

# **Audacious Ideas from Utah Beekeepers Association Members**

**February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

## **Education**

- I suggest the Utah Beekeepers Association develop and manage a Master Beekeeper program. It should not be heavy on academic research, but focused on beekeeper competence and trainer service to the beekeeping community
- Education on Africanized bees to the public
- Public Education Program. Hold presentations for the public in local libraries (monthly or weekly). Public school demonstrations with live bees/hive. Classes at county conservation places
- More PR on the importance of bees
- Develop a State Queen Rearing School
- Teach the public to feed the bees including dandelions. It is very fashionable to “save the bees” however, these people often give up after a year with disappointing results
- More public exposure. It is no longer a “don’t ask, don’t tell” industry. Educate the public, starting at the elementary school level.
- Scholarship programs for young beekeepers for related university courses

## **Practices**

- Have the association own a hive marking tool that the members could use
- Have better collaboration with farmers to ensure fields are not sprayed during the day
- Integrate more with solitary bees
- Stop treating with antibiotics, stop pollinating almonds, focus on bee health

## **Regulation**

- Tax free honey at farmers markets
- Legalize skeps
- In the Utah Criminal Code add bees to agricultural theft. 76-6-412 Theft Classification of Offenses (1) (b) (iii) add honeybees
- Some way reduce local, state and federal controls. Trump. It is up to you
- Less government regulation

## Community

- Set-up a joint organization like a co-op. That would buy HFCS, sugar, supplements; arrange trucking of bees; pollination arrangements; and extracting, bottling and selling honey, including contracts with packers and retail stores
- Sponsorship Activities. City members sponsor a hive not necessarily to keep the bees, just to provide a location for a share of the honey.
- Cooperate and get along better as an industry and community
- Don't let wierdo's own bees
- Community queen rearing by area, sharing over wintered queens with other counties