



The Producers



The newsletter of the Empire State Honey Producers Association

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

Fall 2010
Issue 90

The President's Corner, Fall 2010

Greetings,

I am pleased to announce that the NY Assembly bill A.9231, has been sign by the Governor on June 15, 2010. This bill repeals the mandatory registration of bee yards. Thanks to all who have worked tirelessly to get this law repealed.

We have started the process of incorporating ESHPA. This should have been done many years ago. Part of the incorporation process is to adopt new By-Laws. The lawyer has given us a draft copy of by-laws and the committee has reviewed both the old and new By-Laws and has incorporated several items from our exiting By-Laws into the new ones. Please review the Draft By-Laws as published in this newsletter. **Please submit your written comments no later than Sunday, October 31, 2010** to any of the following: Hans Junga, Aaron Morris, Amy Wakefield, or myself. These addresses can be located on page 2 of this newsletter.

In June, I was contacted by Sen. Schumer's office to provide information about the New York honey industry. The senator's staff was preparing a press release about the transshipping of honey from China and the impact on the beekeepers in New York. While there was a limited amount of time to gather the data requested, several board members provided input, and we were able to submit the information. At the press conference, Sen. Schumer went on the attack mode; labeling the Chinese as "common criminals," at the end he

stated that he was sending a letter to the FDA directing them to establish a federal Standard of Identity for Honey. The following Friday, a shipment of Chinese contaminated honey was seized in Philadelphia; again Schumer issued a press release to reinforce his previous statement. Sen. Schumer also visited the ESHPA booth at the state fair, where several of our members had the opportunity to express their thoughts on the issue of imported honey.

The summer picnic was held at Dyce Labs on July 24, 2010. It was a very pleasant warm day, with approximately 80 in attendance. We were pleased to have Kevin King, the recently appointed Director of Plant Industry from NYS Dept of Agriculture and Markets address the group. This was followed by a very colorful and informative presentation by Sam Comfort. Sam is a proponent of Top Bar Hives. Of course the highlight of the day was the extensive pot luck lunch. Thanks go out to all who helped make this event a success.

From all reports that I have heard, the booth at the State Fair was again
Continued on page 2



Left to right: Hans Junga, Rob Sorensen, Earl Villecco, Pat Bono
Happy ESHPA campers at the State Fair

extremely successful. My thanks go out to everyone that volunteered their time to man the booth. A special thanks to Rob Sorensen and Leslie, and Earl Villecco for their part in coordinating this event.

The fall 2010 meeting is just weeks away. If you have not made your hotel reservations, please do not wait until the last minute. In order to get our negotiated rate of \$94.00, the hotel will only hold this block of rooms until November 3rd. Please check the web site for any updates or changes that might occur. Mike Griggs and Peter Borst are working on workshops that will be held on Saturday morning; spread the word to any new or prospective beekeepers.

There are a couple of opening on the board, if anyone is interested in participating, please feel free to contact any of the Board members, so you can be included on the ballot at the Fall Meeting.

In the North Country, we have experienced an outstanding summer with some very warm weather and adequate rainfall. It was definitely a better honey year than in 2009. Unfortunately, some areas of the state experienced less than desirable weather and honey production was not as expected. "Next year will be better"

Hope to see many of you at our Fall Meeting.
Greg

Classifieds:

- **Ross Round Supers:** Used 2 seasons max. Painted bi-color. \$20 each; Six for \$100. Contact **Aaron Morris 518 368 9172**
- **Maxant Cappings Spinner:** Stainless steel; good for a sideline operation. \$450 or best offer. Contact **Aaron Morris 518 368 9172**
- **BARRELS OF RAW HONEY, CLEAN PROPOLIS WANTED**
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To The ESHPA Board

9 Sept. 2010

I'm sure some of you were aware at the time, that I accepted the position of V.P. in order to more effectively persuade a reluctant Farm Bureau (F.B.) to reverse their position on mandatory registration (M.R.). As we have now seen F.B. policy come into alignment with ESHPA and successfully repealed the M.R. law, I hereby resign as Vice President of ESHPA.

I apologize to you all for any inconvenience that results from my decision. All the best to all of you in the future.

Sincerely,
Joe Rowland

- **Singing Cedars Apiary**

Paid Advertisement

Here at Singing Cedars Apiary, the focus of our breeding program is to breed traits from top breeders from the heartiest strains we can find into our northern stock. We are not trying to maintain strain continuity, but to develop a superior strain of our own. We have been keeping and breeding bees for 40 years in Vermont.

Drones from survivor colonies that have overwintered in Vermont are mated with larva from breeder queens from the following strains of Russian, Carniolian, and Purvis Golden bees to develop traits we feel give us a gentle, hearty, highly productive strain of bees very suitable for northern climates.

We only overwinter our best producers, and requeen any hives not displaying the traits we are breeding for, and therefore feel our survivors are the best queens for your needs.

- **Russian**

We have been using RUSSIAN QUEENS from the coastal Primorski region of Russia. These bees have been exposed to Varroa mites for approximately 150 years and have developed a resistance to and the ability to cope with varroa and tracheal mites. They are very winter hearty and field mating them with our survivor stock of hearty producers gives us traits ideal for today's northern conditions.

- **Carniolian**

The traits we add to our stock from Carniolian breeders is their ability to winter well in severe climates yet build up well in the spring. Carniolian queens keep a very tight brood nest with heavy stores of honey.

All our queens are field-mated with drones from overwintered survivor stock, and we only overwinter our most productive hives.

- **Purvis Golden**

Purvis Golden queens have been developed for their gentleness, and ability to survive multiple pest and environmental pressures without the aid of chemicals while producing superior honey crops. Breeding these traits into our stock of overwintered survivors has given us a line of bees that build up quickly in the spring, which is a highly desired function here in the northeast.

