

"Promoting the Craft, Science, and Future of Beekeeping since 1947"

THE BEELINE

Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi CIBA:

We have another great program lined up for you on June 18 at 7:00 pm (6:30 if you want to eat with us)! I want to thank my Officers and the Board of Directors for being a big help in setting up this meeting and looking forward to September and December / January. We now have regular meetings with the Board; check our website at <http://centraliowabeekeepers.org/> for information regarding times and places for those meetings.

As I write this, it's the first week in June and the weather has finally allowed sunshine and warmer temps. I hope you have supers on, because a lot of nectar is coming! In some of the colonies I have inspected, I have found many brood hives crowding the queen. As soon as a worker hatches out, worker bees are filling that cell with nectar. When you put supers on, especially ones with drawn comb, they will move the nectar up. Personally, I do not use queen excluders and instead put two or three frames of foundation in the middle to discourage the queen to lay in the supers. (First-time beekeepers with all foundation will not have this problem.) I do suggest that you move the filled frames to the outside and move empty frames to the center. If you do get brood in the honey supers, Bernie Hala taught me to shake all the bees off the frames to make sure the queen is not in the super, then put on a queen excluder. The brood will hatch and move down into the brood nest. The bees will refill these cells with honey.

May and June are swarm months, so be diligent to look for swarm cells. Normally, you will find them between hive bodies. At this time of year, I recommend you cut them out because you need all these bees for honey production. If you want, you can take a couple of the biggest cells and put them in a nuc box with one frame of brood with adhering bees, then check in two weeks to see if you have a queen and some brood. This is one reason why it's always good to have a nuc around in case you lose a queen.

Hope to see you all June 18 for good food and fellowship with beekeepers!

Arvin (515) 450-9494 ajfoell@huxcomm.net

Issue: Spring 2016

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Date: June 18, 2016

Time: Summer Hours

6:30 pm Dinner on your own

7:00 pm Meeting

Where: Bonanza Steakhouse

5029 N.E. 14th St.

Des Moines, IA 50313

Agenda: Short business meeting, introductions and member comments, and presentation by Curt Bronnenberg, commercial beekeeper.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS: Sept. 1, 2016

To submit an item by email:

lwilbur50201@gmail.com

To submit an item by U.S. Postal Service:

Linn Wilbur
64626 170th St.
Nevada, IA 50201

To add an email subscription or replace your print newsletter with an email newsletter, send notification to lwilbur50201@gmail.com

Saturday June 18, 2016 CIBA Meeting

The Spring CIBA meeting is Saturday June 18 at Bonanza in Ankeny. Curt Bronnenberg, Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry, Iowa is our speaker. Curt is a long time beekeeper, having grown up keeping bees on a commercial basis with his father and brother. Spring Valley Honey Farms presently has over 4,500 colonies with the colonies located in central and north central Iowa. They supply packages and queens in the spring and have equipment, bee supplies, honey, candles, and bee related bath and body products available year round at their store located at 14405 Hull Avenue Perry, Iowa. Spring Valley provides pollination services in summer to Iowa orchards and sends their bees to California for the winter almond pollination. Their web site is <http://www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com>. Curt is a past president of the Iowa Honey Producers Association and he and his wife Connie have been long time members of CIBA. Their daughter, Ciera, presently represents CIBA as our Honey Queen. Curt will be giving an overview of Spring Valley Honey Farms and then will answer questions on their operation, management, and beekeeping-in-general. **Come ready to ask questions.** Curt knows bees and is a great resource for answering your bee related questions.

Prior to Curt's presentation we will have a short meeting, round the table introductions and question and answer period to see how everyone's bees are doing.

