Exotic Hymenoptera Trapping Project – Karen Roccasecca, PA

- Train your beekeepers on the invasive pests and how to monitor/identify them
  - **Goals:**
    - Continue monitoring and improving the traps.
    - Continuing education for beekeepers on invasive pests.

- **Issues encountered:**
  - Finding the right site and the right person to contact
  - Time commitment
  - Motivation and dedication of inspectors

- **Jug traps**
  - Included yeast in with the attractant to increase efficacy.

- **Exotic bee website:** [idtools.org/id/bees/exotic/](http://idtools.org/id/bees/exotic/)

**Initiative for Nationwide Detection of SS1 (INDES), Serratia marcescens in Varroa Mites** – Shianne Stacy and James Burritt/University of Wisconsin-Stout

- Previous research resulted in the discovery of this bacteria in the hemolymph of honey bees.
- New questions raised:
  - Is the bacterium correlated with disease?
  - Is there a geographic location of Ss1?
  - Do bees leave the hive when symptoms arise?
- Collected Varroa samples from across the US. Used mites because they preserved better through the mail.
- Contact Dr. Jim Burritt ([burrittj@uwstout.edu](mailto:burrittj@uwstout.edu)) for sending in Varroa samples in the future.

**Inspector Discussion of Concerns About Apivar (amitraz) Resistance** – Phil Craft/Veto-Pharma

- Apivar – only registered Varroa control product with amitraz as the active ingredient.
- Non-systematic acaricide and insecticide – damages nervous system of mites causing paralysis and then death.
- Extended treatment, not a flash treatment.
- Polymer strip that has chemical throughout it, not just on the surface.
  - 0.5g amitraz per Apivar strip.
- The strip is activated when vacuum sealed package is opened.
- 75-85 days after package is opened, the chemical is gone. Use the chemical as soon as possible, but at least within two weeks of opening.
- If the hive is really strong, or it’s being used later in the season, it may be best to leave the product in for the full 8 weeks.
- Place strips in boxes that have bees, whether there is brood or not.
- Has been registered in France for over 20 years, introduced to US in 2012.
- It’s important to use enough strips. Using fewer could lead to resistance.
- Recently failure of treatment effectiveness has been a result of improper application.
- Unopened packages of Apivar expire 2 years from manufacturer’s date.
- Pettis test protocol can be accessed from the USDA National Honey Bee Lab website.
  - For testing Apivar, let samples sit for minimum 18 hours, up to 24 hours.
  - When recording mite levels after treatment, indicate batch number for treatment.
  - Contact: Phil.craft@vetopharma.com; cell: 859-338-7237

**Tools to Improve Apiary Inspection Programs** – Samantha Alger and Faith Novella/University of Vermont

- Developed an online program for inspectors and beekeepers to use to track data and apiaries in Vermont.
- Utilized a survey to gather a lot of the information available on the database.
- BeekApp is available to look at online.
Honey Bee Health Coalition update – Matt Mulica/Honey Bee Health Coalition
- Have a training on bees and crops and how to protect bees when managing crops
  - Available online via the HBHC website.
- Conducting new research on varroacides through FFAR pollinator health grant.
- Developed and released general BMPs for honey bee health and management.
- Developed and released a online decision tool to help beekeepers determine which Varroa treatment to use.
- The HBHC can provide educational/informational cards to organizations that interact with beekeepers.

Honey Bee Survey/Bee Informed Partnership update – Dennis vanEngelsdorp and Karen Rennich/University of Maryland and the Bee Informed Partnership
- National loss survey provides annual monitoring of what is happening to bees in the US.
- Data also provides cultural insight into shifts/trends of management.
- Not just beekeepers accessing this information. State agencies, policy makers, schools are also utilizing this information.
- How you can help:
  - Get beekeepers to take the survey – comes out April 1, 2019
  - Share the advertising email.
- Sentinel hive program has been adapted for commercial beekeepers (SentinelPro).
  - This program can compare management techniques, compare locations, provide proof of healthy colonies for contracts, track colonies over time (includes longitudinal data).
  - How you can help:
    - Encourage beekeepers to join.
    - Single most important project you can participate in.
- Preliminary research is showing that VDV1 is associated with colony loss, rather than DWV and Varroa.
- Data showing high Nosema counts in early summer and mid winter.
  - High Nosema counts in the fall predicted that the colony is 2x likely to die in the spring.
  - Data shows that treating for Nosema does not have a significant benefit over not treating.
- Seeing a shift in the size of V. destructor over 5 years – they are getting larger.

