



BEE BUZZ

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

First in person meeting since COVID Shutdown

The first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic forced remote meetings was held Sunday, April 25th at the Six Mile Museum in Granite City. It was a nice sunny spring day and was attended by 24 members and 9 newbees in person and 1 remotely.

A brief business meeting was held followed by educational presentations:

Eleanor Schumacher, Illinois State Apiary Inspector, spoke about getting your hives registered and inspected. She said there has been a high incidence of European Foulbrood going around. She also suggested that you should make splits because the swarm season is in full swing already.

Ken Schaefer, assisted by Eleanor Schumacher, demonstrated how to install wax foundation in a frame. He spoke about the pros and cons of the various types of frames and foundations. More photos on page 3.

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A few of the attendees at the meeting

Old Timer's Way

By Ken Schaefer



It's time to move..

*Swarm season is
upon us*



*BEE on the lookout
for Queen cells*



I was offered and gracefully accepted the offer to write a monthly article in the *Bee Buzz*. Keep in mind I am old school, and as the old saying goes "ask three beekeepers the same question and you will get three different answers". I've been a practicing beekeeper for about 45 years. Beekeeping was easy prior to mites, beetles, and also foulbrood was rare. To be a successful beekeeper now you have to study and work at it. First of all, read, read, read and attend meetings. The Internet is a great educational tool. Highly educated beekeepers like Randy Oliver bring their wisdom to my room and at my leisure time. However, in order to follow their thoughts, the primary reading must be done. You Tube has much good information, and some bad. You have to separate the grain from the chaff.

FEEDING: Most of us do not have good comb and must start our bees out on foundation. Feeding sugar syrup helps the bees draw out comb fast. I'll just give you some hints without going into lengthy detail on feeding since it's covered in books and on the Internet.

Start with six to eight mayonnaise, pickle or mason jars (about one quart size) one half full of sugar. I do my mixing at the bee yard. I take my half full jars of sugar and a large insulated jug of hot tap water with me. Add water to the jar and keep mixing until the jar is full. Mix thoroughly so the solution doesn't have time to settle. Mix with a wooden tool like a paint stick or a wood spatula, as a metal tool will cause the jar to break. Let your bees draw out all eight or ten frames. When the bees are down to filling the last frame, then add the second deep. Bees may consume one to two quarts per day, but there is no average. I just had a large swarm fill out ten frames in less than a week. I have also had hives struggle to fill out two deeps in a season. At times bees will slow down their intake. Bees at a two to three week age are better wax producers, and it could be there is a shortage of bees in this age group. When the weather gets hot the solution may start to ferment and black mold will appear in the jars. When this happens I feed only what the bees will take in two days or so. Wash jars thoroughly between use. With some hives I am still feeding into July. Stop feeding when the second deep is drawn out and before a honey super is put on.

Ken Schaefer

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Left— Ken Schaefer is assisted by Eleanor Schumacher as he talks about the various types of foundation and frames. Ken is threading a wire in a frame to demonstrate how to install a wax foundation.

Right—Ken Schaefer is talking about how he uses three layers of cardboard to insulate and absorb moisture in his hives during the winter. He cuts three pieces of cardboard to fit inside his spacer. He then pokes a hole in the center of each piece and inserts a bolt and nut to hold them together. The bolt also gives him something to grasp to remove the cardboard.



A Little Bee Humor

Q: What do you call bees buzzing in unison?

A: Stingalongs.

Q: what does a bee style his hair with?

A: a honeycomb

Q: What do you call a bee who's had a spell put on him?

A: He's bee-witched!

Q: Why do bees buzz?

A: Because they can't whistle!

Q: Can bees fly in the rain?

A: Not without their little yellow jackets!

source: <http://jokes4us.com/animaljokes/>



From the President....

Good afternoon,

Today it's cloudy and rainy off and on with cool temperatures that are 69 and breezy. It's supposed to be 80 with a low of 52 why did it feel so much colder? No swarms today!

Swarm season has just been crazy. All of you new beekeepers that have been getting your swarms, I hope that your mentor helped you capture your swarms and will be taking on the responsibility of helping you get through your first year. We are always wanting to know what it is to make things run more smoothly. I know the swarm list is a little crazy to follow. We try to do the best we can, especially to see that new beekeepers get first chance at swarms. Remember, swarms are part of the perks that go with being a member. I've got to tell you, I've had my share of swarms out of both my yards! Wondering if I'm going to be able to get honey this year! I was able to put supers on a few of my hives so far.

For all of you that have gotten new packages remember to feed. Also contact your state inspector to have your new colonies inspected. Inspect frequently, to check for queens rightness, disease, mites and stores. I don't have to tell you to watch for swarming LOL! Is there anybody collecting honey in there supers right now? I'm just now putting mine on those colonies that are ready. Please remember have a strong colony, full of frames before you add your super. What are your thoughts on queen excluders? I do on some, and I don't on others.

