

Winter  
2021



# AIA



Newsletter for members of  
**Apiary Inspectors of America**

Free allied conference following

## AIA Annual Meeting to be virtual event; set for Jan. 11-12

Registrations are now open for the **Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) Annual Meeting**, a virtual event set for **Jan. 11-12, 2022**.



The online-registration page is set up and accepting signups, reports **Natasha Garcia Andersen** of the District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment.

“We are working on finalizing the schedule and hope to have that to you soon,” she said. Already on the schedule is a virtual tour with the USDA Bee Lab in Baton Rouge before the Jan. 12 business meeting. Full AIA conference registration, information on 2022 membership fees, and Zoom link information is at <https://apiaryinspectors.org/aia-meeting-2022/>.

The registration fee for the AIA meeting is **\$10**. As an added bonus, this year those who register for the AIA meeting can attend for free the **American Honey Bee Research Conference (ABRC)** immediately following the AIA meeting, Jan.13-14, The ABRC meeting is organized by AIA, the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (AAPA), and Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA).



**National Honey Bee Pest and Disease Surveying being conducted in Palmer, Alaska. Reports from Alaska and other states, page 3. Photo by Jesse Johnsen, July 2021.**

Membership registration in AIA for 2022 is **\$100**, and is available only to the chief apiary inspection officials of the various states, U.S. territories, U.S. possessions and provinces of North America. Any other regulatory staff may become an associate member of this organization for a **\$35** fee.

The registration page is located at <https://apiaryinspectors.org/aia-meeting-2022>.

To register for the meeting, please fill out the form and click “Submit.” Once you have submitted the form, you will be redirected to a page where you can submit your payment for the meeting registration and your AIA membership registration. You can either submit your meeting registration and membership registration separately, or select the option that combines the two.

Contact Natasha Garcia Andersen with any questions. Cell: (202) 870-6004. Email: [natasha.garcia-andersen@dc.gov](mailto:natasha.garcia-andersen@dc.gov).

## Dr. Skrym and five AIA authors publish joint article on VFD

AIA president **Dr. Kim Skrym**, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and five AIA collaborators have been honored with the publication of a long-term collaborative article in the professional journal *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice*. The article emphasizes the importance of cooperation and communication between apiary inspectors and veterinarians, made necessary by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) enactment of the **Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)** in 2017.

Co-authoring with Dr. Skrym were **Brooke Decker**, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; **Natasha Garcia-Andersen**, Department of Energy and Environment, Washington, DC; **Jennifer Lund**, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; **Tammy Horn Potter, Ph.D.**, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; and **Mary Reed**, Texas Apiary Inspection Service.

The article points out to its audience in the veterinary industry that apiary inspectors also often serve as educators, researchers, state fair superintendents, and coordinators for other-bee related activities, such as Managed Pollinator Protection Plans.

The article recounts that since the VFD went into effect in 2017, beekeepers are required to obtain a veterinarian's prescription to purchase antibiotics used to manage American foulbrood or European foulbrood. Apiary inspectors are eager to collaborate with veterinarians to help beekeepers fulfill the legal requirements of the VFD (or prescription).

The authors show that communication between apiarists and veterinarians is key to managing healthy honey bee colonies and controlling disease outbreaks.

The magazine has made a free link to the article available for AIA members who visit <https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1dyFK2gKRhkH4F>

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## AIA resolution to urge adjustments to USDA pollinator assistance

Attendees at the virtual AIA meeting in January will consider new resolutions proposed by the AIA Pollinator Committee, reports **Jennifer Lund**, state apiarist, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

This resolution expresses support for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** and **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**, which is operated by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS),

The proposed resolution encourages both programs to increase the allocation of funding for actual habitat conservation, and encourages the CRP to change some of its rules/incentives to attract more participation, Lund reported.

The EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as better-quality water and air, ground and surface water conservation, healthier soil, less soil erosion and sedimentation, better-quality wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increased weather volatility. Through the EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers with financial resources

and one-on-one help to implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices.

The CRP provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers and ranchers in complying with federal, state, and tribal environmental laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. The program is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation and is administered by the Farm Service Agency, with NRCS providing technical assistance.

The CRP encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

The draft resolution is available from Lund at email [jennifer.lund@maine.gov](mailto:jennifer.lund@maine.gov) or office phone (207) 287-7562.

*Program descriptions: USDA website.*

# State, province, and territory reports

## Alaska found foulbrood-free

**ALASKA.** 2021 was our fourth year in the **National Honey Bee Pests and Diseases Survey**. During our season, we conducted 48 hive inspections with no field detection of AFB or EFB. Inspections are not required; however, registration is. Health certificates are also required for all bees entering the state, and importation of nucs are prohibited.

