

AAPA Award for Apicultural Excellence



1997 Member Excellence Award - Dr. John Harbo

Dr. Harbo received the honor for his contributions in the area of honey bee research that he has conducted at the USDA/ARS Honey Bee Laboratory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Among his myriad contributions to the knowledge of honey bee genetics are:

1. The heritability (ability of a trait to be passed on and function in the next generation) of overly defensive behavior in Africanized honey bees. Although the trait is dominant, it can be bred out of the line with three generations of mating with European drones.
2. The population size of a colony that best demonstrates its future performance. In Louisiana, colonies containing about 9000 bees (4-5 frames) best expressed traits that predicted future productivity.
3. The effect of postcapping period on *Varroa* populations. Honey bee colonies with the shortest capped brood period had a decline in mite populations compared to an increase in unselected colonies over the period of the study.

These, and many other findings that have given rise to 60 scientific articles and 17 abstracts, demonstrate Dr. Harbo's many contributions to the field of apicultural genetics.