Call for a Volunteer submitted by Julia McGuire

Do you like knowing what is going on in the beekeeping world? If so, consider being the newsletter editor for CIBA. Editorship is a fun opportunity. For the time that I was editor, I highly enjoyed seeing news before everyone else. I also got to have fun learning from the beekeepers who contributed articles -- it was fun in that I normally wouldn't have come in contact with these folks. The BEELINE is a quarterly publication and requires word processing, editing, emailing, and adherence to deadlines. There is **NO** heavy organizational lifting that comes with running a large bee club, like finding speakers, reviewing budgets, etc. Contact any CIBA Officer or Board Member to explore this opportunity.

CIBA 2016 Auction Summary submitted by Margaret Hala

First, THANK YOU to all who helped at the auction. As usual some things went for REALLY good prices and some things were more or less give away items. From what I could tell the food went over really well and I know we made more from the concession stand this year than ever before.

We had 60 people take numbers and of those 35 purchased equipment. Not a bad ratio.

Purchases ranged from \$7.00 to \$667.00 with most much less than that top figure.

Records show an intake of \$5,532.50 with \$4,257.00 issued to those who sold stuff. We also had \$895.00 from donations made to the CIBA and the rest was commissions.

We took in \$146.50 from the food sales. Since everything was donated, I think, that makes a goodly amount in the Queen Treasury.

Minutes of the March 2016 Meeting submitted by Jenny Burton

CIBA Spring Meeting 3.20.16

Called to order at 6:50 PM

Bonanza Steakhouse, Des Moines

Meeting was called to order by President Arvin Foell. Minutes of the last meeting were published in the Spring issue of BEELINE and were approved as published.

Financial report was read by Secretary/Treasurer, Margaret Hala, and approved.

--Contact Margaret about membership, be sure to get current on your membership status.

--Look in BEELINE for latest contact information.

Update: Board of Directors Meeting occurred on 2/20/16 at Café Diem (2005 S. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny), 12:30-2:00 PM.

--Next Board Meeting: 4/2/16 at 12:30 PM. Any member who is interested in attending may attend.

--Agenda: Discuss possible changes in by-laws.

Discussion:

--Proposal for new Beekeepers Class Members to get one free year of CIBA membership and the BEELINE.

Discussion if this should be all Central Iowa first year beekeepers who take a local class or just the local IHPA Student Scholarship members. Tabled and sent for further discussion at the BOD meeting on 4/2/16.

--Auction Concessions: Jenny Burton announced sign-up list for rolls, donuts, soda requests, etc. for the auction concessions. Members gave \$48 towards concessions. All proceeds to benefit the IHPA Honey Queen Program. -

--Still looking for an editor of the BEELINE.

--Jenny announced status of the website and encouraged members to check it out. Address is

<http://centraliowabeekeepers.org/>

--Jamie Beyer brought a plastic winter hive wrap that is more durable than the cardboard versions available from Mann Lake and asked for people interested in ordering, to let him know. (If 275 are ordered, the price will be \$23/box, if 50 or more are ordered, the price will be \$35.)

--Auction:

>Pat Ennis is coordinating the consignments and advertising. Consignments can also be given to Margaret Hala. More consigners are welcome.

>Roy Kraft announced there will be a form to fill out when items are brought to the auction site. Julie Sanders will assist him at the auction. Margaret will also accept them on the day of the auction.

--Arvin asked for a meeting program chairperson.

--It was announced that Alex Ebert has resigned as IHPA BUZZ newsletter editor and Ron Rynders has filled that role. IHPA website address is: www.iowahoneyproducers.org and Eric Kenoyer is the webmaster. Articles for the BUZZ are due on or before the 10th of the month. If there are events or information that should go up on the IHPA website send them to Eric.

Elections:

--Linn Wilbur proposed that Arvin Foell be nominated for president, Curt Bronnenberg was nominated, and he declined. Vote was unanimous for Arvin to be president.

--For vice president, Marlene Mogle was nominated, Jerry Kern was nominated, and he declined. Vote was unanimous for Marlene to be re-elected as VP.

