

People & Places

The challenges of beekeeping

Joy Pendell is the second generation of her family to join the business

By JULIA HOLLISTER
For the Capital Press

STONYFORD, Calif. — Joy Pendell's business keeps her buzzing.

"I am a second-generation beekeeper and have been keeping bees for as long as I can remember," she said. "My grandparents kept bees as a hobby and my dad started our family bee business (Pendell Apiaries) in 1990, a year after I was born. I learned everything I know from my parents and from experience."

She is a member of the California State Beekeeping Association, which has about 400 members, she said.

Pendell, 26, said there is no typical day. It depends on which projects she has on the calendar. These include extracting honey, dividing hives and re-queening hives.

Certain tasks for the queen breeding part of the operation have to be done on a weekly schedule.

"Most beekeepers who are starting out buy bees in packages from other beekeepers to start their bee hives," she said. "Our business relies on dividing hives (splitting the strong ones into two hives) to reach the number we want. A hive of medium strength would be around 50,000 bees." There are occupational hazards of working with bees. She said she has been stung "thousands" of times. But she adds, "It's no big deal. You get used to it."

Pendell sells honey from the hives, but the primary business is breeding and selling Italian queen bees to other beekeepers. Custom-



Joy Pendell, a second-generation beekeeper in Colusa County, Calif., says Colony Collapse Disorder remains high on the list of challenges facing the state's beekeepers.

Courtesy of Pendell's Apiaries

Western Innovator

Joy Pendell
Hometown: Stonyford, Calif.
Age: 26
Occupation: Beekeeper
Company: Pendell Apiaries
Education: Bachelor's degree in biochemistry, Whitworth University, Spokane.
Quote: "I'm here to grow and improve the family farm, find solutions to the problems facing honeybees and promote the CSBA (California State Beekeeping Association), our state beekeeping organization."

ers use the queens to replace those that are failing in their hives.

They raise Italian queens because of their gentleness, their fast brood build-up and their good honey production, according to the company's website.

A long list of problems and challenges face California beekeepers.

Colony Collapse Disorder remains high on the list, Pendell said.

The problem has not gone away and there is no apparent end in sight.

She said most people would argue between Varroa mites and pesticides being the biggest problems, but they both directly contribute to CCD.

And there are conflicting schools of thought regarding the threats posed by Africanized bees.

"They are a problem in warmer climates — Southern California, Arizona and Texas — but they do not survive in most parts of the U.S.," she said. "There are methods to manage the problem — recognizing it right away and either replacing the queen quickly or killing the hive if it has gotten too out of hand."

Other challenges include viruses, the lack of forage and the drought, which is now in its fifth year.

Pendell said she would

like to see more women taking up beekeeping.

"There are women beekeepers and there could be more," she said.

She also sees beekeeping as a family-friendly business.

"I am in the process of taking over my parents' operation and run all the day-to-day stuff. In most cases beekeeping is a family endeavor and kids tend to be involved, too."

Dion Ashurst, president of the CSBA, had praise for Pendell's work.

"She has contributed so much to our association since she began a year ago," he said. "Joy created the website and maintains the technical side in addition to beekeeping. She is a great young lady."

Police rescue wandering piglet from Interstate 5

By JANAE SARGENT
Capital Press

FOUND: A female piglet running southbound on Interstate 5 near Eugene, Ore. She answers to the name "Dahlia."

An Oregon State Police trooper, a Lane County sheriff's deputy and a trainee corralled a female piglet that was found in the median of I-5 on June 21 near Eugene, Ore.

According to a police report, Trooper Ryan Martin received a report of a "dog" running southbound in the median of I-5 at 10:19 p.m. When Martin arrived on the

scene, he discovered the animal was not a dog but a piglet, huddled against a concrete barrier.

OSP Lt. Vonn Schleicher said the pig ran when Martin approached it, so he parked his patrol car against the barrier to block it until backup arrived. The Lane County deputy sheriff arrived with a trainee to help Martin get the pig into his patrol car.

Schleicher said once the pig was cornered, they were able to get her into the car.

"Between the three of them, they were able to corral it," he said.

