

A Look at Fall/Winter Bee Year



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Rain
shelters

Reduced
entrances

Photo: Judy Scher

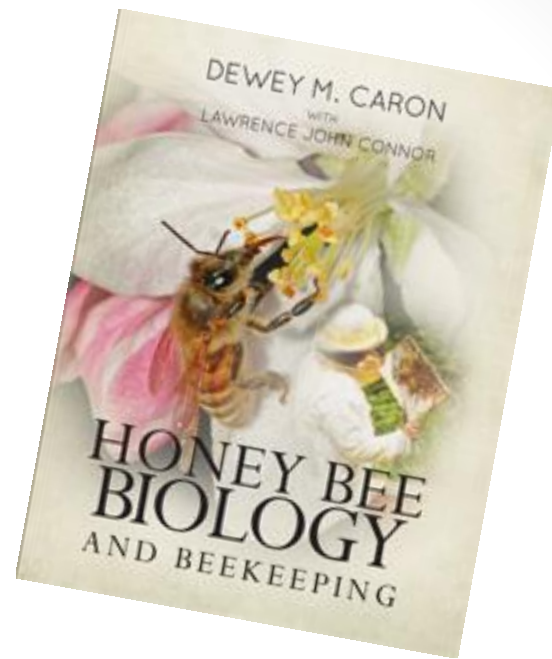
BEE COLONY STEWARDSHIP

Dewey M. Caron

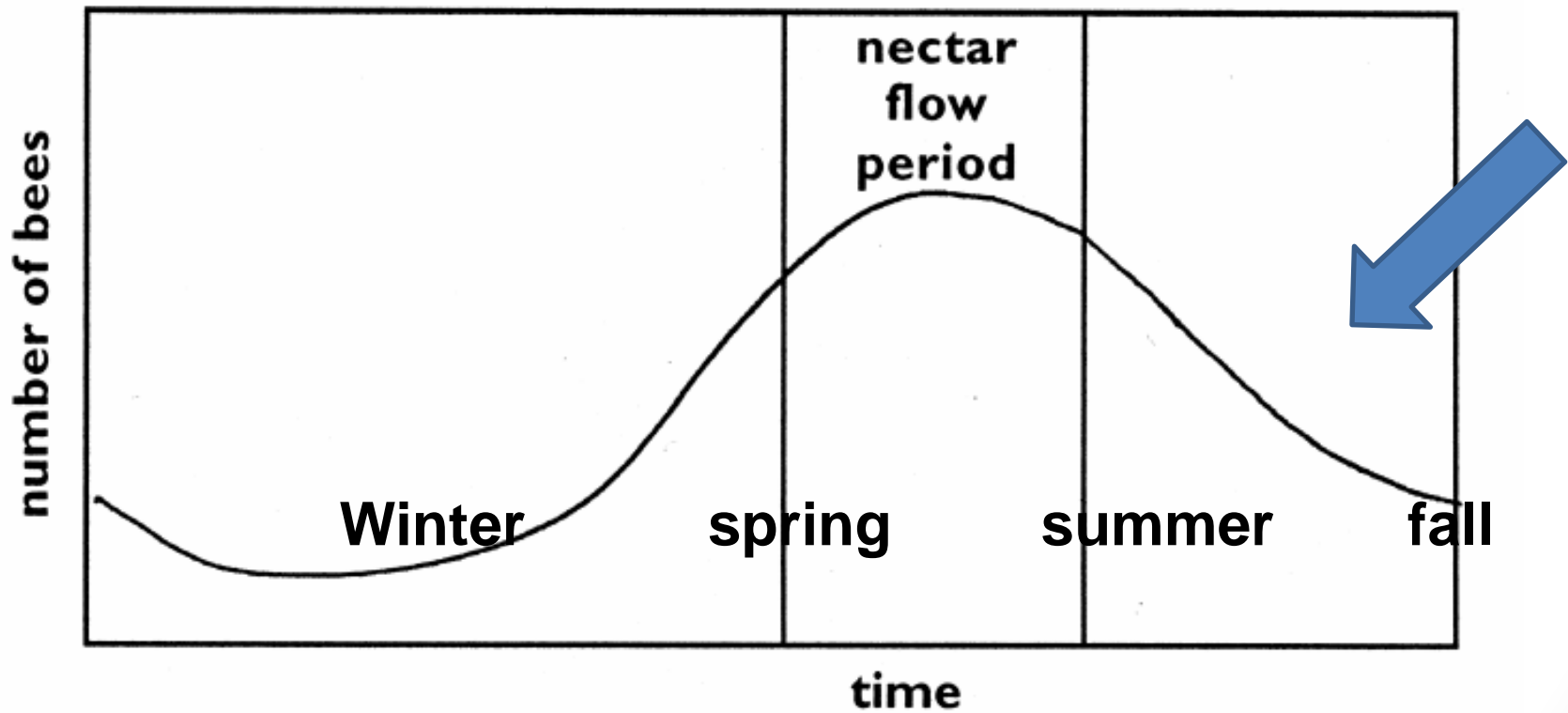


Roadmap

- How did we get here?