--For secretary, Jenny Burton was nominated, vote was unanimous for her to be secretary.

--For treasurer, Margaret Hala was nominated, vote was unanimous for her to be treasurer.

Board of Directors: --Nominated: Roy Meylor, Eric Kenoyer, Mike Brahms, Mike Sander, and Julia McGuire.

Elected: Mike Sander for the open Past President Board position to serve until there is a Past President and Julia McGuire for three year term.

Meeting adjourned.

SPEAKER: Roy Kraft spoke on how he stops swarming by making nucs and why/how he does this. He stated that he has tried five frame "pee-wee" nucs, but has had more luck with full size frames in five frame nucs. He uses frames of brood with supercedure and swarm cells from his colonies to make queens and had had good luck for the past five years.

Submitted by Past Secretary, Margaret Hala, and Secretary, Jenny Burton.

Post Hoc: BOD meeting on April 30, 2016 at 8:00 am, post mortem for auction, held at Hy-Vee in Perry, Ia. BOD meeting on June 4, 2016 at 9:00 am at Café Diem in Ankeny, Ia.

NEXT BOD MEETING: July 12, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Culvers in Altoona, Ia (2535 Adventureland Dr.).

Treasurers Report submitted by Margaret Hala

	Balance	Deposits	Debits	Balance
	End of	Feb to	Feb to	Jun 31,
	Feb 2016	Jun 31,	Jun 31,	Jun 31,
		2016	2016	2016
Checking account	\$2,063.67	\$5,579.50	\$3,221.63	\$4,421.54
Savings account	766.63	0.09	0.00	766.72
36 Month CD	1169.05	2.65	0.00	1173.43
15 Month CD	1171.57	1.46	0.00	1173.03
Total	\$5,170.92	\$5,583.70	\$3,221.63	\$7,534.72

Harvesting of Honey submitted by Arvin Foell

There was some discussion on early harvesting of honey on Facebook. I harvest honey early for a variety of reasons, as do many beekeepers. A few years ago I ran out of supers, so I was forced to extract some supers. I put them back on the hives and was amazed how fast those wet supers were refilled. Some beekeepers harvest honey to get a certain variety of honey, like apple blossom honey or Tupelo honey. I have also heard some beekeepers who are very concerned about winter survival do not harvest any honey until spring to make sure the bees have enough honey for the winter. I take my supers off and then, if the colonies are light, feed them 2-to-1 sugar water in the Fall. We will talk more about wintering at our September meeting.

Great Practical Beekeeping Information for New Beekeepers courtesy of Joli Winer, Editor, May 2016 The Bee Buzzer, Newsletter of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association as seen in the American Bee Journal May 17, 2016 email updates (submitted by Linn Wilbur)

Tips for May (works for June as well, ed.)

- Check for ticks, they love beekeepers
- Wear as much protective clothing as makes you comfortable when working your hives. Work hives with slow, smooth movements. Jerky movements agitate the bees
- Use your smoker each time you check your bees
- Organize your bee tools in a toolbox so that you can always find them
- The best time to work bees is during the middle of the day when the field bees are collecting nectar
- Work each hive from the side or the back, out of the bee flight path
- Inspect hives by removing an outside frame first. Lift straight up to avoid damaging bees on the frame
- When supering your hives add more than one super at a time if you have drawn comb. If you have new foundation add only one super at a time and start with 10 frames. Put your second super on after the first one is almost filled
- Use queen excluders to prevent brood in your honey supers and as a deterrent to wax moths
- Double check medication dates - safety matters. Don't misuse any chemicals in the hive. Follow all time guidelines. Absolutely never medicate hives with supers on. It is illegal
- Keep the grass mowed in front of your hives - it makes it easier for the bees to land. Old carpet scraps, roof shingles or weed barriers can be used to keep grass under control
- Keep supers on until the honey is capped, unripe honey will ferment
- Do not feed sugar syrup during a honey flow since the bees will store the syrup in your supers rather than your honey
- Don't get excited on hot humid days if the bees are hanging outside the hive. They are trying to relieve the congestion in the hive to cool it off inside. Earlier in the year this is an indication of swarming, but as hotter summer temperatures return it is natural, so don't worry
- Keep up with your record-keeping so next year you'll know which hives produced the best for you

