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STATE OF IOWA
1923

REPORT OF THE
STATE APIARIST

FOR

The Year Ending December 31, 1923

Also Report of the Convention of the Iowa Beekeepers' Association
in Des Moines, December 5-6, 1923

F. B. PADDOCK, State Apiarist
Ames, Iowa

Published by
THE STATE OF IOWA
Des Moines

STATE OF IOWA
1924

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STATE APIARIST

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The Year Ending December 31, 1923

Printed at the expense of the Commission of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Administration of the State Government, December 15, 1924.

F. B. PADDOCK, State Apiarist

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HON. N. E. KENDALL, *Governor*—

SIR: In accordance with the law, Section 2, Chapter 289, Acts of the Thirty-seventh General Assembly, I herewith transmit to you my fourth annual report as State Apiarist, for the year ending December 31, 1923.

F. B. PADDOCK, *State Apiarist*.

Ames, Iowa, February 15, 1924.

STATE APIARIST REPORT

In general the season of 1923 has been unfavorable for the beekeepers of Iowa. Weather conditions were not at all favorable for honey production. The late, cold spring proved very disastrous in that it caused a percentage of colonies to die out. Under normal conditions of spring weather most of these colonies would have survived. A good many other colonies were so much reduced in strength that they could not begin to get the honey flow which started at approximately normal time. The condition of the colonies then at the beginning of the honey flow probably was not over 50% normal. The honey flow came on very well but extreme drouth cut the duration to approximately half the time. On the whole the 1923 honey crop of Iowa probably is not over 40% of the normal crop. The production was extremely spotted and varied considerably even within counties. With the short summer flow and almost no fall flow a large percentage of bees had to be fed in the fall in order that they might have sufficient stores to go through the winter.

These adverse condition have not been entirely without value for they have brot to the attention of many beekeepers the necessity for a better understanding of beekeeping and a more strict application of management principles. There is a great increase in the interest on the part of beekeepers to maintain their colonies on a more profitable basis. In general it may be said that the majority of the honey produced is extracted. We find a continual shifting on the part of beekeepers from extracted to comb production and from comb production to extracted. A good many do not look at the supply and demand of their local market. It is true that the demand for comb honey can never be met, but, on the other hand, there is without doubt an increasing demand for extracted honey. More beekeepers are becoming interested in the production of bulk comb honey. Possibly this form of the product will find a ready demand and bridge the gap between comb honey and extracted honey production.

In general there has been an increased consumption of honey in this state. Each year finds the beekeepers marketing their crop with less difficulty. This is largely due to individual efforts in building up a local trade for the product. There are beekeepers who have developed such a demand that they cannot raise enough

honey themselves and are forced to buy from other producers who are less fortunately situated or who have not developed a local demand. Although there is a great deal of honey shipped out of this state it seems hardly possible that as much is shipped out as is shipped into the state. There has been a slight growth in large distributors but there has been a very substantial growth in the amount of honey sold by the smaller distributors and the producers. The consuming public has come to have a better appreciation of honey as an article of food and there is less demand each year for honey in glass. The five pound tin pail has proved very satisfactory. Thru the united effort of several agencies the uses of honey and the food value of honey have been brought to the attention of the consuming public in an impressive manner. A continued effort along this line will develop the situation materially and advantageously for the producer.

The mailing list we have of Iowa beekeepers is composed of 16,000 names. From this we assume that there are a good many people in the state who are interested in the production of honey. These people are evenly distributed over the state and therefore the problem of more efficient production of honey is one which is widely important to many people. Furthermore the production of honey is closely associated with "extra money efforts" of the working class and the "cash returns" of farmers. Therefore any improvement in production finds immediate contact with a large number of people. Commercial beekeeping in Iowa is not extensive but where it is conducted it is as profitable as in any other state of the union. There is a general feeling that the time will come in the near future when more people will be devoting their entire time to honey production.

The education campaign which has been conducted so efficiently by the Agricultural Extension Service of the Iowa State College has been continued during the year of 1923. The results of the demonstration apiary work have proved highly satisfactory in every community. The influence of this work is exceedingly hard to measure. Five meetings are planned for the year with the establishment of a demonstration apiary and seasonal problems are discussed at each meeting. Experience shows that beekeepers will come for miles to attend these demonstration apiary meetings, for the demonstration apiary becomes an educational center and a social center. The visit of the specialist creates interest and enthusiasm which lasts long after his departure. In these apiaries the object is to show in terms of production, the advantage of strict attention to

management principles. The results have been such that everyone who has attended the apiary has been convinced of the value of this work. In the words of one eminent beekeeping authority, "Educational work among beekeepers is not justified unless it is conducted on such a basis that it will leave the beekeeper *fundamentally* better prepared for honey production than when the work was undertaken." The demonstration apiary work is conducted on just this basis and we believe that it is more than justified on a basis of the results obtained. As a result of this work we find that beekeepers everywhere are interested in buying better equipment. They are interested in better methods of keeping their bees. There has been a tremendous purchase of better stock and we believe that there has been a big reduction of the amount of disease. The results justify the belief that education must precede other endeavors such as inspection work which is usually of a regulatory or police nature. There are indeed few beekeepers who want to continue to have disease among their bees after they are properly taught how to detect the disease and what its presence means in reducing the honey crop. In the demonstration apiary work it is very evident that ignorance is one of the greatest factors in the continued presence of disease among bees.

The inspection work has been conducted on a larger scale this year than in previous years. The results of this work show very definitely that improved methods of beekeeping such as better stock and better management will automatically reduce the amount of disease. From the inspection it is evident that there are no favored localities in this state where disease is absent. It is hoped that in 1924 it will be possible to inaugurate the inspection work on an area clean-up basis. This method of disease eradication has proved fundamental in the eradication of other plant and animal diseases and the results have been highly satisfactory in freeing areas of bee-disease in other states.

Beekeepers have been supplied with literature on beekeeping management whenever requested. This year a change was inaugurated in the publication of the Beekeepers' Quarterly in printed form. This publication goes to the entire mailing list and contains information of timely interest and information on the general management problems. This contact with the beekeeper is highly desirable and very profitable.

The annual short course was held in connection with Farm and Home Week and an excellent program was offered the beekeepers.

A good many accepted the opportunity to hear authorities discuss the problems of Iowa beekeeping management.

The State Association has been exceedingly active during the season of 1923. The co-operative effort inaugurated by the Association has proved attractive to a good many beekeepers and beneficial to those who took advantage of it. The Association now has a membership of 900 and has a very definite program outlined for the development of the beekeeping industry of the state. The Association activities are in very close harmony with the activities of the Extension Service with mutually beneficial results.

Number of apiaries examined on request.....	198
Number of colonies inspected	4,152
Number of diseased apiaries	160
Number of diseased colonies	567

BEEKEEPERS' CONVENTION

The twelfth annual meeting of the Iowa Beekeepers' Association was held, in connection with the annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society, at the Savery Hotel, Des Moines, December 5 and 6, 1923.

Officers for the year of 1924 were elected as follows: President, W. S. Walker, Iowa Falls; Vice President, E. M. Cole, Audubon; Secretary-Treasurer, F. B. Paddock, Ames; Directors, Stanley A. Ranney, Council Bluffs; F. W. Hall, Colo; N. Williamson, Bronson.

The Iowa Beekeepers' Association is affiliated with the Iowa State Horticultural Society.

State of Iowa

1924

REPORT OF THE STATE APIARIST

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The Year Ending December 31, 1924

Also Report of the Convention of the Iowa Beekeepers' Association in
Des Moines, December 12-13, 1924

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Ames, Iowa

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