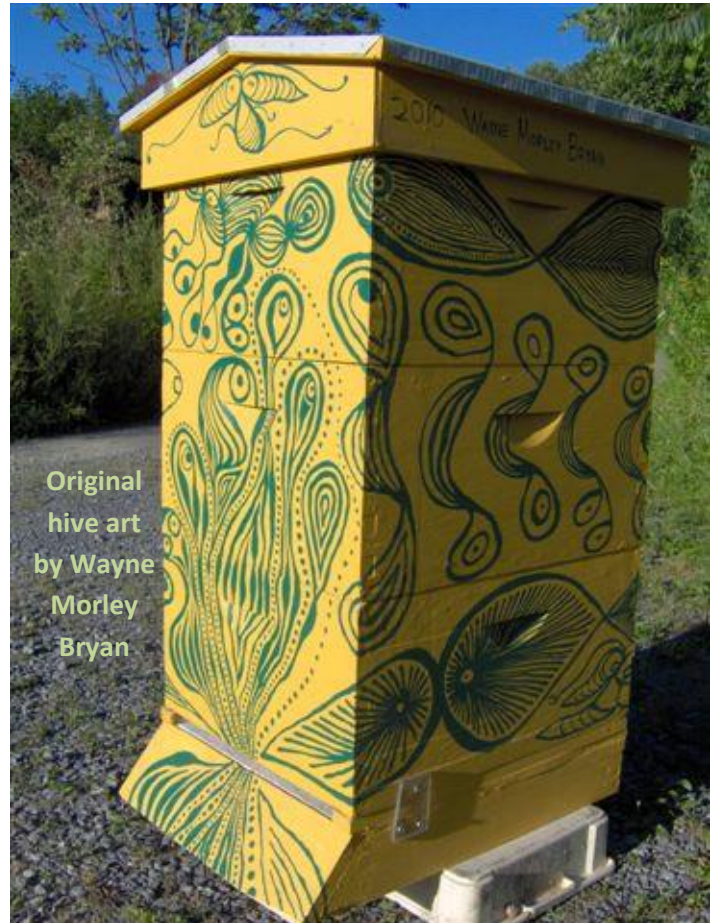
- **Canadian Buckfast**

The latest strain we have started to incorporate into our breeding program are the Canadian Buckfast bees developed originally by Brother Adam in England. Besides their tendency not to swarm and high honey production, since the bees are now bred in Canada, they winter very well. They are also some of our gentlest bees, and they have a reputation for longevity. In one study in Canada, 89% of Buckfast queens were still strong 16 months into their lifespan.

Check out our Northern Survivor Queens at www.vtbees.com.

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2010 Summer Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Saturday, July 24, 2010 - 9:15 a.m.

Place: Dyce Lab, Ithaca, NY

President Greg Kalicin called the meeting to order. Minutes of the Spring Board meeting, and Treasurer's Report were presented by Hans Junga.

Directors and officers present were Aaron Morris, Joe Rowland, Ted Elk, Richard Linck, Mark Berninghausen, Peter Borst, Judy Doan, Rob Sorensen, and Richard Wakefield. Other members at the meeting included Ed Doan, Amy Wakefield, Earl Villecco, Pat Bono, Bob Brachmann, Larry and Daniel Winter.

The first motion to accept the spring meeting minutes was made by Aaron, seconded by Mark, and was carried.

There was discussion on the New York State Senate's signing into law repealing the mandatory registration of apiaries on March 3rd. It was noted that while funding was cut for the inspection program, the program remains "on the books".

The status of nuisance bear legislation was addressed by Greg; stating that the law had not changed. There are varying opinions between DEC officers on the interpretation of the matter; as some feel it is illegal to destroy the animal. Larry Winter wishes to involve the Farm Bureau as a means to seek a more consistent

enforcement of the law. The second motion was made by Joe in adopting a resolution for ESHPA's support of wildlife laws as written. It was seconded by Mark, and carried by unanimous vote.

Greg presented details of a conference call with Senator Schumer's staff on his latest efforts to eliminate "honey laundering" by Chinese importers. The mislabeling of tainted honey and distribution through other countries to avoid paying duty is undermining the New York honey industry.

It is the hope of ESHPA that through adopting a NY Standard of Identity for Honey, and through the honest honey initiatives employed by honey packers, passage of Federal law can take place to protect the honey producer and consumer.

Preparations are being made for this year's NY State Fair. The pricing of honey was discussed. While Mark spoke of the advantage of selling at a higher price, Earl suggested the prices be left as last year. The third motion made by Joe to keep this year's honey prices the same was seconded by Mark and was unanimously carried.

The fifth motion to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. was made by Aaron, seconded by Mark and was passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Hans Junga - Secretary/Treasurer

2010 Summer General Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Saturday, July 24, 2010 - 11:15 a.m.

Place: Dyce Lab, Ithaca, NY

President Greg Kalicin called the meeting to order.

President Kalicin stated that the law {S.6268/A.9231} repealing the mandatory registration of apiaries was signed by the governor on June 15, 2010. Greg thanked everyone who helped repeal this regulation.

The next item that was discussed was relating to the elimination of funding for the inspection program for 2010. A resolution adopted on April 10th at the spring ESHPA board meeting was presented to the membership:

Whereas financial constraints impacting the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets program has resulted in the termination of funding for the Apiary Inspection Program,

And whereas the Empire State Honey Producers Association believes that an efficient and cost effective inspection program would be beneficial to the New York state beekeeping industry,

Therefore be it resolved that the Empire State Honey Producers Association would support and desire input into the design and implementation of an improved apiary inspection program, which would be responsive to the specific needs of the New York beekeepers, at such time as funding becomes available to reinstate the

apiary inspection program in New York State.

The resolution was approved by a show of hands.

A resolution was presented, and approved by majority vote of the general membership, in reference to preventing and controlling wildlife damage, § 11-0523. Destructive or menacing wildlife; taking without permit.

Whereas bears are a continuing problem to beekeepers, and beekeepers have a right to protect their property,

Be it resolved that the Empire State Honey Producers Association supports existing nuisance bear legislation.

President Kalicin noted that he has sent an email to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation stating that ESHPA was in favor of maintaining the existing law where beekeepers may kill any menacing bear in their apiary. As of yet the Commissioner has not responded.

A resolution was presented, and approved by majority vote of the general membership - 20 for, 5 opposed, and

1 abstention, concerning the Standard of Identity of Honey for New York State. During the discussion of this resolution, Mark Berninghausen noted that only the current paid members of ESHPA are entitled to vote on such matters.