- HAPPY NEW YEAR
- What to do NOW – AUGUST 1st
- What needs to be done Labor Day (early September)
- What needs to be done following the early fall inspection
- Do I need to FEED???
- Last minute wrapping up

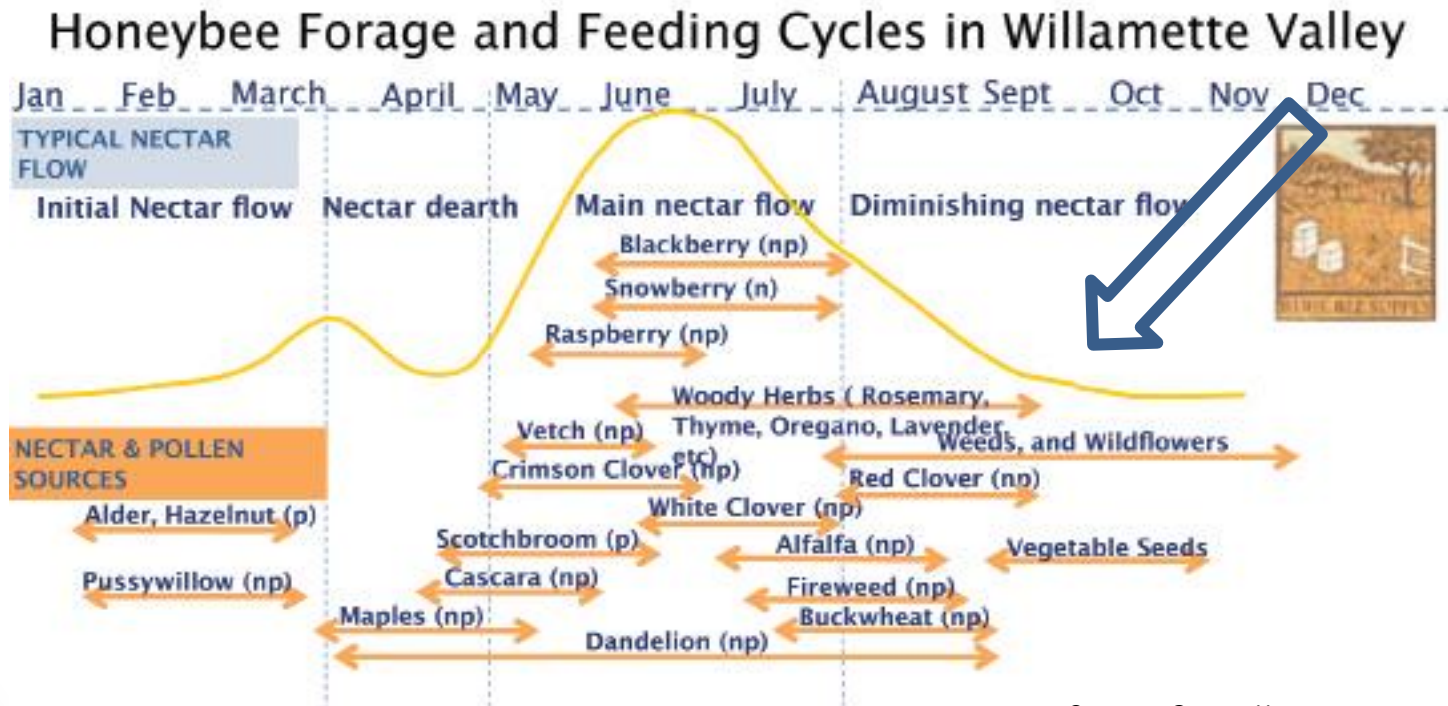


Beekeeping – the real KEY!



