biology
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331



Figure 1. Dorsal view: adult Australian sap beetle (*Brachypeplus basalis*) on the left and adult Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tumida*) on the right.

Photo by Christopher Marshall

In 2015, the California Department of Food and Agriculture published a pest rating proposal for the Australian beetle *Brachypeplus basalis*. It had been discovered in beehives in four California counties, the earliest discovery taking place in 2010. This CDFA report (Leathers 2015) observed that the beetle had not been collected outside of beehives. Then, in 2013, a report from Montana State University (Schutter Diagnostics Laboratory Annual Report 2013) noted the presence of *B. basalis* in a sample submitted by a Montana beekeeper. In 2015 and 2016, the beetle was identified infesting stored bee equipment in two separate Oregon beekeeping operations. The 2015 sighting constitutes the first record of a *B. basalis* infestation (in bee boxes with frames stored outside) in Oregon. A scientific manuscript pertaining to this sighting is currently under review. A commercial beekeeper of about 8,000 colonies discovered the 2016 infestation in a portion of his stored beekeeping equipment, especially combs containing pollen and/or honey. He estimates that during the summer of 2016 he destroyed \$20,000 worth of beetle infested combs. As yet, the beetle has not been documented in active honey bee colonies in Oregon. ...

More News from the Hill

Dr. Steinkraus will be teaching Apiculture, ENTO 4043, Spring 2017 at the University of Arkansas campus, Fayetteville. This is a hands-on, full semester course in the biology of bees, their role in agriculture and ecosystems, insect anatomy, pollination, construction of hives, care of honey bee colonies, honey products, and much more. This course was originally taught by Dr. Lloyd Warren many years ago before his assistant, Gerald Wallis, taught it for a number of years. Dr. Steinkraus began teaching this course in 2001, 15 years ago! During that time he also trained several graduate students in apiculture, including Jon Zawislak, who worked on varroa mites, and Natasha Wright, who worked on small hive beetles.



INSPECTOR'S CORNER



I am proud to announce that the Apiary Section is once again fully staffed! I returned to the position of Apiary Manager in August. Emily Rodriguez started in August as the new Apiary Secretary. If you are calling the office, please ask for Emily and not Dana. Dana is still with the Plant Board, but she is working in a different division now.

This year the Apiary Section also lost two great inspectors. Betty Scott retired in June, and Aman Minick resigned for greener pastures in September.

Daniel Plyler was hired in September and will be the Apiary Inspector for the south half of the state. Danny Brewer was hired in December and will be the inspector for the north half of the state. If you would like an inspection, please contact our office.

(501) 225-1598

Mark.stoll@aspb.ar.gov
 Emily.rodriguez@aspb.ar.gov
 Danny.brewer@aspb.ar.gov
 Daniel.plyler@aspb.ar.gov