The Empire State Honey Producers Association supports and endorses the Honey Standard of Identity proposed for the State of New York as published in the spring newsletter.

The incorporation of ESHPA is progressing. Final version of Constitution and Bylaws is being written and will be published in the fall newsletter, and will be voted on by the general membership at the fall meeting. It was noted that only written comment would be accepted no later than October 31, 2010, to allow for any pertinent changes to be reviewed by the lawyer and incorporated into the by-laws.

A motion to adjourn at 12:15 was made by Aaron Morris, seconded by Ted Elk, and was passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Hans Junga - Secretary/Treasurer



Gazebo display at the State Fair

Special Notice for the Winter Meeting

- There will be a board of Directors Meeting Thursday evening at 7:00PM. The meeting will be held at the hotel, in the Syracuse Room. Those who choose may order off the hotel menu and eat at the meeting.
- There will be three vendors at the meeting: Betterbee, Brushy Mountain (Pennsylvania Branch), and Dadant and Sons (Waverly Branch). Orders placed in advance may be picked up at the meeting. This is an ideal opportunity to save shipping charges (space permitting on the vendors' truck).
- This newsletter contains the second printing of amended Bylaws and Constitution. The amended ESHPA Bylaws and Constitution will be voted on at the Winter Meeting as a required step in the incorporation process. Comments and concerns must be submitted *in writing* no later than October 31, 2010 (see *The President's Corner* on the front page of this newsletter).

BY – LAWS
of
Empire State Honey Producers Association,
Inc.

ARTICLE I – OFFICES

The principal office of the corporation shall be in the Town of Alexandria Bay, County of Jefferson, State of New York. The corporation may also have offices at such other places within or without this state as the board may from time to time determine or the business of the corporation may require.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

The purposes for which this corporation has been organized are as follows:

To promote and protect the interests of New York State beekeepers, and

To form an association for mutual benefit of New York State honey producers; to promote and assist in efforts to preserve and protect the honey bee; to assist New York State honey producers in promoting, marketing and publicizing honey and hive products and educate the public to the value of honey bee pollination; to aid in presenting a uniform point of view on concerns of New York State honey producers to state and federal agencies and the general public.

To procure uniformity and certainty in customs and usages of trade and commerce, and of those having a common trade, business, financial or professional interest; to promote a more enlarged and friendly intercourse among beekeepers.

To do any other act or thing incidental to or connected with the foregoing purposes or in advancement thereof, but not for the pecuniary profit or financial gain of its members, directors, or officers except as permitted under Article 5 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Membership in this not-for-profit corporation is open to anyone interested in beekeeping.

Annual and life membership dues are set by the Board of Directors and approved by the general membership. Only paid-up members are eligible to vote on corporate business.

Spouses of members must take out a separate membership if they wish to vote.

A paid-up membership is entitled to one vote.

2. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.

The annual membership meeting of the corporation shall be held at the winter meeting. The secretary shall cause to be mailed to every member in good standing at his address as it appears on the membership roll book of the corporation a notice stating the time and place of the annual meeting.

Regular meetings of the corporation shall be held twice per year:

A. Summer Picnic: The Summer Picnic will be held the last Saturday in July (unless announced otherwise) at a site to be determined at the preceding Winter Meeting. A meeting of the Board of Directors will be held. A business meeting will be held at which nominations for Officers and Directors will be made (to be voted on at the Winter Meeting).

B. Winter Meeting: The Winter Meeting will be held in November or December at a location to be determined by the Board of Directors. A two-day meeting with an extensive array of speakers as well as a banquet is the norm. An Annual Business Meeting will be held at this time to elect Officers and Directors as well as transact other business of the Association. The Secretary-Treasurer will make a financial report for the previous year available to the membership at this time.

The presence at any membership meeting of not less than twenty percent (20%) of all paid-up members of the corporation shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct the business of the corporation; however, a lesser number may adjourn the meeting for a period of not more than four (4) weeks from the date scheduled by the by-laws and the secretary shall cause a notice of the re-scheduled date of the meeting to be sent to those members who were not present at the meeting

originally called. A quorum as hereinbefore set forth shall be required at any adjourned meeting.

A membership roll showing the list of members as of the record date, certified by the secretary of the corporation, shall be produced at any meeting of members upon the request therefore of any member who has given written notice to the corporation that such request will be made at least ten days prior to such meeting. All persons appearing on such membership roll shall be entitled to vote at the meeting.

3. SPECIAL MEETINGS.

Special meetings of the corporation may be called by the directors. The secretary shall cause a notice of such meeting to be mailed to all members at their addresses as they appear in the membership roll book at least ten days but not more than thirty days before the scheduled date of such meeting. Such notice shall state the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting and by whom called.

No other business but that specified in the notice may be transacted at such special meeting without the unanimous consent of all present at such meeting.

4. FIXING RECORD DATE.

For the purpose of determining the members entitled to notice of or to vote at any meeting of members or any adjournment thereof, or to express consent to or dissent from any proposal without a meeting, or for the purpose of determining the members entitled to receive any distribution or any allotment of any rights, or for the purpose of any other action, the board shall fix, in advance, a date as the record date for any such determination of members. Such date shall not be more than thirty nor less than ten days before any such meeting, or more than thirty days prior to any other action.

5. ACTION BY MEMBERS WITHOUT A MEETING.

Whenever members are required or permitted to take any action by vote, such action may be taken without a meeting by written consent, setting forth the action so taken, signed by all the members entitled to vote thereon.

6. PROXIES.

Every member entitled to vote at a meeting of members or to express consent or dissent without a meeting may authorize another person or persons to act for him by proxy.

Every proxy must be signed by the member or his attorney-in-fact. No proxy shall be valid after the expiration of thirty days from the date thereof unless otherwise provided in the proxy. Every proxy shall be revocable at the pleasure of the member executing it, except as otherwise provided by law.

7. ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The order of business at all meetings of members shall be as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting
3. Reports of committees
4. Reports of officers
5. Old and unfinished business
6. New business
7. Good and welfare
8. Adjournments

8. MEMBERSHIP DUES.

Annual and life membership dues amounts and due dates are set by the Board of Directors and approved by the general membership of the corporation and may be amended from time-to-time.

ARTICLE IV – DIRECTORS

1. MANAGEMENT OF THE CORPORATION.

The corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors which shall consist of not less than three directors. Each director shall be at least nineteen years of age.

2. ELECTION AND TERM OF DIRECTORS.

At each Summer Annual Meeting of the members, the membership shall nominate officers and directors. At each Winter Annual Meeting of the members, the membership shall elect directors to hold office until the next Winter Annual Meeting. Each

director shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which he was elected and until his successor has been elected and shall have qualified, or until his prior resignation or removal.

Directors will be elected to a three year term (limited to two consecutive terms) and seven will represent the different areas of New York State as follows: two from Western New York (west of the Genesee River), two from the Southern Tier (south and west of the New York State Thruway) and two from Northern and Eastern New York (north and east of the Thruway), and one from Long Island. The eighth Director is at-large and is to be appointed by the President. The Newsletter Editor is appointed by the Board of Directors and then becomes a voting member of the Board.

3. INCREASE OR DECREASE IN NUMBER OF DIRECTORS.

The number of directors may be increased or decreased by vote of the members or by a vote of a majority of all of the directors. No decrease in number of directors shall shorten the terms of any incumbent director.

4. NEWLY CREATED DIRECTORSHIPS AND VACANCIES.

Newly created directorships resulting from an increase in the number of directors and vacancies occurring in the board for any reason except the removal of directors without cause may be filled by a vote of a majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum exists, unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation. Vacancies occurring by reason of the removal of directors without cause shall be filled by vote of the members. A director elected to fill a vacancy caused by resignation, death or removal shall be elected to hold office for the unexpired term of his predecessor.

5. REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS.

Any or all of the directors may be removed for cause by vote of the members or by action of the board. Directors may be removed without cause only by vote of the members.

6. RESIGNATION.

A director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the board, the president or the

secretary of the corporation. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt thereof by the board or such officer, and the acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

7. QUORUM OF DIRECTORS.

Unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation, a majority of the entire board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business or of any specified item of business.

8. ACTION OF THE BOARD.

Unless otherwise required by law, the vote of a majority of the directors present at the time of the vote, if a quorum is present at such time, shall be the act of the board. Each director present shall have one vote.

9. PLACE AND TIME OF BOARD MEETINGS.

The board may hold its meetings at the office of the corporation or at such other places, either within or without the state, as it may from time to time determine.

10. REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING.

A regular annual meeting of the board shall be held prior to the Winter Annual Meeting of members at the place of such Winter Annual Meeting of members.

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD, ADJOURNMENT.

Regular meetings of the board may be held without notice at such time and place as it shall from time to time determine. Special meetings of the board shall be held upon notice to the directors and may be called by the president upon three days' notice to each director either personally or by mail or by telephone or by email; special meetings shall be called by the president or by the secretary in a like manner on written request of two directors. Notice of a meeting need not be given to any director who submits a waiver of notice whether before or after the meeting or who attends the meeting without protesting prior thereto or at its commencement, the lack of notice to him.

A majority of the directors present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. Notice of the adjournment shall

be given all directors who were absent at the time of the adjournment and, unless such time and place are announced at the meeting, to the other directors.

12. CHAIRMAN.

At all meeting of the board, the president, or in his absence, a chairman chosen by the board shall preside.

13. EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMITTEES.

The board, by resolution adopted by a majority of the entire board, may designate from among its members an executive committee and other committees, each consisting of three or more directors. Each such committee shall serve at the pleasure of the board.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

1. OFFICES, ELECTION, TERM.

Unless otherwise provided for in the certificate of incorporation, the board may elect or appoint a president, one or more vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer, and such other officers as it may determine, who shall have such duties, powers and functions as hereinafter provided. All officers shall be nominated at the Summer Annual Meeting of the members and elected or appointed to hold office at the Winter Annual Meeting of the members until the next meeting of the board following the Winter Annual Meeting of members. Each officer shall hold office for the term for which he is elected or appointed for a term of two years and until his successor has been elected or appointed and qualified.

2. REMOVAL, RESIGNATION, SALARY.

Any officer elected or appointed by the board may be removed by the board with or without cause. In the event of the death, resignation or removal of an officer, the board in its discretion may elect or appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of president and secretary. The salaries of all officers, if any, shall be fixed by the board.

3. PRESIDENT.

The president shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation; he shall preside at all meetings of the

members and of the board; he shall have the general management of the affairs of the corporation and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the board are carried into effect.

4. VICE-PRESIDENTS.

During the absence or disability of the president, the vice-president, or if there are more than one, the first vice-president, shall have all the powers and functions of the president. Each vice-president shall perform such other duties as the board shall prescribe.

5. TREASURER.

The treasurer shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the corporation, and shall deposit said funds in the name of the corporation in such bank or trust company as the directors may elect; he shall, when duly authorized by the board of directors, sign and execute all contracts in the name of the corporation, when countersigned by the president; he shall also sign all checks, drafts, notes, and orders for the payment of money, which shall be duly authorized by the board of directors and shall be countersigned by the president; he shall at all reasonable times exhibit his books and accounts to any director or member of the corporation upon application at the office of the corporation during ordinary business hours. At the end of each corporate year, he shall have an audit of the accounts of the corporation made by a committee appointed by the president, and shall present such audit in writing at the annual meeting of the members, at which time he shall also present an annual report setting forth in full the financial conditions of the corporation.

6. ALTERNATE-TREASURER.

During the absence or disability of the treasurer, a Vice-President so designated by the board, shall have the powers and functions of the treasurer.

7. SECRETARY.

The secretary shall keep the minutes of the board of directors and also the minutes of the members. He shall have the custody of the seal of the corporation and shall affix and attest the same to documents when duly authorized by the board of directors. He shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the corporation, and shall have charge of such books and papers as the

board of directors may direct; he shall attend to such correspondence as may be assigned to him, and perform all the duties incidental to his office. He shall keep a membership roll containing the names, alphabetically arranged, of all persons who are members of the corporation, showing their places of residence and the time when they became members.

