



# OHIO INFO BEE



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## Communication

This is the fourth *OHIO INFO BEE* to be sent and we are asking for information from you, the reader. While we are able to talk with various people around the state and attend meetings we would still like to hear from you. What is your local association doing? What are the colonies in your area doing? Is there a beekeeping problem in your area? E-mail Sherry at [ferrell.6@osu.edu](mailto:ferrell.6@osu.edu)

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## ODA POSTS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ohio Dept. of Agriculture recently posted a job announcement for a Plant Pest Inspector Supervisor PCN 619. The job is actually for an apiary supervisor and would be based at the Reynoldsburg office. Information can be found at [www.ohioagriculture.gov](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov) or by calling the Human Resources division at (614) 466-4595.

## TYLAN SOLUBLE GAINS APPROVAL

By John Grafton

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Tylan (tylosin tartrate) Soluble for control of American Foulbrood in honeybees. This is the first approval for the use of Tylan Soluble in a minor species.

Tylan Soluble, a product of Elanco Animal Health, is already approved for therapeutic uses in chickens and swine and production uses in turkeys.

Currently, Elanco does not have an approved label although they hope to within a matter of a few weeks. Once the label is approved and the use instructions are released the product will be available to Ohio beekeepers.

We do know that the product has been approved as a control, not as a preventative. It is listed as being effective against the vegetative stage not the spore stage. This would indicate that the product may be used on the "ropey" stage but not on the scale stage. It should also be used only on colonies showing signs of American Foulbrood and not just applied to every colony each spring.

As more information becomes available we will provide that information to the beekeepers.

## **CURRENT INFORMATION**

*By John Grafton*

As the beekeeping season in Ohio closes out so does the elected term for the officers of many local beekeeping groups. If this is happening in your club we ask that you send us updated information especially the contact information for sending the *Ohio InfoBee* to Sherry Ferrell 330-263-3684 or *ferrell.6@osu.edu*. The information has been beneficial several times this past year when we have received calls wanting local information. We can provide the name of the local county inspector plus the name of the local group where more information can be obtained. If your club maintains a swarm list it would also help us to have that information.

## **BUYING BEES**

*By John Grafton*

I may sound like a broken record; however, I don't believe I can stress enough importance of a health certificate when purchasing honeybees. The final numbers are not yet in on the 2005 inspection season but it appears that the numbers will be up for some diseases and pests.

With more states and areas within those states showing positive for SHB and now more are indicating they have Africanized Hybrids it is even more important that you use caution when buying. I realize that some clubs combine members orders and will make a trip to pick up the bees as a savings to club members. This is fine: however, the seller must still have a health certificate for those bees to be transported into Ohio. The lack of a proper inspection puts the entire membership of that club into a "buyer beware" situation, as it not only jeopardizes the immediate buyer but also his beekeeping neighbors.

## **Small Hive Beetle Comments**

*Recorded and summarized by Jim Tew*

Jerry Hayes, State Apiarist, Florida Department of Agriculture, presented a phone interview with the Tri-County Beekeepers in October, 2005. Mr. Hayes had the following remarks or suggestions.

1. There is no foolproof control for the Small Hive Beetle (SHB). CheckMite+ and GardStar continue to be the insecticides most useful to control the beetle, but these chemicals are not perfect.
2. So much as possible, keep colonies strong. Healthy colonies are better able to withstand beetle invasions than weaker colonies. This is good advice for all aspects of beekeeping.
3. In warm climates, only remove the supers that can be immediately extracted. The SHB is primarily a honey house pest. Once away from the bees' protection, beetle populations flourish in stored honey.
4. As with wax moths, beetle larvae cannot always complete a series of life cycles on honey in supers, but they produce slime that frequently makes the honey crop unsuitable for human consumption. Additionally, honey combs that have not been completely destroyed, but have been damaged and slimed are not readily accepted by bees when such supers are put back onto colonies.
5. In warm climates, the best way to control the beetle in extracted supers is to put the wet supers back on the bees and leave these supers there for the remainder of the year.
6. In cold climates, such as Ohio, beginning in September and October – certainly by November, wet supers can be stored as usual through the cold winter months. However, if SHB are a problem in an area, such supers should be put on colonies early next spring.
7. Supers can be stored in a freezer or secondly, but not as effective, supers can be stored in an enclosed room with a dehumidifier running.

*continued on page 3*

*SHB continued from page 2...*

8. SHB bottom traps are good control devices, but they can be messy when filled with oil as instructions dictate. Possibly a better technique is to use dry hydrated lime. Apparently, the lime desiccates the beetles.

9. SHB can live, to some extent, on rotting fruit. Honey bee colonies are not the sole food source. Beetles living on non-bee foodstuffs do not reach the size of beetles living on beehive residue.

10. The beetles tend to attack weak colonies and seem to be especially active just after colonies have been worked.

11. Mr. Hayes referred to work from the University of Georgia suggesting that honey bees actually confine bees to specific areas within the hive. Such areas were loosely referred to as "prisons." Possibly, increased beetle activity level is a result of confined beetles being freed.

12. The SHB is a common problem across the southeastern U.S. No doubt, it will be increasingly difficult for package producers to guarantee beetle-free packages.

## **Flowering Plants That Are NOT Attractive to Bees**

*By Jim Tew*

This question was asked by a swimming-pool-owning homeowner who didn't want to attract any more bees to his pool than were already coming for pool water. He asked for some suggestions for common flowering plants that were not particularly attractive to honey bees. Ms C. Britton, OARDC Librarian and bee information specialist for AgNic, an informational program of the National Agriculture Library, found the following information at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001201-d001300/d001290/d001290.html>. The information was generated by Diane Relf, Virginia Cooperative Extension.

*"Carnation, chrysanthemum, daisy, the red dianthus, geranium, marigold, rose, strawflower, and zinnia are not particularly attractive to bees. Generally, plants with pure red blossoms are not attractive to bees."*

Additionally, blossoms having particularly deep florets, such as ornamental tobacco or bush honeysuckle are better suited for moths and hummingbirds.

## **CALIFORNIA ENACTS NEW PROCEDURE**

*By John Grafton*

In an effort to ease the process of bringing honeybees into California, a new procedure has been adopted that allows for inspection by the state where they were last placed on the ground. The certified inspection must be completed within seven days of arrival in California; the pallets or hive bottoms must be completely clean of all dirt that may harbor fire ants, small hive beetles, and other undesirable pests. Once inspected, the pallet or bottom may not touch the ground again until they are off-loaded in California. If the truck driver has all the proper paperwork, the bees may enter into the state, otherwise, they may be held at the state line for further inspection. If you are planning to transport bees to California, contact ODA or the state of California for a copy of the guidelines.

## **BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE**

*By John Grafton*

As this is being written, the eastern Ohio community of East Palistine, in Columbiana County, is debating the issue of banning raising exotic animals within the community. Honeybees are included in the list of such exotics. The local beekeepers' association has pulled together and made a presentation to the council, in hopes of having honeybees excluded from the ban. Honeybees were included after a dog died from stings, supposedly from a neighbor's honeybees.

This case is being debated, but others may be avoided with some "good neighbor" practices. These would include such things as high fences (board or living) to force the bees to fly up higher, providing a water supply, placing and facing colonies away from the property line, or somehow including the neighbor in your hobby.