ROGUE VALLEY BEE SEASON
Sarah Red-Laird
“Beekeeping is Local”
What are Your Beekeeping Goals?
There is no “Beekeeping Calendar”
EARLY SPRING MANAGEMENT

Time to bring your hives out of winter

First inspection: warm, sunny, dry, calm winds.

Start at the top, work to the bottom: scrape lid, burr comb, inspect frames, clean bottom board.

Mite roll!


Watch out for wax moths!

Be aware of inclement weather // starvation
What is your Varroa strategy?
Denial and neglect are not good management strategies.

Why have a strategy to control mites/pathogens?
Honey production
Queen longevity
Ability to over winter
Bees are animals
Be good bee neighbors
SPRING MANAGEMENT

Be Ready for the Nectar Flow

Population and activity peak @ summer solstice.
Inspections focus on queen right colonies.
Continue to monitor mites, think about honey flow.
Continued swarm management (know the difference with your queen cells)
Super when: the bees lose interest in syrup, the bees have zero robbing tendencies, and you see a new film of white wax.
Bees need water, too!
Free Bees! A swarm caught in May is worth a load of hay; a swarm caught in June is worth a silver spoon; and a swarm caught in July ain't worth a fly.

Bee prepared!

- Swarm traps,
- Swarm box/kit in your car (box/bucket, drawn comb, honey frame, smoker, sugar water spritz, clippers)
- Don’t leave your foragers!
SPRING MANAGEMENT ~ SWARMING
SUPERCEDURE CELLS
SUMMER MANAGEMENT

Nectar Dearth // Honey Harvest

Dearth was EARLY last year!

Pull supers off colonies that aren’t producing ~ consolidate.

Keep an eye out for laying workers.

If you have full supers, time, and good moisture content – spin and replace – don’t give new foundation.

Alternative to “spinning” – cut comb.

End of the month, robbing will start. Work fast, early, late, bring a wet sheet.
SUMMER MANAGEMENT

Time to get ready for winter!!

Pull honey supers, feed (2:1) if no nectar flow.

Extract and bottle asap (moisture, moths, crystalizing)

Do a mite roll ~ look for issues on adult bees and in brood cells.

Mix up your mite treatment from the spring.

Winter in two deeps ~ encourage bees to have 60 pounds of honey going into the winter.

WATER!!!! (drip hose, bird bath, kiddie pool)
FALL MANAGEMENT

Continue winter preparations

Feed (2:1) if not heavy enough.

Once temps drop to freezing – hands off!

Make sure hives have good ventilation – cold doesn’t kills bees, wet does.

An ideal winter yard is protected from wind and pockets of cold air, and exposed to the sun. Face hive entrances towards the sun and away from prevailing wind. Tilt hives so water drains away from the entrances.

Go to the BEEKEEPERS BALL!!! (date tbt)
WINTER MANAGEMENT

Winter Management

Heft hives // If you feed ~ make sure honey is above the cluster

Emergency feed ~ make candy!

Do you have the right kind of bees for our winter?

To wrap or not to wrap?

VENT!! Sawdust // Drivert

Keep thinking about mites // sticky boards (25 mites) // oxalic acid

Build frames, hives, etc.
Winter Management

Winter Warmers

Enjoy tea with your honey!

Make hot buttered rum and hot toddys with your honey!

Make candles for your friends, family, and neighbors.

Catch up on your bee magazines, read a bee book.

Attend the ABF conference.

Place your orders for nucs and queens.

Ingredients

- 3 oz - pear brandy
- 1 tablespoon - Buckwheat honey
- 3/4 pint glass - hot citrus-spiced tea, or other brewed tea
- 1 - orange slice
**THE NEW YEAR**

Bees start getting ready for summer at winter solstice

Take a warm day, do a mite roll!

Be careful not to feed pollen sub too early and exhaust winter stores.

Be careful not to put on syrup too early and chill the bees!

Make bee candy

Nosema?
LOVE YOUR BEES!
TAKE AWAYS

There is no failsafe “bee calendar”

What is your Varroa strategy? Denial and neglect are not good management strategies.

Strong, well-nourished, low stressed hives.

Don’t be part of the problem – wash your hands and clean your equipment

Monitor for Varroa all season – have a plan

Throw out suspect brood frames (a new frame is about $3)

Re-queen (especially with hygienic)

If you are not sure what you are dealing with-ask an expert – Mentor, Extension, USDA lab

Strong, healthy hives
Not Tired of Bee Learnin’?

Spring Beehive Management: May 12th and 13th, Apiary Day 16th

www.beegirl.org
THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?