I know this is a busy time of year and it's hard to spend time with your bees. The garden is calling, the weeds are calling, the spouse is calling, life is calling, but please remember your bees depend on you for their needs. Pay attention, and you will be rewarded more than you know.

Our out meetings are a very important part of our club. These are the times that I just love. Talking about bees, showing bees, sharing information, and all that good food, OMG! I just can't wait. Remember it is just one day out of the month to fellowship, exchange information and 🐝 a part of a very special group of people.

Please remember we are still looking for people to fill the Program Director and trustee positions on our board, and kitchen help to help serve the food.

Thank you, your president
Julie McKinney

ISBA Southern Region Summer Meeting

On Saturday, June 12th, the ISBA will hold its Southern Region Summer meeting at the Rend Lake conference room or outdoor pavilion depending upon registration. To date the presenters are Dr. Jim Tew and Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda.

Check for more details as they become available, scan QR code, or go to <https://www.ilsba.com/summary-of-events.html>



Proper Labeling of Honey and Honey Products: Guidance for Industry ¹

Additional copies are available from:
Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling
Food Labeling and Standards Staff HFS-820
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
5001 Campus Drive
College Park, MD 20740
(Tel) 240-402-2371 <http://www.fda.gov/FoodGuidances>

You may submit electronic or written comments regarding this guidance at any time. Submit electronic comments to <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Submit written comments on the guidance to the Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. All comments should be identified with the docket number FDA-2006-P-0207 listed in the notice of availability that publishes in the *Federal Register*.

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition**

February 2018
Contains Nonbinding Recommendations

This guidance represents the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or we) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the FDA staff responsible for this guidance as listed on the title page.

I. Introduction

This guidance is intended to advise the regulated industry on the proper labeling of honey and honey products in accordance with sections 402 and 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 342 and 343) and its implementing regulations. Accurate and consistent labeling of honey and honey products helps to ensure that honey and honey products are not adulterated or misbranded and enhances consumers' ability to make informed choices among products.

FDA's guidance documents, including this guidance, do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities. Instead, guidance's describe our current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are cited. The use of the word *should* in FDA guidance's means that something is suggested or recommended, but not required. Throughout this guidance, "you" refers to firms that manufacture, process, pack, label, or distribute honey and honey products and to persons who are authorized to act on behalf of such firms.

¹ This guidance has been prepared by the Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling, Food Labeling and Standards Staff, in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

II. Background

We are issuing this guidance document, which includes a summary of the current legal authorities that are most relevant to the labeling of honey, to address key questions and answers on the labeling of honey.

Misbranding

Under section 403(i) of the FDC Act, a food is misbranded unless its label bears: (1) the common or usual name of the food, if there be any; and (2) the common or usual name of each ingredient, if the food is fabricated from two or more ingredients. The common or usual name for a food may be established by common usage or by regulation (21 CFR 102.5(d)). The common or usual name must accurately identify or describe, in as simple and direct terms as possible, the basic nature of the food or its characterizing properties or ingredients, and may not be “confusingly similar to the name of any other food that is not reasonably encompassed within the same name” (21 CFR 102.5(a)). Moreover, under 21 CFR 101.4(a)(1), ingredients required to be declared on the label or labeling of a food must be listed on its label by common or usual name in descending order of predominance by weight. Furthermore, under section 403(a)(1) of the FD&C Act, a food is misbranded if its labeling is false or misleading in any particular.

Adulteration

Under section 402(b) of the FD&C Act, a food is adulterated if: (1) a valuable constituent has been omitted in whole or in part from a food; (2) if any substance has been substituted wholly or in part; (3) if damage or inferiority has been concealed in any manner; or (4) if a substance has been added to a food so as to increase its bulk or weight, reduce its quality or strength, or make it appear to be better or of greater value than it is.

III. Questions and Answers (Q & A)

To further provide guidance to industry on the proper labeling of honey and honey products in accordance with our laws and regulations, we have developed the following questions and answers.

1. What is honey?

Reference materials in the public domain define honey as “a thick, sweet, syrupy substance that bees make as food from the nectar of plants or secretions of living parts of plants and store in honeycombs.”² FDA has concluded that this definition accurately reflects the common usage of the term “honey.”

2. How shall I name my honey?

If a food contains only honey, the food must be named “honey,” which is its common or usual name (see section 403(i) of the FD&C Act and 21 CFR 101.3(b)). The common or usual name may also include the source of the honey, such as “Clover Honey,” on the label. (See Q&A 3, below). Because honey is a single-ingredient food, you do not need to include an ingredient statement on the label.

