



# OHIO INFO BEE



OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE  
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Volume 1. Issue 1

June. 2005

### Special points of interest:

- Cooperative effort results in newsletter
- Buyer bee-ware or request a health report
- New mite control registered in Ohio
- Quarantine—Don't ship your problems here
- Chemical controls—How many do we need?

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## NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

This newsletter is a joint effort between Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Department of Agriculture—Apiary programs. Initially, The newsletter will be sent via email to all Ohio beekeeping groups, as well as county apiary inspectors and local county extension offices.

The goal is to provide a brief newsletter that provides current information that is useful and interesting to Ohio beekeepers. It will also be a method by which a local club may notify other clubs of their activities.

Initially, the email list will intentionally be limited to those mentioned above in an effort to maintain a manageable list. It is expected that those mentioned will inform the beekeepers in their area of the information.

### From the Wooster Bee Lab:

For some time, John Grafton and I have realized that we have no ready way in which to communicate with the beekeepers of Ohio. Timely news can be several months getting to you. While I don't see this newsletter being the "end-all" news source, I do hope it develops into a two-way communication vehicle for Ohio beekeepers and both the Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio State University Extension. Let us know how we can make it more useful to you and your beekeeping group.

**Bee Colonies:** While some beekeepers in the U.S. are suffering significant colony losses, my 50+ colonies at the Wooster lab are presently thriving. I realize that this report can change at nearly any time, but I want to enjoy the situation as long as possible.

**Programs:** Though now old news, the loss of funding for the technician position (Dave Heilman) last December continues to require changes within the Wooster lab structure. I have had significant problems finding people who are qualified to work around strong hives, in the summer heat, while using power equipment. My solution so far has been that I personally perform all beehive chores. My labor challenges are not unique to the Wooster Lab but are found throughout our beekeeping industry.

I have received modest funding to catalog honey bee activity on one of the OSU farms near Wooster. While a common theme is that all pollinators are in decline,

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## MITE-AWAY II APPROVED

The product Mite-Away II, a single application formic acid treatment, was recently approved for use in Ohio. The product is registered as a treatment for Varroa and Tracheal mites. It is produced by NOD Apiary Products of Ontario, Canada.

For information on using or

purchasing this product check out [www.miteaway.com](http://www.miteaway.com)

The addition of Mite-Away II gives the beekeeper another method of controlling these two mites in their honeybee colonies.

Other products approved for use in Ohio to control mites

are: Apistan®, Check-mite+™, Menthol crystals, and Sucrocide.

Beekeepers must remember to use caution and follow label instructions to avoid honey contamination.

## Shipments Prohibited

The Ohio Dept. of Agriculture issued a stop shipment order on April 21, 2005 against the Jester Bee Co. of West Ridge, Arkansas. This was based on the state of Mississippi finding small hive beetle in their package bee operation.

On May 13, 2005 the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture Director Fred Dailey, signed an order prohibiting the shipment of honeybees into Ohio by B J Weeks of Ballground, Georgia. The order was based on the finding of Small Hive Beetle in packages received in Ohio from Weeks. Mr Weeks also has no health certificate on file with the department to cover his operation in Georgia.

The companies may not ship bees into Ohio until such time as the problems are corrected.

The Ohio Dept. of Agriculture has been in contact with the bee shippers and their respective state agencies in an effort to rectify the problems.

### From the Wooster Bee Lab continued from page 1. . .

there are not always clear reasons why. I, and others who working with native bees, will be reviewing the environment on that particular farm to attempt to determine what the restricting factors are.

**Publications and Information:** In cooperation with Auburn University, I have published a small, color book entitled *Backyard Beekeeping*. It is intended primarily for the beginning beekeeping. The book sells for \$10.00. I have a limited supply of them. Contact: Sherry Ferrell, tel: 330-263-3684 or e-mail: Ferrell.6@osu.edu

### From the Columbus Bee:

Joe Latshaw, a native Ohioan, is progressing toward achieving his Ph.D. with specialization in apiculture. He is known around the state as an accomplished speaker and bee breeder. He has a web page posted at: <http://www.ohioqueenbreeders.com/>

Dr. Brian Smith, noted honey bee neurologist, is slated to leave Ohio State and take a new research position in Arizona where he will work with a social insects group. Dr. Rob Page, the former OSU bee researcher, is also there. Dr. Smith has been a strong researcher within OSU Entomology and he will certainly be missed. It's too early to consider replacement options. I will keep you informed.

### From Other Places:

Jerry Hayes, Apiarist for the State of Florida, told me that the Small Hive Beetle is widespread in that state but beekeepers are managing reasonably well. The beetle requires quick honey extraction once the supers have been brought to the honey house. Mr. Hayes is also interested in a mite control product called ApiGard. This is a thymol solution that is in gel trays. Jerry feels that it is a product that is easier to use than other thymol products and has more applications for commercial beekeepers.

## This and That:

### PURCHASING HONEYBEES

Beekeepers of Ohio are reminded to request a health certificate from the person they are purchasing bees from. Section 909.10 of the Ohio Revised Code not only requires that a health certificate accompany any bees sent into Ohio but also that an inspection report from the state of origin be sent to the Ohio Department of Agriculture thirty days prior to shipment. This report should identify pathogens and parasites diagnosed and any controls that were implemented.

It is suspected that currently many bees and queens enter the state without the proper inspection reports.

By requesting the health reports beekeepers not only aid in ensuring that only healthy bees are being sold, but also may feel more confident that their purchase will survive.

The company may not ship bees into Ohio until such time as the problem is controlled. The company also has the right to appeal the decision before the director of the department of agriculture.

### BEEHIVE CHEMICALS

When are new chemical controls actually needed and when are they simply "wanted?" There was a time when you did not dare mention chemicals and beekeeping in the same sentence in a positive light. In today's beekeeping world it seems we have come 180° and the two cannot be separated. This season's desirable chemical is next season's "toxic poison." Individual beekeeper passions are all over the page ranging from no chemical use all the way to wanting all presently available chemicals. This is a complicated subject where it will be impossible to "please all the people all the time." John and I will continue to work on this issue that is critical to Ohio beekeeping.