State Reports
Overall most states had minimal issues with American Foulbrood and European Foulbrood throughout 2018. Below are some of the noteworthy items discussed during the reports:
- Utah had higher rates of AFB and EFB than the previous year. Inspectors have implemented qPCR testing to diagnose for AFB/EFB and can also test for other bacterium and viruses.
- Tennessee had had major hive losses due to tracheal mites. This was attributed to beekeepers switching from using formic acid and amitraz in their hives to primarily oxalic acid.
- The spotted lanternfly is still a major issue in Pennsylvania and it has now spread to the surrounding states. The state inspection services are making a concerted effort to educate beekeepers on how to identify this insect and their egg masses since that can be deposited on hive boxes.
- Montana had an incident with small hive beetle in 2018. Hives carrying SHB were imported into the state and the pest was not managed properly. The hives were quarantined and damaged equipment were disposed of. SHB is currently a regulated pest in Montana.
- Many states have developed either training programs for beekeepers, materials for beekeepers to manage Varroa mites, materials on how to identify native bees, and/or AFB/EFB sampling kits (Maine, Delaware, Massachusetts, District of Columbia, Utah, Texas).
- Kentucky received funding to develop a honey certification program to combat adulterated honey issues.
- Maryland now has two dogs trained for AFB detection.
- In Canada there was an average hive loss of 34% in 2018. This includes both dead hives and nonviable colonies (less than 3 frames of bees). It was determined that the losses were primarily due to winter, queen quality, and starvation. Nosema is a major concern for Canadian beekeepers, but 70-90% of the beekeepers are monitoring for Varroa mites.
Business Meeting

**USDA National Survey**
Want to send a letter regarding feedback about the survey.
Send copy to National Plant Board as well.

**AIA Website**
Members only site would include:
Requirements for beekeepers moving into other states, inspection procedures, informational/fact sheets

**Reading of the resolution**
Combined three previous resolutions into one.

**Research topics to discuss with AAPA**
- Nosema issues
  - Identify a new threshold
  - Test new probiotics to determine how they are impacting Nosema levels
  - Alternative treatment methods
- Viruses
  - Cost of analysis
  - How do the viral results help beekeepers?
  - Is there a way to improve honey bee immune system to manage viral infections
  - Is there a way for a honey bee to overcome a viral infection
- EFB disease characterization
  - Better understand pathogenesis of disease
  - What levels of the disease are damaging to a colony?
- Small hive beetle
  - Are the adults damaging to the colony?
  - What diseases are they transmitting and what impact does it have on at the colony level?
  - Developing a trap for the apiary level
- Tracheal mites
  - TN seeing issues with tracheal mites within the past couple of years – not seeing as many problems this year

**Standard Operating Procedures**
Should AIA make a document that is a general overview of SOPs
Includes the elements of the standard, because there is going to be a variability among states on what they can implement
Compile database of what each state requires from beekeepers that enter their state. Then develop a general SOP overview
Provide on AIA website for public access the requirements a beekeeper needs to complete prior to entering the state
Some concerns on posting the individual state SOPs to the members only part of the AIA website, thus each state is not required to post them
Committee formed to generate SOP document: Mike Studer, Barb Bloetscher, Kim Skyrm, Brandi Simmons

**501c5 status for AIA**
For agricultural organizations
501c5 status means:
- Contributions are not tax deductible
- No lobbying
- Can be no profit to the members
  
  If AIA dissolves, there needs to be an organization in place that will receive all funds within the treasury.

Suggested that inspectors seek guidance from their respective administrators to avoid any conflicts of interest
Suggested to establish a committee to seek information from each member state for options of dispersion of funds if AIA were to dissolve and the constitution will need to change in order to complete the 501c5 application.

Committee: regional directors work to communicate with their own states. Chair: Keith Tignor
Business Meeting continued

**Increasing attendance at the annual meeting**
- Develop standard invitation to send out
- Would be useful for directors to send out to states and other organizations
- Purpose and benefit of AIA, meeting details, etc.