Overall, we received 97 beekeeper registrations for the season. Our main goal is to respond to reported cases of disease to prevent spread and establishment throughout the beekeeping communities. — *Jesse Johnsen.*

### How's by you?

We want to know what you're up to in your state — accomplishments, challenges you've helped overcome, murder hornets you have personally interviewed, career milestones — anything. Send a few paragraphs and maybe a photo to Kentucky state apiarist **Dr. Tammy Horn Potter**, [tammy.potter@ky.gov](mailto:tammy.potter@ky.gov).



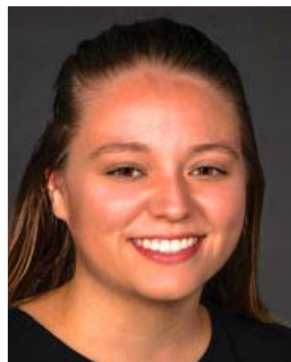
An Alaskan swarm and collection hive. Photo by Jesse Johnsen, July 2021.

## Brandi Stanford leaves Florida state government

**FLORIDA.** **Brandi Stanford**, assistant bureau chief of the Bureau of Plant and Apiary Inspection, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, has left Florida state government to accept a position with **Eurofins AgroSciences**, Alachua, Fla. She will serve as study director for pollinator ecotoxicology projects, working in another realm of pollinator protection.

“AIA is seriously one of a kind!” Brandi said in her farewell email. “This organization has kept me afloat in my position when I felt alone, needed support, or just wanted to talk to someone who ‘gets it.’”

Brandi hopes to continue her apiarist friendships and relationships into her new situation. Her new phone number is (352) 213-4755, and she can be emailed at [Brandi4uf@gmail.com](mailto:Brandi4uf@gmail.com).



**Brandi Stanford.**

(Large photo by Amy Wu, University of Florida)



## **Mike Hansen, Michigan state apiarist, honored upon retirement**

**MICHIGAN.** Congratulations to **Mike Hansen** on his retirement! Hansen spent decades supporting Michigan beekeepers, honey bees, and MSU Extension through his role as the state apiarist.

He went above and beyond his state apiarist role of providing health certificates to migratory beekeeping operations by bringing information and resources to Michigan beekeepers and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension.

Hansen established a legacy of providing support to Michigan beekeepers and MSU Extension. In a state of an estimated 10,000 beekeepers, Michigan beekeepers support other agricultural sectors by providing pollination to specialty crops such as cherries, apples, blueberries, and many vegetables.



**Mike Hansen.**

Although his role as Michigan's state apiarist was only a small portion of his responsibilities with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Hansen stayed updated on beekeeping regulations, attended local and national beekeeping conferences, and communicated timely and relevant information to MSU Extension and beekeepers.

In recent years, Hansen advocated for MDARD to secure funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support MSU's work on the Michigan Managed Pollinator Protection Plan.

He received the 2021 Epsilon Sigma Pi "Friend of Extension" award recognizing his decades of service to MSU Extension.



**Mike Hansen (right) and his family.**

## **Delaware receives native-plant grant**

**DELAWARE.** **Emily Wine**, Delaware state apiarist, received a grant of \$22,000 from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Strategic Opportunity Fund to create a native plant garden on the Department of Agriculture's campus in Camden, Delaware. The project runs until Dec. 2022.

"Next week we will be planting 20 trees on our campus. All of the trees and native plants we are planting have value to pollinators," Wine said.



**Native plants installed by Emily Wine around the Delaware Agriculture Compliance lab.**

# Mighty Dr. Morfin a busy bee at Ontario's HBRC

**ONTARIO.** Paul Kozak, Ontario provincial apiarist for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, credits “our superstar Ontario inspector **Dr. Nuria Morfin**” with executing a quick applied-



**Dr. Nuria Morfin.**

research project on Varroa resistance methodology, and producing the final report and article in three weeks, “while running a molecular research lab and doing apiary inspections on

the side.” Dr. Morfin is associated with the University of Guelph **Honey Bee Research Centre (HBRC)**.

The article, titled “A practical bioassay to assess Varroa destructor resistance to acaricides in Ontario,” is being submitted to *Bee Culture* magazine and to the *Ontario Bee Journal*. The article is credited to Morfin and Kozak along with **Kelsey Duscharm** and **Collette Mesher** of the

Ontario Beekeepers Association, **Paul Innes** and **Jim Coneybeare** of Coneybeare Honey, and **Ernesto Guzman-Novoa**.

