

Kelley announces Clarkson expansion

Company to invest nearly \$7.5 million; plans to add 50 jobs

Kelley Beekeeping, which manufactures beekeeping products for the hobbyist, small business, and commercial markets throughout the world, will create 50 jobs and invest nearly \$7.5 million in their home city of Clarkson in Grayson County, company officials have announced.

The company has purchased 20 acres of land for construction of a 100,000-square-foot manufacturing and showroom facility.

The expansion will accommodate continued growth for the company, which has added jobs overall but also sees seasonal swells, most recently to 110 employees.

The company also expects to attract additional tourism to Kentucky. Currently, more than 300 people visit the operation each weekend during the spring.

Officials said the company expects the expanded showroom facility to open in early June 2016, coinciding with the company's annual Field Day event.

More than 300 beekeepers from across the central U.S. visit on Field Day to learn and share knowledge with other bee enthusiasts.

The Clarkson community celebrates its ties to the beekeeping industry with the annual Clarkson Honeyfest each September.

For more information on Kelley Beekeeping, visit www.kelleybees.com.

BeeLines



State Apiarist Dr. Tammy Horn Potter • Kentucky Department of Agriculture, James R. Comer, Commissioner • November 2015

End of Year Bee Education Events November

- **Nov. 4: Managed Pollinator Protection Meeting.** 10 a.m.-noon EST, 109 Corporate Drive Complex, Frankfort. Prepping and finalizing details for the public forum, scheduled for Jan. 20, 2016. Public is welcome.
- **Nov. 7: Beginners Bee School.** Kelley's Bee Supply. Clarkson. Class will educate new beekeepers and enhance the learning of those more experienced. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. CST, 807 W Main St., Clarkson. Fee \$30 plus tax. Class limited to 50. Live inspection of an active hive, weather permitting. **More information: (800) 233-2899.**
- **Nov. 7: Bee School. Livingston County Extension Office,** 9 a.m.- 2 p.m EST, 803 US Highway 60 East. Sponsored lunch provided. Participants, please bring protective gear such as veils, jackets, gloves.
- **Nov. 7: Harvest Festival and Bee Workshop, Pine Mountain.** Speaker: Berry Brosi. 36 Hwy. 510, Pine Mountain, KY 40810. Free to "Grow Appalachia" participants, \$20 to others. Lodging available, additional fee. (606) 558-3571.
Registration: www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/events.php?view=details&id=175
- **Nov. 14: Beginning Beekeeping – Getting Started.** 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. EST, Lexington. Instructor Phil Craft offers an introduction to honey bee biology and behavior, and beekeeping equipment. The course covers how to manage hives, where to locate a hive, where to purchase bees, and potential problems of the first year. Limit 40 registered participants. Repeats Dec. 12. **E-mail: philcraftbeekeeping@windstream.net**
- **Nov. 21: Tri-County Basic Beekeeping School.** Springfield Campus, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, 160 Corporate Drive, Springfield, KY 40069. \$25 registration fee includes lunch, reference materials and handouts. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Register by Nov. 16 with a check to the Nelson County Extension Office, 317 South 3rd St., Bardstown, KY 40004.
Phone (502) 348-9204 or email robsmith@uky.edu.

December

- **Dec. 4: Kentucky State Beekeepers Association Board Meeting.** Representatives from all KSBA associations are encouraged to attend. 7:00 CST at Patti's Inn and Suites, Interstate 24, Exit 31, 1017 Dover Road, Grand Rivers, KY 42045. (270) 928-2740.
- **Dec. 5: Kentucky State Beekeepers Association Winter Meeting.** Smithland, Livingston County Extension Office, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 803 U.S. Highway 60 East. Speakers: Kent Williams (KSBA), Tom Webster (KSU), Tammy Horn (KDA), David Knopf (USDA).
- **Dec. 12: Beginning Beekeeping – Getting Started.** As above.

2016 Bee Schools and Other Events. SAVE the DATES!

Please note the events are tentative, and subject to cancellation for weather or unforeseen circumstances.

More details, such as speakers, times, and registration prices, will be in forthcoming newsletters.