**Reading of the preceding meeting’s minutes**
- Suggested that they be provided to all members of AIA, by posting the pdf to the AIA website and sending to listserv.
- Motioned to not read the preceding minutes
  - Supported by Steven Stanko, and seconded by Jen Lund

**No Secretary report**

**Treasury report**
- $20,615.09 (does not include cost of 2019 meeting)
- Approved and the report was submitted to Secretary

**Presidents address**
- Represented AIA at Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) meeting in the spring in California.
  - Developed a subgroup to develop the HBHC BMPs and which have been released.
- Attended and represented AIA at the CAPA meeting.
- Represented AIA at the ESA Pollinator field tour in North Dakota.
  - Goal: To develop better relationships between growers and beekeepers and develop wild land for pollinators.

**Announcement and appointment of committees**
- Jennifer Lund will be representing AIA at the National Plant Board meeting.
- Brandi Simmons has been appointed the new Chief Apiary Inspector for Florida.
- Committee was created to establish a 501c5 status for AIA.
  - Chair: Keith Tignor, members: Mike Hansen and the AIA Directors (Kathleen Prough, Mike Studer, Meghan McConnell, Alyssa Piccolomini, Andy Joseph, Paul Kozak).
  - Suggested that a report from the AIA vice president is included in the annual meeting.

**Special Committee report**
- Barbara Bloetscher, Natasha García-Andersen, Alyssa Piccolomini
- Suggested to coincide with ABF to follow the typical 3 year rotation of AIA.
  - 2020 meeting in Chicago
- Motioned to meet with ABF by Don Hopkins, seconded by Kathleen Prough.
  - Motion passes vote.

**Newsletter Committee**
- Tammy Horn Potter and Mary Reed
  - Will work to issue a newsletter to AIA on a quarterly basis.

**Standard Operating Procedures Committee**
- Chair: Mike Studer, members: Barbara Bloetscher, Kim Skyrm, Brandi Simmons
- Make a repository on AIA website to post SOPs.
- All states concerned about posting SOPs can send them directly to Mike Studer.

**Report of the Auditing Committee**
- Moves to pass the treasury report.

**Report of the Resolutions Committee**
- Consolidated three previous resolutions into one.
- Read out loud for the second time.
- Motioned to approve by Mike Hansen, seconded by Steven Stanko.
- All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

**Report of Awards Committee**
- Need to go through records to see who is retired or has passed away.
- Awards needed for Dave Westervelt, Kenneth Calcote, Wade Stiltner, Paul Cappy, Medhat Nasr.
- Requested that any change of positions should be notified to AIA, as well as the posting of new inspector position.

**Old business**
- AIA listserv
  - Directors should work to receive state reports from all states in the individual districts prior to the annual meeting.
New business

Suggested to develop APHIS committee to assist on adjustments need to National Survey project and receive updates.

Need to meet with APHIS first to determine what their needs are exactly.

AIA representative for HBHC

Mary Reed, Jennifer Lund, and AIA President

Committee not formed, only appointments.

Send out a reminder to committees two weeks prior to the annual meeting so there is sufficient time to develop the appropriate reports and updates.

Send out a reminder prior to meeting about reviewing the AIA constitution.

Mike Hansen has been added to Nonprofit Committee.

Request to receive state reports from the states that cannot attend AIA.

Directors should work to receive state reports from all states in their designated areas.

2020 meeting

Requested to adjust the meeting so members can attend talks at the coinciding meetings.

Tour day is preferred and would like to keep it included. Optional for states that have limited travel.

Meet with ABF in Chicago, January 7-11th, but may be 6th-11th to include a tour day.

Scholarship award

Purpose of the award: to provide money to be used for travelling to the ABRC meeting.

Should submit an abstract of their work prior to the meeting as part of the application process.

Research should be applied research.

Must be invited to speak at ABRC meeting.

Motion to have the Awards Committee fine tune the submission process. Award $500 for one student.

Report of Nominating Committee

Election of officers

President: Samantha Brunner
Vice president: Kim Skyrm
Secretary: Mary Reed
Treasurer: Keith Tignor

Directors

North: Kathleen Prough
South: Mike Studer
East: Meghan McConnell
West: Alyssa Piccolomini
At large: Andy Joseph
Canada: Paul Kozak

Motion to dismiss by Steven Stanko, seconded by Jen Lund

Thank you cards may be sent to Victor Gonzalas: 4610 North Perryville Road, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340