8. ALTERNATE SECRETARY.

During the absence or disability of the secretary, a Vice-President so designated by the board, shall have all the powers and functions of the secretary.

9. SURETIES AND BONDS.

In case the board shall so require, any officer or agent of the corporation shall execute to the corporation a bond in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the board may direct, conditioned upon the faithful performance of his duties to the corporation and including responsibility for negligence and for the accounting for all property, funds or securities of the corporation which may come into his hands.

ARTICLE VI – SEAL

The seal of the corporation shall be as follows:



ARTICLE VII – CONSTRUCTION

If there be any conflict between the provisions of the certificate of incorporation and these by-laws, the provisions of the certificate of incorporation shall govern.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

The by-laws may be adopted, amended or repealed by the members at the time they are entitled to vote in the election of directors. By-laws may also be adopted, amended or repealed by the board of directors but any by-law adopted, amended or repealed by the board may be amended by the members entitled to vote thereon as hereinbefore provided.

If any by-law regulating an impending election of directors is adopted, amended or repealed by the board, there shall be set forth in the notice of the next meeting of members for the election of directors the by-law so adopted, amended or repealed, together with a concise statement of the changes made.

Western NY Honey Producers

Dr Larry Connor speaking on "Biology Driven Management"; Tuesday 11/16/2010; 6:00 PM; First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora;

Pot luck supper – bring dish to pass, club will provide drinks; \$10 charge for meeting

bdavis@wnyhma.org

Rochester Beekeepers Social Group

4th Monday of the Month, 7PM at Jitters Cafe, 3333 W. Henrietta Rd

Coffees, pizza, beer available for purchase

RochesterBeekeepers@gmail.com

Southern Adirondack Beekeepers Association

Annual All Day SABA Seminar at the University at Albany, Albany, NY. March 26, 2011; 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

Speakers: Dr. Dewey Caron, Dr. Richard Fell & Gary Reuter.

\$28 per person (SABA members \$23 each)

<http://www.adirondackbees.org/>

Ontario Finger Lakes Winter Beekeeping Symposium

February 19, 2011 at the Albright Auditorium, Hobart & William Smith College, Geneva, NY. 9AM to 5PM.

Featured Speakers: **Randy Oliver** owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He manages about 500+ colonies for migratory pollination, and produces queens, nucs, and honey. He has 40 years of practical beekeeping experience, plus holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biological Sciences.

Heather Mattila is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Wellesley College; she completed her Ph.D. in Environmental Biology at the University of Guelph in 2005. She held a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship, with Thomas Seeley, from 2005 to 2008

fbeeclub.com

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8-27-2010

Product Registration Section
NYSDEC
Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials
Bureau of Pesticides Management
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7254
518-402-8748

Dear Product Registration Section,

I request that NYS-DEC approve NOD Apiary Products' Special Local Needs (24(c)) application for the use of Mite-Away Quick Strips (MAQS) for control of *Varroa destructor* in honey bee colonies in New York State. I deem the need for this product to be critical, and I request that approval be granted immediately so the product can be used beginning this fall. *V. destructor* is the most serious threat to beekeepers in New York and accounts for the majority of the substantial colony losses that occur on a regular basis throughout the year.

At present, the registered treatments for this pest include Api-Life VAR, Api-Guard, Mite-Away II, Sucroside, Apistan and CheckMite+. Mite-Away II is no longer being produced and is not available. Resistance to Apistan and CheckMite+ is widespread, rendering the products highly unreliable, and I no longer recommend either of them. In addition, recent research has found that bees reared in colonies that have been treated with Apistan and/or Checkmite+ have significantly reduced life spans. This is a consequence of the fact that these products accumulate in the pollen and wax combs and expose developing bees to sub lethal doses of pesticide. As a result, these compounds may be contributing to the recent outbreak of Colony Collapse Disorder. Sucroside is extremely labor intensive and simply is not an effective control agent.

Api-Life VAR and Api-Guard provide some level of control; however, they require three treatments and four trips to the bee yard over a 21 day period making them impractical for commercial beekeepers due to greatly increased labor costs (the fourth trip is to remove the treatment from the hive). In addition, their use is limited to times when bees are not making honey and when temperatures fall within

narrowly specified ranges. Taken together, these restrictions greatly limit their use.

MAQS is a formic acid based product that can be applied anytime that mite levels threaten a colony, and it can be applied over a wider range of temperatures. It need be applied only once, and it acts within 3 days. This is important because it suppresses the mite population immediately; whereas the other products allow damage to continue for up to three weeks (Api-Life VAR and Api-Guard) or six weeks (Apistan or CheckMite).

Unlike other treatments, the beekeeper need not return to the hive to remove the strips because they are degraded by the bees. This represents a significant savings in labor for beekeepers, especially for commercial beekeepers that often must hire staff to apply treatments. Because MAQS need only be applied once, and because the applicator does not need to return to remove it, there is less chance that those applying treatments will accidentally be exposed to the pesticide.

Finally, the active ingredient in MAQS, formic acid, is a natural product that is found to occur naturally in honey, does not accumulate in the combs nor cause chronic injury to bees, and is exempt from tolerance by EPA due to its low toxicity. Data provided by NOD shows that there is no increased residue of formic acid in honey as a result of treating during a honey flow.

MAQS provides a significant technological improvement in treatment methodology for parasitic mites, it offers a significant cost savings resulting from lower labor inputs, and it reduces applicator exposure to pesticides. MAQS makes these contributions at a time when cost effective alternatives for controlling mites are no longer available and the need for effective mite control is higher than ever.

Sincerely,

Nicholas W. Calderone
Associate Professor and Director
Dyce Laboratory for Honey Bee Studies
Department of Entomology
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 23, 2010

COMMITTEES
JOINT ECONOMIC
BANKING
JUDICIARY
RULES
FINANCE

The Honorable Ron Kirk
U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk,

The U.S. honey industry is under siege from imports of Chinese-origin honey transshipped through third countries in order to evade payment of U.S. antidumping duties. This transshipping or "honey laundering" – the intentional mislabeling of the country of origin – is costing the U.S. millions of dollars in unpaid duties and threatens the health of the U.S. honey industry and, by extension, the health of U.S. agricultural industries.