Swarm Call Questions

Here are some questions to ask if you get a call wanting you to come get a swarm:

1. Have you called someone else?
2. How big is it?
3. How high is it?
4. Do you have a ladder?
5. What have you sprayed them with?
6. How long has it been there?

7. Is it on your property?
8. What is your contact number?
9. Do you have pets that might bother me?
10. (editor: Are they honeybees? What do they look like?)

Supering

Just before putting on your supers you'll want to check your hives to make sure that you have a laying queen and that everything looks OK. You should have both hive bodies mostly filled with brood and some honey and pollen. Avoid opening up the hive to look at the brood area unless you suspect a management problem.

Weak colonies should be combined with stronger colonies or requeened.

How do you know if the honeyflow is "on"?

- Fresh white wax is on the edges of drawn comb or top bars
- Wax foundation is quickly drawn out
- Bees are fanning at the entrance
- Bees are extremely active at the entrance - they are coming, and going like crazy
- You can smell it - the odor in the apiary is incredible - it smells sweet, like honey
- Bees are docile and easy to work

If you have supers with drawn comb put on more than one at a time, this encourages the bees to bring in more honey and gives them more room to let the honey dehumidify. However, if you put on too many at a time the bees will "chimney" or just go up the middle and fill out only the center combs. You can encourage them to fill out the whole super by taking the full center frames and exchanging them for the outside frames - move the outside frames in the inside frames out - *voila!*

Since bees are hoarders, the more space you give them, the more bees will go out to collect nectar.

If you are using supers with new foundation then just put on one at a time and keep 10 frames in the supers. When the super is almost full move your outside frames inside and add your next super.

Make sure to mark any comb honey supers or frames so you don't extract them. Best to paint these supers a different color or paint a stripe on each side.

Move your full supers to the top and your newer supers lower (just above the queen excluder).

Keep supers on the hive until they are capped with beeswax (have a layer of beeswax covering the honey)

VINEGAR FOR WEED CONTROL submitted by Margaret Hala

I got this from BeeSource from an article Kim Flottom sent in.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Beltsville tested vinegar in several concentrations and found what lots of gardeners already knew. A 5% or 10% concentration will kill weeds during the first 2 weeks of life, but you need to use higher concentrations to kill them later in life. Canada thistle is one of the most tenacious weeds in the world and can be killed with a 5% concentration of vinegar if sprayed early. If later than that it shoots new growth and must be sprayed again and again. Higher concentrations (20% and above) had an 85-100% kill rate at all growth stages.

As cheap as vinegar is, give it a try. I've used it in the garden and around our bird feeder and it worked.

SUMMER HEAT AND RESULTING PROBLEMS submitted by Margaret Hala

A reminder for all experienced beekeepers and something to remember for new ones who haven't worked out in the sun for hours with coveralls, a hat, gloves and a veil on. TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS, GET IN THE SHADE AND DRINK PLENTY OF WATER.

I've found that when you start panting, it's time to take a break! I ignored this bit of information one year, and all but went down and out. If Bernie hadn't helped me to the pickup I wouldn't have been able to make it alone. Now when I start breathing rapidly and feel like I can't get enough air, it's time to take a break.

Water or Gatorade is much better than soda as they don't have caffeine which can interfere with the body's ability to control its' internal temperature. We also take along a salted nut roll or cheese crackers to munch on. It adds much needed salt when you REALLY sweat.