²Webster’s New World College Dictionary (Wiley Publishing, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio 2010). See also: “Honey is a thick, sweet liquid made by bees from flower nectar,” Sharon Tyler Herbst and Ron Herbst, *The Deluxe Food Lover’s Companion* (Hauppauge: New York, 2009); “Honey [is a] sweet, viscous liquid food, dark golden in color, produced in the honey sacs of various bees from the nectar of flowers,” Encyclopedia Britannica Online, 2017, available at <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/270849/honey>; and “Honey is the natural sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants . . .,” CODEX Standard for Honey CODEX STAN 12-1981, available at: www.fao.org/input/download/standards/310/cxs_012e.pdf.

(Please note that this answer pertains solely to how you name your product; other labeling requirements (e.g., net weight, nutrition facts) apply to the product. For more information, see FDA's Food Labeling Guide at <https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm2006828.htm>.)

3. Do I have to declare the floral source of honey?

No. You do not have to declare the floral source of honey on the label. However, you may label the honey with the name of the plant or blossom if you or the honey producer has information to support the conclusion that the plant or blossom designated on the label is the chief floral source of the honey. Names such as "Orange Blossom Honey," "Clover Honey," or "Wild Flower Honey" are acceptable. (See FDA Compliance Policy Guide, section 515.300.) Any claims about the floral source of the honey must be truthful and not misleading (see section 403(a)(1) of the FD&C Act).

4. If a food consists of honey and a sweetener, such as sugar or corn syrup, can I label the food as only "honey"?

No. A product consisting of honey and a sweetener cannot be labeled with the common or usual name "honey" because "[the common or usual name of a food . . . shall accurately identify or describe . . . the basic nature of the food or its characterizing properties or ingredients" (21 CFR 102.5(a)). Identifying a blend or a mixture of honey and another sweetener only as "honey" does not properly identify the basic nature of the food. You must sufficiently describe the name of the food on the label to distinguish it from simply "honey" (21 CFR 102.5(a)).

5. If a food consists of honey and a sweetener, such as sugar or corn syrup, how shall I label the food?

For a food consisting of honey and a sweetener, the label must, among other information, include both of the following:

- a. A statement of identity, which must accurately identify or describe the basic nature of the food or its characterizing properties or ingredients (see section 403(i) of the FD&C Act, 21 CFR 101.3(b), and 21 CFR 102.5(a)): for example, "Blend of honey and corn syrup," if the food has more honey than corn syrup (conversely, "Blend of corn syrup and honey," if the food has more corn syrup than honey).
- b. The common or usual name of each ingredient in the ingredient statement. In this case, the ingredient statement would show "honey" and the common or usual name of the sweetener (e.g., "sugar," "corn syrup"), in descending order of predominance by weight (see section 403(i) of the FD&C Act and 21 CFR 101.4(a)(1)).

You should also refer to section 403 of the FD&C Act and 21 CFR part 101, as other labeling requirements (e.g., net weight, nutrition facts) apply to your product. For more information, see FDA's Food Labeling Guide at <https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm2006828.htm>.

6. If a food consists of honey and a flavor ingredient, such as natural raspberry flavor, what are the labeling requirements?

- a. If your labeling makes any direct or indirect representations with respect to the primary recognizable flavor (e.g., by word or vignette), other than through the statement of ingredients, the product is considered to have a characterizing flavor and must be labeled in accordance with 21 CFR 101.22(i). In such a case, you should choose a name that accurately describes the food with its characterizing flavor, such as "raspberry-flavored honey" (see section 403(i) of the FD&C Act, 21 CFR 101.3(b), and 21 CFR 102.5(a)).

- b. In the statement of ingredients, the label must follow the requirements set forth in 21 CFR 101.4. The labeling must include the common or usual name of each ingredient in the ingredient statement. For a food consisting of honey and natural raspberry flavor, the ingredient statement would show “honey” and “natural flavor,” in descending order of predominance by weight (see section 403(i) of the FD&C Act, 21 CFR 101.4(a)(1), and 21 CFR 101.22(h)(1)).

You should refer to section 403 of the FD&C Act and 21 CFR part 101, as other labeling requirements (e.g., net weight, nutrition facts) apply to your product. For more information, see FDA’s Food Labeling Guide at <https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm2006828.htm>.

7. How would consumers know whether the food is honey, a blend of honey and another sweetener (e.g., sugar or corn syrup), or a honey product that contains other ingredients?

Consumers would know what the food is and what the food contains by reading the label. A properly labeled package of only honey would show the name of the food as “honey,” and it would not need an ingredient statement because it would only contain one ingredient. By comparison, a properly labeled package of a blend of honey and a sweetener or other ingredients would have a statement of identity that accurately describes the food, such as “blend of honey and sugar,” “blend of honey and corn syrup,” or another appropriately descriptive term, and an ingredient statement that lists each ingredient, such as “honey” and “sugar,” or “honey” and “corn syrup.”