FALL Insure strong, active colonies of young- aged honey bees with adequate food reserves located above the cluster

Beginning of **NEW BEE YEAR**



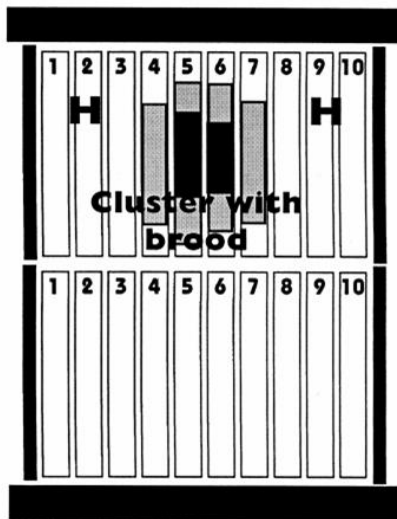
Courtesy George Hansen



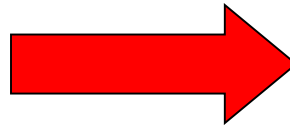
Some of the challenges

- *Apis mellifera* -- Not native to US
- Some regions (Oregon) with poor fall flow
- Environment has ups and downs (Indian summer – early/late fall slow spring)
- Bee mites, Bee Mites,

BEE MITES Mite relationship not a good one



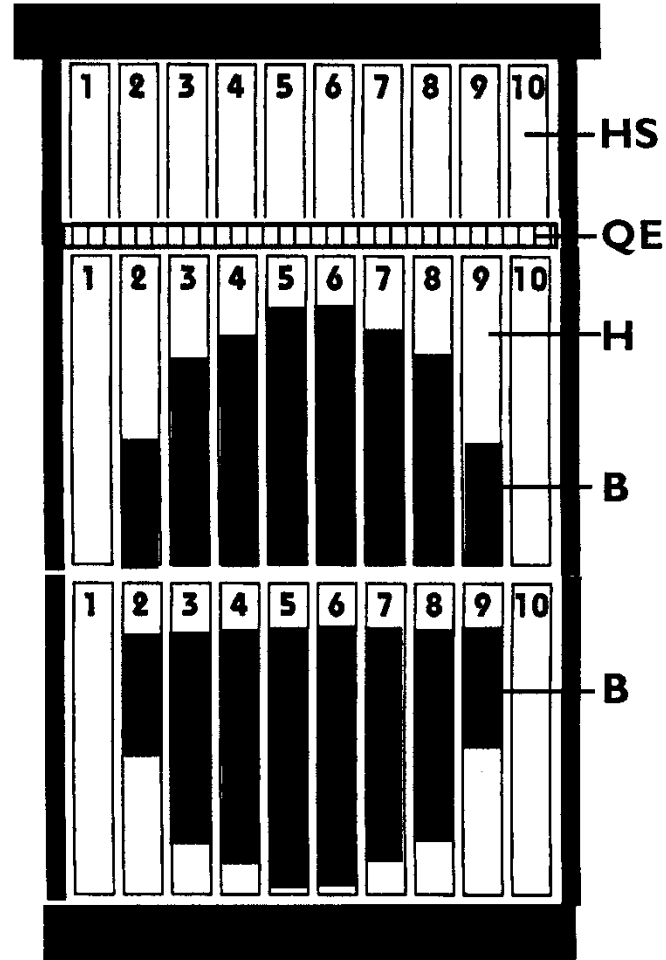
Early Spring



Late spring



Basic idea



Spring colony expands
gets big in synch with nectar flow

Fully expanded
colony



First season success...



Start by learning



Practice..practice



2nd Season – I will be anticipating – not merely reacting!






Packages

Need more boxes
& frames



1ST & 2nd year issues....

