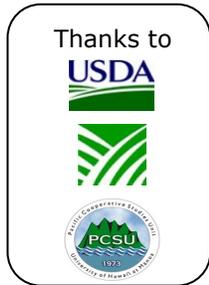


## Hawai'i Apiary Program

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2016 National Honey Queen, Kim Kester



People's Choice Honey tasting at the WAS conference, October 14.

### Hawai'i Apiary Program

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## *Apiary Program Fall Updates*

### Honey Queen visiting Hawai'i Nov. 14-21!

We look forward to welcoming our National Honey Queen, Kim Kester to Hawai'i next month. For teachers or parents on Big Island interested in having her speak at your school, please contact us ASAP. She can also speak on the radio to spread the important message to continue protecting our honey bees! For interest on any island in future years, please let us know.

### Beginning Beekeeping Class on Kaua'i, Nov. 9-10

The class will be taught at Kaua'i Community College November 9, 5-8pm with the apiary session on the 10th, 9-11am. Cost for the class will be \$10. [RSVP](#) with Noe or call (808)339-1977.

### Beginning Beekeeping & Honeybee Health Classes on Moloka'i, Nov. 29- Dec. 1:

For those on Moloka'i or any beekeepers planning to travel to Moloka'i at the end of November, we will be teaching our Beginning Beekeeping class ([RSVP](#)) on Nov. 29, and our Honeybee Health class (Pests & Diseases) ([RSVP](#)) on Nov. 30 from 12:30-3:30pm, along with an apiary session Dec. 1 from 8:30-10:30am at Moloka'i Agriculture Classroom. Cost for the class will be \$10. [RSVP](#) at the above links or call at (808)339-1977.

### Queen Rearing Class on 'Oahu's North Shore Dec. 6-7:

Learn how to rear your own queen bees! Class will be held at the Sunset Rec Center in Hali-

wa, Dec. 6, 5-8pm with an apiary session on Dec. 7 from 8:30-10:30am. Cost for the class will be \$10, space will be limited. Must [RSVP](#) with Noe or call (808)339-1977.

### North American Beekeeping Conference: January 10-14, 2017 in Galveston, TX:

This year the two major national conferences are joining forces for the first time in 5 years, the [American Beekeeping Federation](#) and the [American Honey Producers Association](#). [This conference](#) promises to bring the most up-to-date information within the beekeeping industry, the latest products and services offered, and fantastic opportunities for you to network with your fellow beekeepers. Hope to see you there!

## *Winners of the 2016 Hawai'i Natural Honey Challenge*

Best of Island: 'Oahu: Malcolm Yorkston Maui: Kether Keyser Kaua'i: Joyce Takahashi Hawai'i: Juleea Lowe Llanes **CONGRADULATIONS!!!** To see the rest of the winners and people's choice awards, go to [www.bigislandbeekeepers.com](http://www.bigislandbeekeepers.com)

## *Western Apicultural Society (WAS) Conference Recap*

It was great seeing many familiar faces at this year's WAS conference, hosted on Oahu. Over 20 great speakers from around the world presented on bee impacts from viruses, pests and diseases, small hive beetle, Varroa mite, bee intelligence and behavior, and much more! Speakers ranged from our local state of Hawaii, to other regions such as Costa Rica,

Mexico, Argentina, the UK, and France.

Honey bees were not the only topic featured. Presentations included insights about stingless bee cultivation (Meliponiculture), conservation of the native Hylaeus bee (Hawaii's native yellow-faced bee), SARE (Sustainable Ag. Research and Education) grants, pests on the horizon in-

cluding Africanized bees and Asian giant hornets, and hand pollination in certain areas of China due to high pesticide exposure.

Next year's WAS conference will be held September 2017 at UC Davis in California. Hope you can join us next year!



AFB affected cells



AFB rope test



Bee pupae infected with AFB, shown with characteristic "tongue"



Tropilaelaps mite feeding on honeybee pupa



Asian Giant Hornet attacking a honeybee colony

## American Foulbrood (AFB)

In the past several months there have been three American foulbrood outbreaks in Hawai'i, one on Big Island and two in Waimanalo on 'Oahu. Take this opportunity to educate yourself on this deadly brood disease.

### History of AFB in Hawai'i:

The first honey bees arrived in Hawai'i on 'Oahu in 1857 from California. In 1908, the impor-

tion of packaged bees became banned in order to protect the existing honey bees from external pests & diseases. Bees and beekeeping industries had thrived with no notable signs of pests, diseases, or viruses until around 1929 when it was believed that AFB was accidentally introduced to Maui with no determined root.

Unfortunately, a poor understanding of Foulbrood and lack of consistency in hive inspection and management killed a majority of all the colonies on the Islands once it appeared. To try to control AFB, infected colonies were burned on all islands except Lana'i and Ni'ihau where the disease was supposedly never established.

**How is AFB spread?** The bacterium that causes AFB can go into a dormant state called a spore—which is resistant to temperature, humidity, and chemicals, including antibiotics. These spores can stay alive in comb and on equipment for over 50 years, waiting for a good time to become active and cause disease. Healthy bees robbing failing colonies or abandoned equipment can bring the disease home. If you or your neighbor's bees have AFB, there is a high possibility of the disease spreading. Remember, bees can forage within a range of 2-6 miles. The spores can also be spread if you fail to sanitize your equipment. We practice torching or sanitizing our hive tools between suspected colonies and apiaries as a preventative measure.

### How can I prevent AFB in my colonies?

- 1) Check your colonies regularly to ensure that they have everything they need to be healthy and monitor for early signs of AFB: sunken or perforated capped brood cells, discolored or melted pupae, foul smell, greasy looking comb.
- 2) Maintain clean equipment & protective gear, avoid cross-contamination when checking your colonies especially if you have used your equipment in other apiaries where you might suspect AFB. Torch and sanitize your hive tool with alcohol between colonies and wash your hands with an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- 3) If you spot potential signs of AFB in your colonies or someone else's, notify us at the Hawai'i Apiary Program right away for appropriate guidance. Do not move any colonies suspected of having AFB, as you could end up spreading the disease to other areas.
- 4) Keep an eye out for disease advisory emails from the Apiary Program, as we will keep you informed on outbreaks in your area.

**Treatment:** While some believe that the application of Terramycin or Tylan can get rid of AFB, it is more likely that these treatments would just hide the symptoms, while not actually getting rid of the disease. At very low levels, infected combs can be removed, but colonies with disease throughout must be killed and burned, with frames and comb being completely destroyed. Wood more than ¾ inch thick may be scorched and reused.

**What can I do if I suspect AFB?** If you think you might have spotted AFB, [contact](#) your State Apiary Inspectors ASAP! We can schedule an apiary visit and help you determine whether the colonies have AFB or not and recommend the best course of action.

## Pests on the Horizon

This fall, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's Apiary Program will increase its preventative efforts for early detection and control of Tropilaelaps mites and the Asian Giant Hornets (AGH) (*Vespa mandarinia*). Monitoring traps for the AGH will be set up near various ports of entry across the state. Traps will be checked regularly, along with

ongoing National Survey sampling during apiary visits to monitor for Africanized bees and Apis Cerana (which could be a carrier of Tropilaelaps mites). For more information on how to detect and identify the AGH and Tropilaelaps mites, click [here](#). If you suspect seeing any of these or other abnormal pests/diseases in or near your colonies, [con-](#)

[tact](#) your Department of Agriculture Apiary Program at 808-339-1977.

In addition, the USDA and University of Michigan have recently teamed up to produce a beautiful new [website](#) resource to help with bee mite identification. Please check it out!