U.S. customs data strongly suggests that Malaysia and Indonesia are major transshipment hubs for Chinese-origin honey, and I urge USTR officials to raise this issue with Malaysian and Indonesian officials next week at their meetings in Malaysia and Indonesia. I also respectfully ask that you seek commitments from Malaysian and Indonesian officials to assist in efforts to stop the transshipments.

Since the U.S. imposed stiff antidumping duties on imports of Chinese honey in 2001, attempts to avoid such duties – by sending Chinese honey into the United States from a third country – have proliferated. Customs data reflects the dramatic shifts in imports. Official imports from China, which as recently as 2006 provided over ¼ of total U.S. honey imports, are now virtually nonexistent. In contrast, imports from countries with no significant commercial honey exporting business – such as Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Taiwan – now account for as much as a third of total imports.

And the transshipment problem only continues to get worse. To date, honey imports from Malaysia and Indonesia are up a whopping 300 and 820 percent, respectively, as compared to the same period last year, while honey imports from China continue to remain virtually nonexistent. The European Union also recently banned imports of honey from India after finding shipments were contaminated with lead, and news reports suggest that the contaminated honey actually originated in China and was shipped through India to the EU. The EU ban is having an additional negative impact on U.S. honey producers as Indian honey exporters are now diverting shipments, possibly of Chinese origin, to the United States.

The impact of the transshipment problem on the health of U.S. honey producers and U.S. agricultural industries should not be underestimated. U.S. honey producers forced to compete with cheap, unfairly-traded Chinese honey – including Chinese-origin honey transshipped through third countries – are struggling to survive. Any threat to their survival also is a threat to the vital pollination services U.S. beekeepers provide for over 50 commercial crops grown in the United States, including at least a dozen grown in my state such as apples, soybeans, grapes and cucumbers.

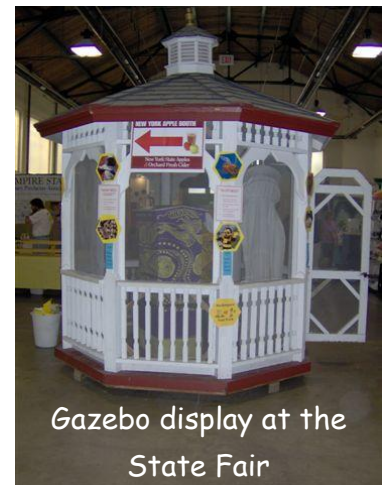
Stopping Chinese-origin honey transshipment is vital to the health of U.S. honey and agricultural industries, but we will not succeed without the help and cooperation of our trading partners, including Malaysia and Indonesia. I respectfully ask that USTR raise this issue at next week's meetings and announce some progress on cooperative efforts to resolve the transshipment problem. I also ask that you please keep me apprised of developments on this issue. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Ettinger, on my staff, at 202-224-7945.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

cc: Ambassador Demetrios Marantis
Deputy U.S. Trade Representative



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
AGRICULTURE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

September 27, 2010

The Honorable Margaret A. Hamburg, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave.
Building 1 Room 2217
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Dear Commissioner Hamburg,

I am writing today to urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to take immediate action on adopting a "standard of identity" for honey. This standard is necessary to protect the American honey industry from being threatened by adulterated, imported honey.

The much needed federal standard of identity for honey will outline a definition of purity. This definition is essential for giving inspectors the power to stem a flood of illicit imports and curb domestic tampering. Because there is a lack of a definition for honey, it is not currently possible to prosecute someone for adulteration of honey. This issue requires immediate action since it is both a food safety concern, as well as a concern for our honey producers.

This issue is of particular importance to New York State, which is home to one of the nation's largest honey industries, ranking 12th in total production and the largest in the Northeast. In 2009, New York's honey producers manufactured over 3 million pounds of honey and earned \$5.3 million in sales. Unfortunately, in recent years, the New York honey industry has experienced a 36.4% decline in sales, which correlates with China's increased exports of impure honey to the United States.

I understand that FDA hasn't ruled out adopting this standard. But, in communications with the agency, I have learned that there isn't a timeline for reviewing and adopting it. The immediate adoption of this standard is supported by the American Beekeepers Federation, American Honey Producers Association, the Honey, Packers and Dealers Association and the Empire State Honey Producers Association of New York State. On behalf of these producers as well as consumers who deserve to trust the honey they purchase, I am dedicated to fighting for this standard to be adopted as soon as possible.

I look forward to your timely response, informing me of FDA's timeline for adoption of this standard of identity.

Sincerely,

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

United States Senator

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

**Say YES! to
PURE HONEY**

support the proposed
"New York Standard of Identity for HONEY"



tell your legislators you want
PURE HONEY sold in New York State
Empire State Honey Producers Assn.
website- ESHPA.org or RochesterHoney.com

PROGRAM

Friday November 19, 2010 and Saturday November 20, 2010

Friday November 19th

- 8:15 AM Registration**
8:45 AM Welcome
Greg Kalicin, President ESHPA
- 8:50 AM Update on Apiary Inspections & Nosema Disease**
Paul Cappy, N. Y. State Apiarist
N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
- 9:30 AM NY State Police Troop D Traffic Division**
Sgt Michael Walser
- 10:10 AM Break - Beverages available in the Syracuse Room**
- 10:30 AM Importance of Media Training for Beekeepers**
Barb Silvestri - N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
- 11:15 AM Transshipping of Honey to Circumvent US Tariffs**
Ron Phipps, CEO CPNA Global
- 12:00 PM Hot Lunch Buffet for those who prepay**
- 1:00 PM Varroa and Hygienic Behavior**
Gary Reuter, Dept of Entomology -University of Minnesota