F

- Defensive bees 
- Lack of understanding of bee seasons – especially this ONE! 
- TOO SMALL a colony 
- TOO BIG a colony 
- Queenlessness 
- Sudden nectar halt –
Or NO nectar 
- Robbing



Jan Lohman



Earlier – ONLY Manage Supers



Carolyn Breece



happy
new year



NOW!!! Prior to Fall or Fall = New Year Aug 1st

- Finish honey harvest
- Complete requeening management
- Monitor for varroa mites – treat
(decide which control choice)
- Split/bolster/equalize
- Protect brood combs
from wax moth



Going Into Fall and Winter

Hive Strength

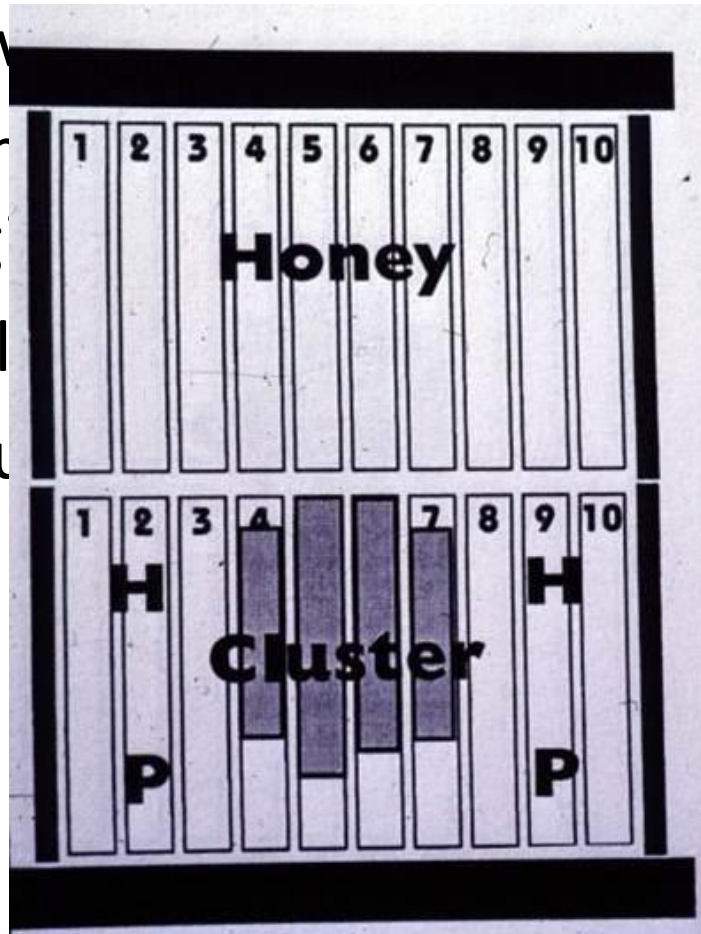
- **Bees tell you Fall is here**
when they start kicking out drones.
- **Combine Weak Hives**
 - ✓ After medication is off, check for presence of queen and hive strength.
 - ✓ Don't combine weak with strong IF weak hive is diseased nor 2 weak together
 - ✓ Combine using newspaper method.
- **Requeen if necessary**
It's necessary to have a good laying queen through winter.
 - ✓ Requeen if hive is queenless!!
 - ✓ Requeen if brood pattern is spotty.
 - ✓ Requeen if queen is old.



What do successful Fall (and overwintered) colonies look like?

- Strong populous colonies (BUT can they be too

- Your
- (hyg
- Heal
- Enou



y survivor or selected

and virus-free adults

stores

?



1st Fall Inspection August – September

- amount & position of food reserves
- queenright
- extent and pattern of brood
- Adequate adult population
- healthy brood and adult bees
- condition of bee hive equipment
& good frames in boxes to overwinter



