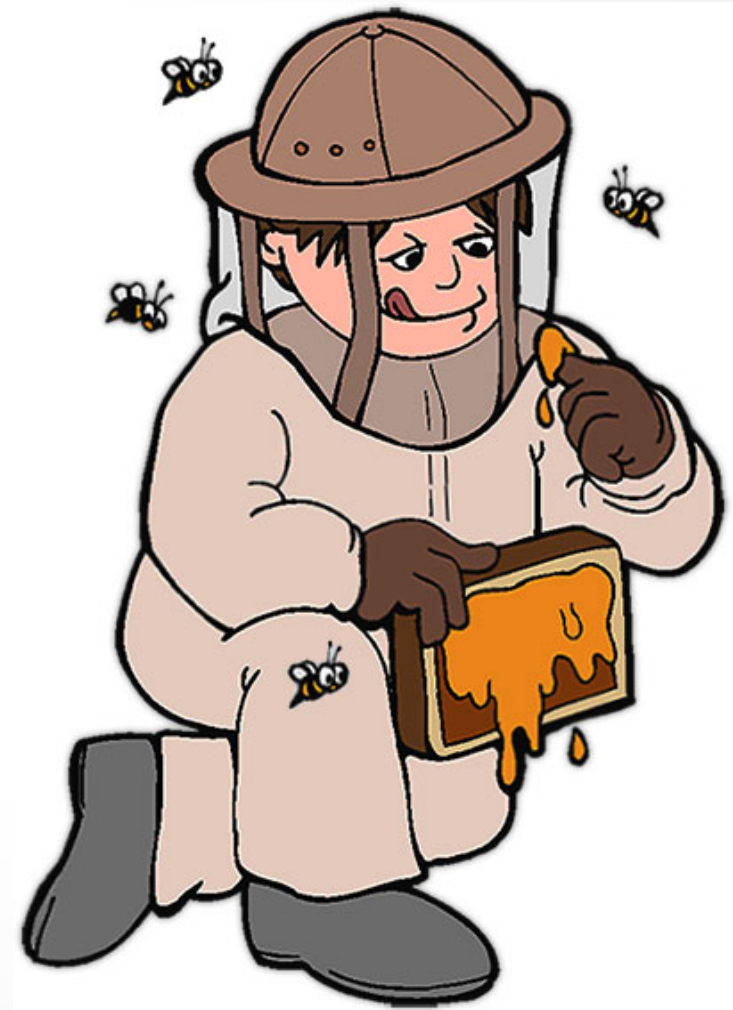


Beekeeping

Session Two: Activities of the Beekeeper

Tonight's Agenda

- Initial set up
- Routine
- Seasonal
- Other (elective)



Set Up

- Make ready
 - Apiary (registration completed)
 - Equipment
 - Syrup
- Introduction of bees
- Feed

Hiving package bees

- Position caged queen
- “Pour” bees into hive
- Feed
 - Stimulate wax production
 - Add to stores
- Video (You Tube, vendor pages)



Package Installation into Top Bar



Package Installation into Langstroph



Routine

- Inspections—three parts
 - Observation
 - Assessment
 - Response/actions
- Repetitive
 - Recommended interval of two weeks
 - Key to your building experience base
 - Keep notes, document activity

Colony Inspection

- Your most significant activity
- Matter of due diligence
- Particularly important in Otero County (AHB)
- Read pulse, vital signs of colony



Colony Inspection – Observation

- Points of focus
 - Queen productivity, performance, superscedure
 - Build up, population, composition
 - Signs of distress, disease, predation
 - Colony condition, swarm impulse
 - Adequacy of stores, indication of nectar flow
- Equilibrium

Colony Inspection – Assessment

- Frame of reference
 - Trend, degree of change, progression
 - Experience, study
- Judgment (cause ==> effect)
- Within/outside of tolerances
- Consistent with season, conditions
- Examples: pattern & composition of brood, queenright condition
- Puzzlement: indicates need for study

Colony Inspection – Response

- Generally, bees manage on their own
- Act according to findings
- Examples
 - Swarm control, “artificial” swam
 - Feeding, treatment
 - Hive manipulation, resource transfer
 - Requeen

Resource Transfer

- Frames with eggs, capped brood
- “Shake” of nurse bees
- Frames with drawn honeycomb
- Stores
 - Honey / nectar
 - Pollen
- Queen cells

Colony Inspections – Comments

- Be deliberate, purposeful
- Gain from the experience
 - Continual learning, nature at work
 - Key to your growth, development
- Become comfortable with your bees
- Creatures of convention, but occasionally will surprise you; be open to discovery

Seasonal Activity – Applications

- Evaluate adequacy of stores
- Testing (mite count)
- Respond to test results or inspection findings (not done by rote)
- Applications
 - Feeding (syrup, pollen supplement)
 - Medications, treatments

(more on pests, disease in subsequent session)

Swarming

- Reproductive strategy
- Queens leaves with roughly half of bees, queen cells well developed
- Driven by very strong impulse; difficult to stifle
- Signals given of intent to swam
- Believed to be tied to brood nest congestion

Signs of Swarm Impulse

- Queen has stopped laying eggs
- Queen is smaller, preparing for flight
- Queen cells, lower edge of frame
- Congested, “plugged” brood nest
- Strong, robust population
- Presence of drone brood

Seasonal Activity--Swarm Control

- Arrange brood nest combs, add hive bodies and/or supers to keep brood area open
- Early--if queenright, cut out queen cells (queen may have stopped laying and becoming smaller)
- Late--employ Demaree procedure to mimic a swarm to satisfy impulse; then, reunite colony
- Improved ventilation of hive, prop up outer cover
- Feed during nectar dearth to discourage absconding

Note: you should make a point to study this subject further

Artificial Swarm Technique

- Manipulative procedure
- Separate queen from open brood, field bees
- Place queen, capped brood, some drawn comb, some stores into new box
- Place queen excluder and original hive equipment above new box
- Nurse bees will pass up to open brood
- Options: combine, harvest queen cells, proceed as a split

Feeding

- **Sugar syrup** (ratio of sugar to water)
 - Spring recipe: 1 to 1 ratio, by weight
 - Fall recipe: 2 to 1, by weight
- Various types of feeders
- Use care to avoid robbing
- Use candy boards / fondant if feeding needed during cold weather
- Pollen substitutes

Seasonal Activity – Manipulations

- Hive equipment adjustments
 - Changing bee population
 - Harvest preparation
 - Brood chamber (reversal, increase capacity)
- Wintering
 - Equalize, stores
 - Remove queen excluders
 - Restrict entrances

Elective Activities

- Swarm captures
- Colony removal (cut out, trap out)
- Colony splits (and combines)
- Operating outyards
- Pollination
- Queen rearing
- Two queen (colony) hive configuration
- School visitations

Q & A

- Initial set up activity
- Colony inspections
- Seasonal activity
- Elective activity

Closing

- Next session
- Thank you