- **Jan. 23, 2016: Eastern Kentucky Winter Bee School**, Hazard. Pre-registration \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Registration at the door, \$25 and \$15. Speaker: **Dr. Ricardo Bessin** (University of Kentucky Entomology and Kentucky Integrated Pest Management coordinator). Send checks to Perry County Cooperative Extension Office, 933 Perry Park Rd. Hazard, KY 41701-5322. (606) 436-2044. Contact Charles May, cmay@uky.edu.
- **Feb. 6, 2016: Allen County Bee School**. J. M. Bazzell Middle School, 201 New Gallatin Rd., Scottsville.
- **Feb. 13, 2016 (Saturday): Introduction to Beekeeping**, Shaker Village. **Feb. 14, 2016: (Sunday): Intermediate Beekeeping**, Shaker Village. Contact Merin Roseman at mroseman@shakervillageky.org.
- **Feb. 20, 2016: McCreary Central High School**, Stearns. \$15 pre- registration, \$20 at the door, including refreshments and lunch. For more information contact Greg Whitis, 606-376-2524 or gwhitis@uky.edu send pre-registration checks to Greg c/o McCreary County Extension Office. P. O. Box 278, Whitley City, KY 42653. :
- **Feb. 27, 2016: Northeastern Kentucky Bee School, Licking River B.A.** Registration 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. School 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CST. Speaker: Dr. John Strang, University of Kentucky horticulture professor. Pre-registration \$20 for adults, \$25 at the door. Children \$7.50. Price includes lunch and refreshments. For more information, please contact Bobby Fore, ATTN: Beekeeping School, 1338 Stevens Road, Owingsville, KY 40360. Make checks payable to LRBA.
- **March 5, 2016: Henderson Extension Expo Center**. Registration 8 a.m. Classes 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. CST. Beginner to advanced classes; value-added products beyond the hive (honey cooking, soap and candle making).
- **March 12, 2016: Bluegrass Beekeepers School**. Kentucky State University. Frankfort. "Bee Friendly Frankfort" events will precede this school, and the 2016 American Honey Princess will be a guest.
- **July 1, 2016:** Deadline to enter honey, beeswax, and honey culinary items in the Kentucky State Fair.
- **July 14-16, 2016: Heartland Apiculture Society**. Bowling Green.
- **July 16, 2016: Kentucky State Beekeepers Association Summer Meet**, Bowling Green (joint event with Heartland Apiculture Society).
- **July 25-29, 2016: Eastern Apicultural Society conference**, Galloway, New Jersey. Contact: www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2016.html
- **Aug.18-28, 2016: Kentucky State Fair**, Bees and Honey exhibit. Kentucky Exposition Center. Louisville.
- **Oct. 14-15, 2016. Kentucky State Beekeepers Association Fall Meet**, Jenny Wiley State Park, Prestonsburg.



State Apiarist's Report:

As of Oct.1, 2015, beekeepers can no longer buy Tylan or Terramycin to control American Foulbrood without a veterinarian's approval.

This is part of a broader Food and Drug Administration Veterinary Feed Directive to prevent the overuse of antibiotics in agricultural industries. From what I understand, these products may be re-labeled, but that process is not finished yet. I expect this topic to be discussed at length at the American Bee Federation in January and will report more in the Feb. newsletter. For more information, visit www.fda.gov/downloads/AnimalVeterinary/GuidanceComplianceEnforcement/GuidanceforIndustry/ucm052660.pdf

The Honey Bee Health Coalition

produced a Varroa mite management guide that is really nice and available to be downloaded at <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/>. There is a link to this guide on the KDA website: www.kyagr.com/statevet/honeybees.html

More Honey Bee Health Coalition notes:

- Of nine states participating in the 2009-2014 USDA-APHIS Honey Bee Health Survey, nosema was appearing in the summer and fall, when it typically does not appear. On average, there were 400,000 spores per colony per sample. According to nosema expert, Dr. Tom Webster (KSU), treatment with Fumagilin-B is not advised.

WINTER PREP:

This time of year, beekeepers need to be combining weak hives, feeding, and treating for mites. Your bees need a minimum of 40-60 pounds of honey to get through the winter. This is the time of year to equalize your hives.

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- Other notes from the 2014-2015 USDA-APHIS Honey Bee Health Survey presented by Dr. Dave Epstein of EPA: Varroa mites continue to dominate the health survey concerns not only because they out-reproduce a beekeeper's attempt to control them, but because of the numerous viruses associated with them.
- Varroa mites seem to be increasing during fall migration. This is leading some researchers to think that Varroa mites are becoming resistant to Apivar (amitraz), although these are preliminary concerns and much more needs to be done (including more states needing to have hives sampled).
- Of the samples from 2009-2014, prevalence of **Acute Bee Paralysis Virus** (2009-2014) seems to spike higher in the winter months with December and January being higher than any other season.
- **Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus** spikes in the summer months (2009-2014).
- **Deformed Wing Virus** spiked in the fall (Aug-October, 2009-2014).
- **Black Queen Cell Virus** spiked the highest in May and June (collectively 2009-2013).

Take-home message for me: Varroa mites are killing my bees, every month, every season.

The USDA-APHIS Honey Bee Health Survey

includes 750 apiaries annually, with a minimum of 10 colonies, approximately 50% are migratory. This year, 38 states, including Kentucky, are funded.

State Apiarist's schedule:

- Nov. 2 and 9:** USDA-APHIS collections if needed.
- Nov. 5:** Connor Montessori Middle School, Hebron.
- Nov. 10:** Kentucky Women in Agriculture, Lexington.
- Nov. 11:** Lexington Garden Club.
- Nov. 17:** Pikeville College, lecture and lab.
- Nov. 19:** Estill County Farm/City Banquet, Irvine.
- Nov. 21:** Basic Beekeeping School, Springfield.
- Dec. 1:** Leslie Co. Cooperative Extension Office, 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8:** Warren County Christmas Dinner, Bowling Green.
- Dec. 17:** Nelson County B.A., Bardstown.