The piglet grunted her whole ride to the First Av-

enue Animal Shelter in Eugene, where she stayed in the barnyard section until her owner came forward to claim her on June 22.

The piglet's name was revealed to be "Dahlia," a 1-month-old piglet, when her owner called to claim her.

Shelter spokeswoman Lauren Merge described Dahlia as one of the friendliest pigs she had ever met.

Merge said Dahlia particularly liked to have her belly rubbed and would roll over to get a scratch.

"She's really cute," Merge said. "I'm glad she's going home but it will be really sad to see her go."



Courtesy of Oregon State Police

An Oregon State Police trooper rescued a piglet from the median of Interstate 5 south of Eugene on June 21. The female piglet, named Dahlia, has been claimed by its owner.

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St. Paul Rodeo, St. Paul, Ore. 1-800-237-5920. www.stpaulrodeo.com/

Molalla Buckeroo Rodeo, Molalla, Ore. 503-829-8388. <http://molallabuckeroo.com>

Eugene Pro Rodeo, 4 p.m. to midnight, 90751 Prairie Road, Eugene, Ore. <http://www.eugeneprorodeo.com/>

Saturday, July 2
St. Paul Rodeo, St. Paul, Ore. 1-800-237-5920. www.stpaulrodeo.com/

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Sunday, July 3
St. Paul Rodeo, St. Paul, Ore. 1-800-237-5920. www.stpaulrodeo.com/

Molalla Buckeroo Rodeo, Molalla, Ore. 503-829-8388. <http://molallabuckeroo.com>

Eugene Pro Rodeo, 5:30 to 11 p.m., Prairie Road, Eugene, Ore. <http://www.eugeneprorodeo.com/>

Monday, July 4
St. Paul Rodeo, St. Paul, Ore. 1-800-237-5920. www.stpaulrodeo.com/

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Eugene Pro Rodeo, 4 p.m. to midnight, 90751 Prairie Road, Eugene, Ore. <http://www.eugeneprorodeo.com/>

Wednesday, July 6
OSU Blueberry Field Day, 1-5 p.m. North Willamette Research & Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, Ore. <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/>

Thursday, July 7
Marion County Fair, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem. 503-585-9998. <http://www.co.marion.or.us/CS/Fair>

Friday, July 8-Sunday, July 24
California State Fair, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, 916-263-FAIR. <http://www.calstatefair.org/>

Marion County Fair, 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem. 503-585-9998. <http://www.co.marion.or.us/CS/Fair>

Saturday, July 9
Marion County Fair, 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem. 503-585-9998. <http://www.co.marion.or.us/CS/Fair>

Sunday, July 10
Marion County Fair, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem. 503-585-9998. <http://www.co.marion.or.us/CS/Fair>

Tuesday, July 26
FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food Course, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Yanke Family Research Center, 220 E. Parkcenter Blvd., Boise, Idaho.

The new FSMA regulation requires every processing facility to have a trained resource person or "Preventive Controls Qualified Individual" who has completed a specialized training course such as the one developed by the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) that is recognized by the FDA. This person will oversee the implementation of the facility's food safety plan and other key tasks. www.techhelp.org/events/279/fspcaboisejuly2016/

Wednesday, July 27
Fresno Food Expo, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Fresno Convention & Entertainment Center. <http://www.fresnofoodexpo.com>

Hood River County Fair, noon-11 p.m. Hood River County Fairgrounds, 3020 Wy'east Road, Hood River, Ore. Gates open at noon each day, carnival rides begin at 1 p.m. General admission is \$8 per adult Wednesday and Thursday, and \$10 per adult on Friday and Saturday. Children ages 6-12 (inclusive) are admitted for \$3 every day; children younger than 6 are admitted free. Season tickets are available (\$30 for adults, \$10 ages 6-12 inclusive). Fair parking is free.

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Thursday, July 28
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EO Media Group
dba Capital Press

An independent newspaper
published every Friday.

Capital Press (ISSN 0740-3704) is published weekly by EO Media Group, 1400 Broadway St. NE, Salem OR 97301.

Periodicals postage paid at Portland, OR, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to Capital Press, P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR 97308-2048.

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Salem, OR 97308-2048

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