8. How would consumers know if a food product that contains two or more ingredients contains honey?

Consumers would know that a food product contains honey as one of the ingredients by reading the ingredient statement. A properly labeled food product would list the ingredient by its common or usual name, “honey,” in the ingredient statement.

9. What enforcement authorities does FDA have for food products that are represented solely as “honey,” but contain other ingredients?

FDA’s enforcement authorities for food products that are represented as “honey,” but contain other ingredients, are described below.

Case A: A product is labeled as “honey,” but it contains natural raspberry flavoring. The ingredient statement lists only “honey.”

According to section 403(i) of the FD&C Act, a food is misbranded unless the label bears: (1) the common or usual name of the food, if there be any; and (2) the common or usual name of each ingredient, if the food is made from two or more ingredients. In this case, the name of the food, “honey,” does not accurately describe that the food is a raspberry-flavored honey, so “honey” is not an appropriate common or usual name under 21 CFR 102.5(a). Moreover, the ingredient statement lists only one ingredient, “honey,” while the food contains “honey” and “natural flavoring.” Therefore, the product fails to satisfy the requirements under 21 CFR 101.4(a)(1) and section 403(i)(2) of the FD&C Act, and FDA would consider such product to be misbranded.

Case B: A product is labeled as “honey,” but it contains honey and another sweetener, such as sugar or corn syrup. The ingredient statement lists only “honey.”

Under section 402(b) of the FD&C Act, a food is adulterated if any valuable constituent has been omitted in whole or in part, if any substance has been substituted wholly or in part, or if any substance has been added so as to reduce the quality of the food or make it appear to be better or of greater value than it is. In this case, the food is represented as honey when another sweetener (e.g., sugar or corn³ syrup) has been substituted in part for honey. Products that contain only honey and no other ingredients are considered more valuable than a food that contains both honey and sugar or both honey and corn syrup. Therefore, we would consider such product adulterated under section 402(b)(1) of the FD&C Act because a valuable constituent (honey) has been omitted in part; under section 402(b)(2) of the FD&C Act, because a substance (sugar or corn syrup) has been substituted in part; and/or under section 402(b)(4) of the FD&C Act, because a substance (sugar or corn syrup) has been added to the honey so as to increase its bulk or weight or make it appear better or of greater value than it is.

Further, we would consider such food misbranded under section 403 of the FD&C Act due to improper labeling of the food: *i.e.*, the name of the food and the ingredient statement (see Case A and Q&A 5).

10. How does FDA monitor imported products labeled as honey to ensure that they contain only honey as the sole ingredient?

We have a long-standing import alert for surveillance of honey for adulteration with cane or corn sugars (see Import Alert 36-01 at https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cms_ia/importalert_108.html). Such a product would be detained /until we determined that the product was not adulterated or misbranded.

³Honey is more valuable than other sweeteners. See "Sugar and Sweeteners Yearbook Tables," United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. 2017. Available at: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/dataproducts/sugar-and-sweeteners-yearbook-tables.aspx>.

Around the Bee Yard

- Check for mites and other disease
- Install small hive beetle traps
- Add drawn supers for honey flow
- Continue to monitor for congestion, queen rightness, and queen cells
- Watch for swarming and act to control it
- Check for incoming pollen
- Join weak colonies
- Order bottles for honey harvest
- Attend SCBA Membership Meeting June 6th



St. Clair Beekeepers Association

**Promoting interest in bees and
beekeeping in Southern Illinois.**

Email: stclairbees@gmail.com

The purpose and function of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association is the promotion of interest in bees and beekeeping by such means as encouraging...

- **Good beekeeping practices**
- **The utilization of bees for pollination of agricultural crops**
- **The dissemination of information about bees and beekeeping**

NEXT MEETING DATE

Our next membership meeting will be held at Kay Good's apiary on **Sunday, June 6th at 2:00 PM**. We moved the meeting date because the last Sunday of May is the day before Memorial Day. Below is the agenda of the meeting:

2:00 Business meeting

2:30 Round table discussion of what is going on in the hive after it swarmed or you performed a split. Bring your questions and your experiences to share with others.

3:30 Tom Cairns will demonstrate how to mark queens. This will be an informative hands-on session. No queens will be harmed in this demo as we will actually be marking drones. There will be an attendance prize for everyone in attendance

4:30 ish we will break bread. Please BYOBL (bring your own bag lunch) and drink. Don't forget the sunscreen, veil, gloves and lawn chair.



Kay Good
122 Kiefer Ln
Shiloh, IL 62269



QR code to map