

Spring 2017

Volume 6, Issue 1



Hawai'i Apiary Program



Happy Spring from the Hawai'i Apiary Program!

Aloha Beekeepers!! Spring nectar flows are in full swing and we are getting reports of some of the highest honey yields Hawaii has seen in years. Honey is a wonderful thing to be rich in, don't you think?

This year so far has been a busy one! A couple members of our team attended the **North American Beekeeping Conference** in Galveston, Texas in early January. This conference is the nation's largest convergence of honey producers, apiary inspectors, bee researchers, queen breeders, and hobbyists, with nearly 1000 people in attendance from all over the United States and Canada. It was an immensely valuable time to learn about emerging honey bee research and legislative actions. All the presentations have been uploaded to the [conference website](#). Please take a moment

to browse these talks and prepare to be inspired!

USDA Bee Diagnostic Services halted until further notice. The USDA-ARS Bee Lab in Beltsville, MD has informed us that beginning immediately they will no longer be able to identify disease sample for free in their lab. This lab has provided free diagnostic services for nearly 100 years nationwide but due to staffing shortages, have modified their focus. We recommend that all beekeepers who would like to identify a brood disease such as AFB/EFB use an instant read Vita honey bee foulbrood test kit available from [Mann Lake](#) or [Dadant](#) for \$12-15 each. Order a few now to keep on hand!

USDA National Honey Bee Survey (NHBS) 2017-2018: Each year we conduct 24 surveys with beekeepers across

Hawaii. If you have 8 hives or more and would like to participate in this free survey please contact [Noe](#). The information gained from the survey is roughly a \$400 value to the beekeeper and is kept confidential. Read about the NHBS and what it entails on our [website's FAQs](#) page.

Beginning Beekeeping and Bee Health classes in Hawai'i on Big Island, May 23-24: On May 23 from 5-8pm we will be teaching a Beginning Beekeeping class in Hawai'i at Kohala Village HUB Barn. On May 24, 8:30-11:30am we will be teaching a Pests and Diseases class at the same location. A combined hands-on apiary session will be held on May 24, from 12:30-2:30 pm. Cost to attend is \$15 for one class or \$20 for both. Participants must RSVP with [Noe](#) before May 19. See and share our class flyer [here](#).



The two photos above show AFB infected cells.

Hawai'i Apiary Program

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Help prevent the spread of

American Foulbrood

So far in 2017, we have had three reports of AFB in the state; in Kula on Maui, & Volcano and South Point on the Big Island. This brings the total number of cases reported in the last two years up to 6 on three islands. As many of you know, American Foulbrood is a destructive and contagious bacteri-

al disease that affects honey bee brood and eventually kills the colony. The spores from the AFB bacterium can persist and stay viable for 80 years if not properly destroyed and can easily spread between neighboring colonies. We recommend all beekeepers become familiar with this disease by learning

how to [identify it](#). Prevention measures include regular sanitizing of hive tools, hands & suits, as well as learning how to identify it's early stages. **If you have concerns or suspect AFB in your colony, please [contact us at \(808\) 339-1977 to organize a confidential, courtesy apiary visit.](#)**



Vita Honey Bee Foulbrood test kits allow you to get an instant read on your EFB/AFB disease samples.



John Pascual of Hawai'i Guerrilla Apiaries.



New FDA Veterinary Feed Directive

Beginning in January 2017, the US Food and Drug Administration implemented the restricted use of antibiotics for livestock, including honey bees. This new law requires beekeepers to obtain a prescription by a veterinarian to purchase and use antibiotics in their beehives. Such antibiotics

are typically used to treat for Foulbrood diseases. The beekeeper must establish a relationship with a licensed veterinarian and have them inspect their colonies in person. If a positive diagnosis is made, a prescription for the antibiotic will be issued.

This law was created to limit the

development of antibiotic resistant bacteria due to prophylactic treatment in all animals.

You can learn more about this law [here](#). Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this directive and to receive a current list of veterinarians that do bee work on your island.

Current Certified Queen Breeders

Big Island:

The following Big Island queen breeders are currently certified to ship to 'Oahu or the mainland. ***NO shipments to Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, or Lana'i are permitted due to the absence of Varroa mite on these islands.***

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| ♦ Hawai'i Guerrilla Apiaries: email , (808) 756-6861 | ♦ Hawai'i Island Honey Co. (VSH Queens): email , (808) 966-9070 | ♦ Big Island Queens: website ; (808) 328-9249 |
| ♦ Ono Queens: email , (808) 640-5630 | ♦ Big Island Moonbow Farms: email , (808) 987-7821 | ♦ Hawaiian Queens: website , (808) 328-2656 |
| ♦ Karrus Queens: email , (808) 854-5308 | | ♦ Kona Queens: website |

Kaua'i and Maui:

We have two new certified queen breeders on Kaua'i and Maui who are able to supply a limited number of queens from these Varroa free sites to other Varroa free islands such as Maui, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Lana'i. Please find their contact below to request a queen.

- ♦ **Kaua'i Community College Bee Lab:** [email](#)
- ♦ **Maui Bee Farm:** [email](#)

Beekeeper Profile: John Pascual, Hawaii Guerrilla Apiaries

How long have you been beekeeping? 7 years

What brought you to bees/beekeeping? Initially, I moved to North Dakota to take up commercial trucking. My uncle owned a commercial bee business and trucked his own bees to and from California for almond pollination, so that's how I fell into the bees and have never looked back since.

What is the maximum number of colonies you have worked with? I've worked in various small outfits and big commercial ones as well. The largest having about 20,000 hives

What is your favorite thing about beekeeping? I like that every situation is ever changing and unique in its own way. Beekeeping at times is like a "crime scene," When something goes wrong or peculiar, the hive and bees will clue you in as to what happened. You just have to know where to look.

What have been some of your greatest challenges in beekeeping? The biggest challenge in beekeeping for me is trying to stay balanced. Beekeeping is not your typical 9-5, most times it's sun up to sun down, with a more than occasional moonlit bee move. So making time and staying balanced with family and

other things I enjoy has always been challenging, but I always seem to make every moment I do have away from the bees a special one.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? I am hoping to be if not a major player, a consistent entity in the queen rearing industry, offering well mated, well rounded production queens that will meet and excel beyond today's standards and expectations of a quality queen bee.

John is a producer of specialty honeys and queen bees on Hawaii Island. Contact John at hawaiiguerrillaapiaries@gmail.com or at (808) 756-6861.