- 1:45 PM Local Queens**
Chuck Kutik - Kutik Aristocratic Queens, Norwich, NY
- 2:15 PM Update on Value of Honey Bees and Pollination**
Dr. Nick Calderone Cornell University
- 2:50 PM Break - Beverages available in the Syracuse Room**
- 3:15 PM Business Meeting**
- 6:00 PM Cocktails**
- 7:00 PM Silent Auction** and Banquet**
**** Donations are gratefully welcomed**

Saturday November 20th

- 9:00 AM Helping beekeepers understand the research experimental process and researchers' presentation.**
Gary Reuter, Dept of Entomology - University of Minnesota
- 9:45 AM Inspection Program in Alberta**
Allen Dick, Alberta
- 10:30 AM Break**
- 11:00 AM Questions & Answers Session**
Gary Reuter, Ron Phipps, Paul Cappy and Allen Dick
- 12:00 PM Closing - Greg Kalicin**

ESHPA presents Saturday Workshop for Beekeepers

The Empire State Honey Producers have been listening to beekeepers around the state and have determined there is need for a program to address the needs of new beekeepers. These new workshops will be held on **Saturday November 20th** at the ESHPA annual fall meetings. We would like to address the needs of new beekeepers and those beekeepers desiring to step up their operations. Hopefully this will become an annual event targeted towards the information needs of members of the local associations or new ESHPA members.

Registrants for the ESHPA meeting are welcome to attend these sessions and full registration will cover attendance for the two day meeting.

If you cannot make it Friday, cannot stay overnight at the hotel, or if you are only interested in the Saturday workshops then just pay for the Workshops. It will cost \$20 to either preregister or pay at the door as a walk in. As an added bonus first time attendees will get a one year free membership in ESHPA!

This year's sessions are put forward by beekeepers of New York; hopefully attendee feedback will increase the depth of programming as this initiative gains momentum. It allows another chance to meet fellow beekeepers, talk beekeeping and gain the information and ideas that you will need to be successful in the twenty-first century. I might add the price is right!!!

Hope to see you there & bring a friend!

Mike

Woodworking for Beekeepers (9:00-9:45)

Enhance your beekeeping by improving your woodworking knowledge and skill. In this workshop, we'll discuss the physical properties of wood and apply that knowledge to make hives stronger and more durable. We'll discuss the effects of wood, relative humidity and ventilation on hive health and cover the basic wood shop tools and the joints, jigs, and the economics of making your own hives.

Peter Sieling, president of the Steuben County Honeybee Association, is an author, lumber technologist, and beekeeper. He owns Garreson Lumber Company and writes woodworking articles for *Bee Culture* magazine.

Native Pollinators of New York (10:15- 11:00)

Peter will do a presentation on the native pollinators of New York State. The basic categories of pollinators will be displayed and described. He will touch upon the history of our understanding of the role of pollinators, how changes in agriculture have affected native pollinators, and what individuals can do to encourage wild pollinators. As beekeepers, "Joe Public" will ask you questions about all sorts of "bees" here is your chance to learn more.

Peter Borst has worked in the beekeeping industry since 1974. He ran his own bee business in the 1980s in California, selling honey, bee pollen and queen bees. He spent 7 years at Cornell's Dyce Lab and worked as a NYS bee inspector for three seasons. He is currently the president of the Finger Lakes Beekeepers Club.

That Damn Wax (11:00-11:45)

If you produce honey you will also have capping wax. Will you store it, give it away or clean it yourself as a value added product of the hive? Wax can be difficult to manage and clean but is a wonderful product from your hives if you can just get it cleaned up. I hope to provide a number of solutions that could be adapted for your operation whether you have a couple of hives or 50.

Mike Griggs has been a beekeeper for 25 years+ since starting as a beekeeping extensionist in N. Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He was President of the Eastern Apicultural Society meetings held in Ithaca in 2002 and was President of the Finger Lakes Beekeepers for many years.

Empire State Honey Producers Association

Fall 2010 Meeting Registration

November 19th & 20th, 2010

Comfort Inn & Suites*

6701 Buckley Road
North Syracuse, New York
(315) 457-4000

* Please call the hotel to make room reservations. Mention that you are with the beekeeper to get the group rate of \$94.00 per night

Name _____ Date _____
Spouse's First/Last Name (only if attending) _____
Company Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Pre-Registration

Member (& spouse) \$40.00 _____

Non-Member (& spouse) \$45.00 _____

Registration at Meeting

Member (& spouse) \$45.00 _____

Non-Member (& spouse) \$50.00 _____

2010 Dues \$20.00 _____

2011 Dues \$20.00 _____

Saturday Morning Workshop Only

\$20.00 _____

Hot Italian Luncheon

_____ attending @ \$17.00 each _____

Banquet Buffet

_____ attending @ \$26.00 each _____

Total \$ _____

Checks or Money Orders should be
made payable to ESPHA

Pre-registration should be mailed no
later than 10/31/2010 to:

ESPHA

C/o Hans Junga

You CAN get there
from here!



The fall 2008 meeting will be held on November 19 & 20, 2010 at the Comfort Inn & Suites, 6701 Buckley Road North Syracuse, New York. Please contact the Comfort Inn @ **315 457-4000** for your room reservations and mention that you are with the "**Beekeepers**" to get the group rate of \$94.00. It is **important** that you make your reservations prior to October 24th to receive the group rate.



EMPIRE STATE Honey Producers Association

Protecting the Interests of New York Beekeepers since 1867

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Email: _____

Please send a newsletter to: _____

Please complete this membership form and send along with a check (Pay To The Order of: E.S.H.P.A.) in the amount of \$20 to:

Hans Junga,
Secretary/Treasurer
46527 Co. Rt. 1
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

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Mite Away Quick Strips	Page 11
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Return Address:

Hans Junga, Secretary/Treasurer
46527 Co. Rt. 1
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

Mail to:



Deborah Jeanne Sergeant

September is National Honey Month

Bee Health, Honey Labeling

Challenge Beekeepers

New York Correspondent

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — People have been enjoying honey for thousands of years; however, many of the challenges facing modern beekeepers are quite different from those of ancient times.

To address these issues, the Empire State Honey Producers Association was organized in 1870. The 180-member organization also provides a resource for beekeepers to improve their businesses and promote honey.