The control of Varroa destructor populations in honey bee colonies is one of the biggest challenges that beekeepers face in Ontario. The development of acaricide resistance by Varroa mites is a major concern for beekeepers, and rising resistance levels cannot be easily measured.

The researchers evaluated the efficacy of three synthetic acaricides (tau-fluvalinate, flumethrin, and amitraz) by testing them on mites in glass vials. Seven to nine mites were left for four hours in glass vials impregnated with 200 µl containing 0 (control), 0.3, 0.5, 1 and 5 µg of tau-fluvalinate, or flumethrin, or amitraz.

After the four-hour exposure, the dead and live mites were recorded to show how effectively the solutions killed mites, and what proportions were needed for kill rates of 50, 90 and 95 percent. The study indicated that amitraz killed the highest number of mites compared to the other treatments, at a lower dose.

This work was supported by the Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN).



The Honey Bee Research Centre (HBRC) at the University of Guelph, a comprehensive public research university in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Rising over the scene is BN Tower (B for Bee, in tribute to Toronto's famous CN Tower), a landmark visitors should see when visiting the HBRC. (Photos supplied by Paul Kozak)

# EAS seeks award nominations, grant proposals

Nominations are being accepted for the annual awards given by the **Eastern Apicultural Society of North America (EAS)**, announces chairman **Lou Naylor**.

- The **James I. Hambleton Memorial Award** was established by EAS to recognize research excellence in apiculture.
- The **EAS Student Apiculture Award** was established to recognize apiculture undergraduate or graduate students in recognized colleges or universities in the U.S. or Canada.

Each nomination for these two awards must include a biographical sketch of the nominee, a list of his/her publications, specific identification of the research work on which the nomination is based, and an evaluation and appraisal of the nominee's accomplishment, especially in the last five years (for Hambleton nominees) or a shorter period (for Student nominees).

At least one letter of recommendation, in addition to the nomination letter, are required; further support letters are welcome.

- The **Roger A. Morse Outstanding Teaching/Extension Service/Regulatory Award**, supported by the Anita Weiss Foundation, is given annually to recognize an individual in teaching/extension and/or regulatory activity in the field of apiculture.



Nominations for this award are welcome from any person in the field of apiculture. Self-nominations are acceptable.

Nominations here require a letter documenting the achievement of excellence in teaching/extension and/or regulatory activities in apiculture. Some indication of the appointment responsibilities should be included. In addition, a suitable CV or résumé is required documenting the nominee's activities.

**DEADLINES:** Nominations and letters of recommendation should be received by email at **Awardnomination@easternapiculture.org** no later than **Feb. 1, 2022**. The awards for 2022 will be presented at the annual EAS conference in Ithaca, N.Y., **Aug. 1-5, 2022**.

Submissions from a previous year may be updated if necessary. A new cover letter should be attached identifying the resubmission and indicating the relevant data is already in EAS's possession.



## EAS Research Foundation calls for 2022 grant proposals

The **EAS Foundation for Honey Bee Research** is a competitive grant program developed from donations received from beekeepers and others interested in funding research on topical problems in honey bees, said EAS chairman **Lon Naylor**.

Proposals for research grants are solicited annually, with award amounts determined the spring before the EAS annual meeting. The total amount to be awarded in 2022 is **\$10,000**. The awards will be announced at the EAS 2022 Conference, and will be made available by April 1.

Proposal should be submitted *via* electronic copy by **Feb. 1, 2022**, addressed to the email **HoneyBeeResearch@easternapiculture.org**, which is also the address to be contacted for further information.

Complete guidelines and additional submission details can be found at website **www.easternapiculture.org/honey-bee-research**.

# ABF Conference presents Vision of the Future

The 2022 **American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Trade Show** is set for **January 5-8** at the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas. ABF presents four days of spectacular educational sessions, networking and fun.

“**Vision of the Future**” is the theme this year, as exhibitors and speakers present the latest in beekeeping technology, care and progress. More than 900 beekeepers are expected, networking with and learning from industry experts, researchers, scientists and peers. The conference includes education for all beekeeping skill levels.

Keynote speakers are thought-leaders **Dr. Jamie Ellis**, University of Florida; **Dr. David Tarpy**, North Carolina State University; and **Dr. Judy Wu Smart**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. More than 80 other distinguished speakers will discuss current topics and trending issues.

The conference will feature more than 15 interactive and hands-on workshops; a trade show with more than 80 vendors highlighting the latest beekeeping innovations; family fun with the renowned Kids and Bees program; a meeting of and for commercial beekeepers; and the 2022 American Honey Show.