Randy Oliver



Fall Inspection



Starting to look good

Colony needs attention



Readin' the frame – key stewardship skill to develop



Fall = “FAT” Bees

- “Fat” bees



Courtesy Dennis Andersen

- “Fat” colonies



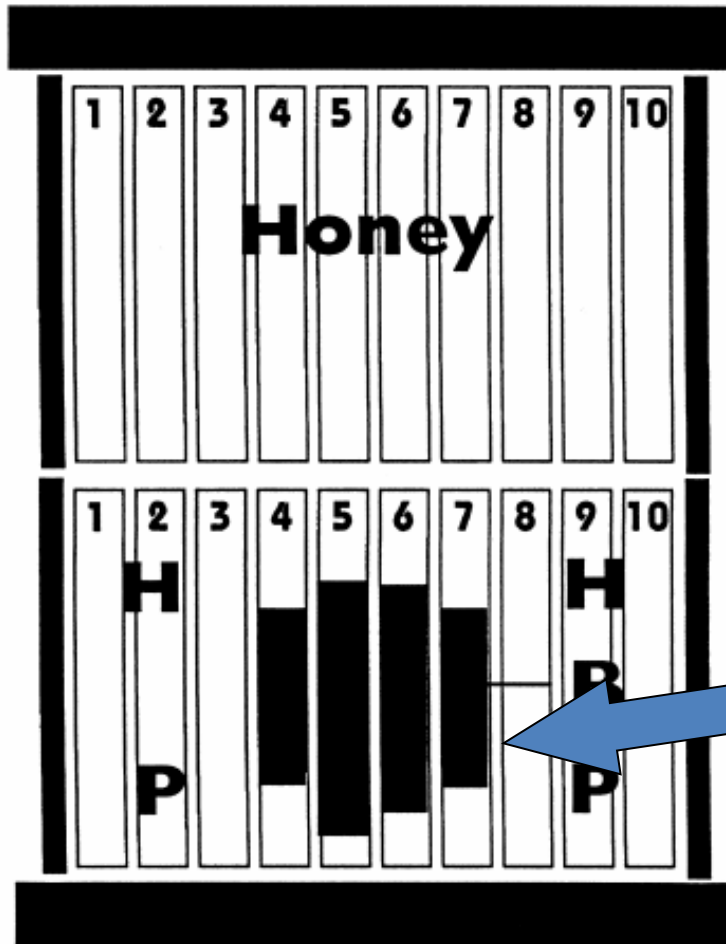
2nd Fall Inspection

Follow up inspection [October]





Fall



**OPTIMUM
COLONY
CONFIGURATION**

Brood position
early Fall

We Learn to read stories about patterns



Fall

FEED HEAVY SYRUP OR HONEY

- Feeding to insure adequate food reserves
or
move queen/colony cluster position downward



Note: One of many ways to feed sugar syrup



Moisture Control and Ventilation

NOTE: moisture will kill bees...NOT cold!

Locate hive out of the wind.

Use screened bottom boards.

Use screen tops with moisture collector.

Burlap

Straw

Old Towels

Etc.



Photos Judy Scher



Yellow Jackets and Robber bees

- Reduce entrance so guard bees have more chance to ward off yellow jackets and robber bees from other hives. You should have screened bottom boards so even though the entrance is reduced, the bees have adequate ventilation.
- Put Yellow Jacket traps nearby. Good idea to include carbohydrate like apple juice in YJ traps. Also cat food.



Late fall



FEED ONLY DRY SUGAR or FONDANT CANDY



Some winters are tough....



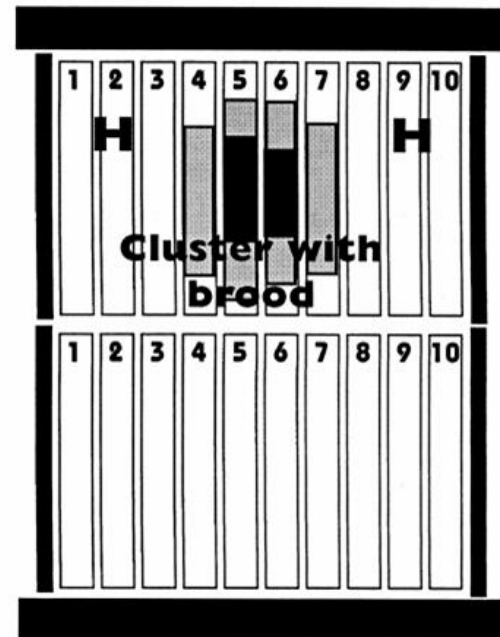
Courtesy Ann Harman



Why colonies die overwinter!

- Run out of food reserves – starve
- Too few bees to provide protection – freeze
- Lack of ability to void wastes
- Bee PMS or cumulative effects of mites and/or diseases
- Sometimes they just die!

Or
Just disappear!



Spring ... will they survive?



Questions?

THE



END

Photographer unknown