Consumer education has drawn the ESHPA to present information, samples and products at events such as the New York State Fair. The ESHPA has operated a booth at the fair since before the turn of the 20th century, allowing beekeepers to offer samples, answer consumers' questions and help those considering beekeeping understand the business better.

In recent years, the business has been tougher than ever. Colony collapse Disorder (CCD) has decimated hives and persists in plaguing beekeepers. The USDA describes it as no or a low number of adult honey bees present, but with a live queen and no dead honey bees in the hive. Often there is still honey in the hive, and immature bees (brood) are present.

Greg Kalicin, president of the ESHPA, listed insecticides, nutrition, varroa mites, bee viruses, and a pathogen, nosema, as the culprits behind CCD.

When an insecticide is applied, it does not discriminate what pest it will kill, he said. Farmers must be aware of what they are spraying, whether it is a pesticide, fungicide or herbicide, and if there are any bee yards in the general area. When applying these compounds, time of day is extremely critical. Are bees flying at the time of application? And how can these chemicals affect the honeybee?

He has found that the best forage for bees is located on abandoned farms where pesticides are not used.

Kalicin operates Harmony Farm in Waddington, N.Y., which produces about 4,000 pounds of honey - and nothing else - annually. Along with his wife, Deb, Kalicin started beekeeping with a few hives in 1972 and has grown his apiary to 65 colonies. The couple markets their honey at the Canton Farmers' Market, at their farm stand, and through a little mail order.

The growth of larger, one-crop operations and the decreased number of smaller, mixed-use farms compromises the bees' nutrition.

Bees, like humans, need a balanced diet to maintain a healthy immune system, Kalicin said.

Ironically, many crops, fruits and vegetables require honeybee pollination.

The pollination by honeybees contributes to an exponential increase in crop yield, Kalicin said.

The USDA's web site states that honeybees' pollination is responsible for \$15 billion in added crop value, particularly for specialty crops such as almonds and other nuts, berries, fruits and vegetables. About one mouthful in three in the diet directly or indirectly benefits from honey bee pollination.

Modern farmers' methods also curtail the honeybees' pollination time. Instead of beginning haying in early July, now they start earlier and the clover and alfalfa does not have enough time to mature enough for the bees to work their blossoms, Kalicin said.

But he added that the varroa mite and viruses are probably the key factors to CCD. The internal pathogen nosema impairs the digestion of pollen, thereby shortening the life of the bee. Nosema, if left untreated, can cause queen to supersede, winter kills, reduced honey yields and dwindling populations.

In addition to threats to bee health, honey imports also impact the beekeeping industry. Establishing a standard of honey quality would help consumers identify what is 100 percent pure honey and what isn't.

The current standard of identity was developed in the early 1900s, when there was minimal importation of honey, Kalicin said. At the present time, the United States is importing honey from all over the world. Some of what is imported as honey' is blended with other sweeteners. A standard of honey would protect the consumers and the beekeepers from an adulterated product.

A new standard would also prevent cheaper mixed products from underselling the pure product because of confusing labels, he said.

Proposed Standard of Identity for Honey - New York State 2010

Honey's intrinsic value is tied to both its purity and the healthful/medicinal qualities that it brings to the table. This makes honey a more valuable food than other sweeteners. Adulteration hurts the good name of our product, threatens the economic viability of beekeepers and packers through unfair competition, and threatens the health of those who use honey specifically for health reasons (diabetics, etc).

Multiple instances of legal action taken against alleged adulterators of honey have been unsuccessful due to the lack of a technically meaningful and accepted 'Standard of Identity' (SOI). Many other states have, or are in the process of, doing the same. The intention of this movement is to provide legal redress against sellers of adulterated product being sold as honey. Additionally, it is the intention of the ad hoc committee in New York State to make clear that it is NOT the intention of this effort to add to the costs or responsibilities of New York State government, nor to the costs of or regulation of New York State businesses in any way.

The acceptance of this should provide that no added cost or responsibility shall be required of the State of New York or to any business in the state of New York.

Section 1.

(a) "Honey" means the natural sweet substance produced by honeybees from the nectar of plants or excretions of plant sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store, and leave in the honeycomb to ripen and mature.

(b) "Blossom honey" or "nectar honey" means the honey that comes from nectars of plants.

(c) "Honeydew honey" means the honey that comes mainly from excretions of plant sucking insects (Hemiptera) of living parts of plants.

(d) Honey consists of different sugars, predominantly fructose and glucose as well as other substances such as organic acids, enzymes,

and solid particles derived from honey collection. The color of honey can vary from nearly colorless to dark brown. The consistency can be fluid, viscous, or partially to completely crystallized. The flavor and aroma vary but are derived from plant origin.

(e) Honey sold as described in subdivision (d) shall not have added to it any food ingredient, including food additives, nor shall any other additions be made other than honey. Honey shall not have any foreign matter, or any flavor, aroma, or taint absorbed from foreign matter during its processing and storage. Honey shall not have begun to ferment or effervesce and no pollen or constituent particular to honey may be removed except where unavoidable in the removal of foreign organic or inorganic matter.

(f) Honey shall meet the following standards:

1. Honey shall not be heated or processed to such an extent that its essential composition is changed or its quality impaired.
2. Chemical or biochemical treatments shall not be used to influence honey crystallization.
3. Honey shall not contain more than 18.6 percent moisture content.
4. Honey shall not contain less than 60 percent fructose and glucose, combined.
5. Honeydew honey and blends of honeydew honey with blossom honey shall not contain less than 45 percent fructose and glucose, combined.
6. Blossom honey shall not contain more than 5 percent sucrose, except for the following:
 - (A) Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), citrus spp., false acacia (*Robinia pseudo acacia*), French honeysuckle (*Hedysarum*), Menzies banksias (*Banksia menisicii*), red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), leatherwood (*Eucryphia lucida*), and *Eucryphia milligani* may contain up to 10 percent sucrose.
 - (B) Lavender (*Lavandula Spp.*) and borage (*Borago officinalis*) may contain up to 15 percent sucrose.
7. Honey may contain the hive products beeswax and propolis.

CONTACT: RochesterHoney @ gmail.com