

Are You Ready For Winter

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The real question is are you ready for Spring?

- Late Summer /Fall preparation determines Spring:
 - Size
 - Health
 - Mortality



Why does Spring preparation need to start in Summer?

- Stressors of dry summer months:
 - Very little to no pollen or nectar sources available.
 - Slowed to no brooding.
 - Mite population will out pace hive growth.
 - Viral load in the hive jumps or skyrockets.
 - Overall age of bee population in hive ages.

Summer Preparation

- Pull your honey early
 - Unless you have full Summer flow, pull it as soon as it is ready.
- Treat for mites
- Hive and queen evaluation
 - Number of frames of brood
 - Brood pattern and quality of brood
 - Replace her if she not doing well.

Summer Preparation continued

- Work the bees and brood down
- Make sure there is room for brooding in the hive



Summer Preparation continued

- Start feeding
 - Pollen or pollen substitute
 - Lite sugar water
- If a hive will not feed evaluate it again
 - Queen.
 - Size of hive for feeder
 - Nosema

Nosema is Fumagilin-B the Answer

- You need to decide for yourself
- Good nutrition and reduced stress can help prevent Nosema



Once you have Nosema or your bees are robbing from a neighbor that has Nosema then what?

- I have not found feeding Fumagilin-B all that effective
 - Though I do it in my nucs in the Spring to meet customer expectations
- I have found drenching to be more effective
 - 5 x strong in 1 to 1 sugar to water once every 7 days for 3 weeks

Once Summer Prep is done I Break the Hive Down for Spring Nucs

- Benefits of now:
 - High quality fall queens poor quality early CA queens
 - I do not travel to CA so I can match the time and need of the beekeepers in my area
 - It gives me or ability and numbers to sell

Draw backs of now

- You have to be able to winter them.
- You need to be able to meet or exceed the product of those that went south for the winter.



Summer/Fall Nucs

- Split and winter using a screen board
 - Largest get broken down into 4 5 framers
 - Medium get broken down into 2 10 framers
 - Weakest get built up into 20 framers for next year's production hives
- Start feeding
 - Pollen or pollen substitute
 - Lite sugar water

Summer and Fall Brooding

- Lite sugar water and pollen or pollen sub = brood.
 - If the sugar to water ratio is too high it will not drive brood rearing.
 - If you feed too much or too often they will fill in and not have space to brood.
 - 1 lb. pollen sub = 3 deeps of brood.

Why is late summer and fall brood important?

- Know how many 21 day cycles are left before winter.
- Raising brood use's up resources. It will be more expensive to start summer and early fall management.

Fall Prep Winding down.

- Starts on last 21 day cycle.
- Check your mite load.
- Hive and queen evaluation.
 - Replace her if she not doing well.
 - Check for Nosema.
 - Treat if you see the need or it is part of your plan.
 - Check for Foulbrood.
 - Treat if you see the need or it is part of your plan.
- Work the bees and brood down.
- Evaluate for current stores.

Fall Prep Winding down continued

- Start feeding.
 - Pollen or pollen sub.
 - Heavy sugar water .
- If a hive will not feed evaluate it again.
 - Queen.
 - Size of hive for feeder.
 - Nosema.

Feeding

- 60 to 75 pounds honey per hive
- Frame of honey is about 5-8 pounds
- A gallon of 2:1 syrup provides just under a frame of feed

Types of Feeders

- Entrance feeder
- Top feeder
- Frame feeder
- Inside Jar feeder
- Candy/candy boards

Candy/Fondant

- 5 cups of water, 15 pounds of sugar, 3 cups of Karo light corn syrup. Bring water to a boil and put in sugar. When all the sugar is dissolved add corn syrup and bring temp up to a soft boil or 252 degrees (F). Then pour into aluminum pie pans. When set, put fondant on a sheet of wax paper above bees. Cut slits in wax paper so bees can get at the feed.

Candy Board

- 5# Sugar to 2 qts water
- Bring to boil, stir sugar until dissolve, stir often, ready pour at 260-270 degree's



Dry Sugar Feeding

- Dry Frame
- Piece of Newspaper above the cluster
- Sugar on Paper

Questions?