**General sessions** will be held each morning on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

**SIG meetings** will be held on Thursday. These sessions will include topics geared to the

- Small-scale beekeeper/sideliner
- Package-bee and queen breeder
- Honey producer and packer
- Commercial beekeeper

**Silent auctions** for a variety of honey- and bee-themed items will be held, with all proceeds benefiting the ABF Legislative Fund and the American Honey Queen Program. Donations for the silent auctions will be accepted onsite during the conference.

At the Thursday afternoon **Auxiliary lunch and meeting**, attendees will meet the 2022 American Honey Queen and Princess candidates. Also at the business meeting attendees can learn more about getting involved.

The **Thursday night social** is time for dinner and fun! This year's event will feature a light dinner and performance by illusionist/magician Rob Anderson.



**2022  
CONFERENCE  
& TRADE SHOW**

**January 5-8, 2022**

**South Point Hotel**  
9777 Las Vegas Blvd S,  
Las Vegas, NV 89183

Contact ABF at  
info@abfnet.org  
(720) 616-4145

Online registration available  
until Jan. 8, 2022

Events in **RED** = separate registration is required, with additional fees.

To register or learn more, visit  
[abfnet.org/mpage/2022\\_Conference](http://abfnet.org/mpage/2022_Conference)

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The **Foundation luncheon** Friday will feature a keynote speaker and presentations from the 2022 Foundation Scholars.

The **2022 American Honey Show** will showcase the best honey and beeswax during the conference. This is a prime opportunity to showcase your bees' abilities to produce the purest honey, the best wax and the most goodies. The honey show includes 12 classes for honey, four for beeswax and a gift-basket class. After the entries are judged, they will be auctioned to benefit the American Honey Queen Program.

The **Commercial beekeepers breakfast and meeting** Saturday 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. features a panel discussion followed by workshop activities. This session is complimentary to all current commercial beekeepers and those interested in becoming commercial beekeepers. Space is limited, so register early.

**Saturday workshops** from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. will feature hands-on instruction and interactive participation on 15 different topics including making creamed honey, studying bee biology, and seeing an **encaustic** artist create works from heated, pigmented beeswax.

The **ABF annual banquet** Saturday evening features

- The President's Award and the Hoopingarner Award
- The 2022 Product of the Year Award
- ABF sweepstakes and live auction
- Coronation of the 2022 American Honey Queen and Princess

**Bob Walters** of **Bee Check software** attended a recent National Association of State Departments of Agriculture meeting in September. He has been developing some new services to the pollination protection app.

## Protecting Pollinators

BeeCheck™ is an online mapping registry that helps beekeepers and pesticide applicators communicate with each other to keep hives safe. Beekeepers can map their apiaries and easily update beehive locations through real-time GPS technology when out in the field.

In 2019, FieldWatch launched an integrated program with California's state pollinator protection program in partnership with the BeeWhere program in California and their broad base of stakeholders. Now, beekeepers located in California or those coming to the state during pollination season can easily register their hives through **BeeCheck** or through the **BeeWhere** websites.

In 2021, FieldWatch launched a collaboration with the Washington, D.C. Government to **allow urban beekeepers to communicate the location of their beehives to pesticide applicators** by using BeeCheck.



Since 2016, FieldWatch has been a member of the [Honey Bee Health Coalition](#), which aligns ag stakeholders to implement solutions that help honey bees thrive in agriculture and our ecosystem.

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## DR. ROGER HOOPINGARNER

**Dr. Roger Hoopingarner**, 88, professor emeritus of entomology at Michigan State University (MSU), passed away Nov. 6, 2021 after suffering complications of COVID-19.

He had specialized in apiculture for almost 65 years, becoming one of apiculture's foremost researchers. He wrote and co-wrote numerous research articles on bee diseases, Varroa population dynamics and control, pollination systems, and other areas. His teaching, cooperative extension work, and research interests included seminal work in the pollination of orchard crops.

Dr. Hoopingarner updated and annotated the classic L. L. Langstroth text. The revised work was published as *The Hive and the Honey Bee Revisited: An Annotated Update of Langstroth's Classic* (2014).

In retirement, Dr. Hoopingarner continued teaching the biology and management of honey bees, traveling the nation and world, consulting and speaking at beekeeping associations and universities.

Stepdaughter **Martha Albertson** posted in a Facebook eulogy,



“Our family will miss Roger’s wittiness, laugh, ability to tell a great story, small impromptu lectures on any number of subjects, intelligent insights and advice on life, and his graciousness toward our family.”