

Tri County Beekeepers meeting for August 4, 2020

1. Rick Koetter resigned as president due to health issues. The board will fill the position until November elections.
2. Wayne Rusch acted as meeting moderator.
3. There were no reports to review.
4. November elections we will need president, secretary and treasurer. Start thinking about running for an office.
5. What you should be doing with your hives right now: Some areas will still have a nectar flow. Make sure you have enough supers on. Check for mites. Some people are seeing over 20 mites per count and some are seeing very low numbers. Now is the time to get after the mites so your bees can go into winter healthy. The bees being raised right now are the bees that will be raising your winter bees. Some beekeepers are extracting honey because they are running out of supers. You can extract and put the super back on the hive. Right now you are at the top end of your bee population.
6. Honey bound hive- The disadvantage for letting your hive get honey bound is that your queen would have no where to lay eggs. The eggs being laid now are the bees that will go through winter. Honey bound means that the bees have filled the brood box up with honey and there is no place for the queen to lay eggs.
7. Pollen patties- You don't need them in the summer. The bees will find pollen in the wild.
8. Queen replacement- You should replace your queen every 2 years or so. You can re queen in the fall to give your hive a better chance to get through winter. Find the old queen and pinch her. Wait a few days then put the new queen in the hive in a queen cage. Check in a day or so to see if the bees released the queen. If not, let her out. If you can't find the queen, shake all the bees into an empty box, put a queen excluder on, then put your brood boxes back on top. The nurse bees will crawl up and take care of the brood, the drones and queen will be stuck in the bottom so you can find her easier.
9. Drawing out frames- If your bees are reluctant to draw out comb you can put new and old comb every other frame or checkerboard the box. You can also spread a little more wax on the pre waxed frames. You can also spray a little sugar water on the new frames to encourage the bees to draw them out. Also, move the drawn out frames to the outside because bees like to work the middle of the box first.
10. Bees not working the honey supers- you can move a frame from the deep box up to the honey super you will need to leave an empty space underneath the frame for a few days because the brood frame is longer than a super frame. Leave it dangling down and that should encourage the bees to move up into the super. Try pulling your queen excluder if you are using one sometimes the bees do not like to go through it.
11. Frames- Use 10 frames in your brood box. You can use 9 or 8 frames in your honey supers once the frames are drawn out. It makes the honey cells deeper so you get more honey per frame. Deeper frames makes it easier to extract honey because the top is beyond the frame.

12. Mite treatments- Apivar strips are becoming less effective. Don't use OA vaper now because this time of year there is too much capped brood. Apistan is also not that effective. Mites are becoming resistive to current treatments.
13. Aggressive hive making queen cells- High mite load can make a hive think about moving on. If a critter of some sort is pestering your hive that can also make it want to move. Check for signs like scratches in the grass or grass matted down in front of the hive. Dragonflies eat bees. You may not see any signs if turkeys are pecking the hives and eating the bees that could make a hive aggressive.
14. Start feeding a weak hive now if you want to get the hive through winter. Feeding also helps encourage bees to draw comb. Feed 1:1 sugar to water now for drawing comb. You want to trick the bees that there is a nectar flow. Take your honey supers off if you are doing this. Switch over to 2:1 sugar to water in the fall for winter feed.
15. Robbing- Robbing can happen anytime there is a nectar drought. Beekeepers can accidentally trigger robbing by leaving a comb out when checking your hive and the bees find it. You will make it worse if you put the comb back in the hive because now the robbers know where to go for more honey. Robbing can happen in the fall. Use robbing screens to discourage robbing.
16. Mice-Switch your entrance reducer to the smaller size and use hardware cloth on the entrances to keep mice out in the Fall. The bees can fly through the hardware cloth but the mice cannot get through.
17. Overwintering-You can over winter in one deep. Push all the bees down and let the bees fill up 4 or 5 frames with nectar. The U has done some studies on this technique and has seen good success. You can push the hives close together to share heat.
18. The club has an extractor to rent. Get ahold of Vern.
19. The club has an opportunity to gain a collection of old Bee Culture magazines. We discussed things to do with the collection. It may be too large of a collection for this club to handle.
20. Google Lawns to Legumes to find out how to apply to get a pollinator plot.

Respectfully submitted

Cindy Rusch