QUEEN EXCLUDERS---YES OR NO submitted by Margaret Hala

We use queen excluders, but I know many beekeepers who consider them to be honey excluders. There is a trick to using them. The bees MUST have some honey in the super before they will go through the excluder. I know it means another trip into the hive, but we have no trouble getting the bees to go through the excluder if there is some honey in the super.

If you're not sure, put excluders on half your colonies as I've suggested and leave the other half without excluders and test for yourself.

QUESTIONS I'VE BEEN ASKED submitted by Margaret Hala

Q. *From where do I pull a frame to check for eggs and larvae: middle or side?*

A. I'd suggest pulling frame 2 or 3 from one side. The queen is less likely to be that far to the side unless it's mid-season, so you're less likely to roll her and possibly kill her.

Q. *What happens if I do roll, injure or kill the queen when I pull out a frame of brood?*

A. Obviously you just lost the cost of a new queen, and at \$30.00 per queen, plus shipping, you don't want to do that. You've also lost most or all your honey production for the year, waiting for a new queen to be shipped, the hive to make their own queen or the time and trouble to find and go get a new

one from somewhere, IF you can find one to go get. It's pretty much like when your colony swarms--- you lose production.

Q. *I installed a new queen about 4 weeks ago. She started laying, but now I can find no eggs or small larvae. What do I do now?*

A. After a month the breeder will not replace your lost queen, even though she may not have been well bred enough to last the whole season. Or she may have been injured in transport, who knows?

First check to see if the bees have started a queen cell and if it's capped or if there is a larvae in the cell. If not, order a new queen IMMEDIATELY, or if you have more than one colony you can take a frame WITH EGGS from another colony and put it in the queenless so they can make their own queen. You will have lost honey production for the year, but may be able to save the colony.

If you find multiple eggs laid on the side walls of the cells, then you have a laying worker and the colony will not accept a queen. The laying worker or workers give off a pheromone scent making the hive think they have a queen. That's when you must shake all the bees out of the hive 20+feet away from that hive and put a new queen and frame of brood into the box and hope for the best.

We've found (having about 5 colonies per yard) that replacing all the frames from the drone layer colony with 1 frame of brood from the each of the good colonies and introducing a new queen works. The brood from the queenless colony can then be given to the queen right colonies to replace those taken.

Q. *Can I use swarm cells to make new colonies? I've heard queens made from swarm cells make for a swarmy colony.*

A. That was the thought several years ago, but all queens are made from cells whether manipulated or because the bees in the hive think it's necessary. The location of the cell on the frame makes it a superscedure or swarm queen. I think it more likely that it's the genetics of the parent colony, and maybe how well the new queen is mated and the weather while she was out getting mated.

One other thing we've found---when it's HOT (say late June or July) you can start a new colony with one frame of brood containing a swarm cell. That way even though that colony won't produce that year, you have replacement queens if you need them. It also makes the colony think it has swarmed by taking out the frames with swarm cells and relieves crowding. A colony stops bringing in pollen and nectar when there is no laying queen and doesn't start till the new queen has hatched, matures, mates and resumes laying.

The **one thing you must remember** is that if the swarm cells are capped the mother queen is going to leave with at least half the bees. You must leave at least one cell if you can't find her or the colony will perish.

If you remove frames with queen cells that are not capped, the queen may start laying again as crowding has been relieved.

Q. *What's the benefit of starting a colony in a nuc box over a 10 frame body?*

A. By starting a new colony with fewer bees than a full sized colony, the bees don't have as much space to heat or defend. They will build faster because more bees are able to take care of expanding the brood nest and fewer are needed elsewhere.

A nuc box is another piece of equipment you will need to haul around and store when not being used, but it pays for itself by allowing to new hive to build much faster. In fact it's much easier to move a nuc box around to collect those swarm cells than it is to handle a 10 frame body.

Q. *Is it necessary to reverse the brood chamber in the spring, and if so, why?*

A. It's more advantageous to you and the bees to remove the bottom brood chamber in the spring than to just reverse them. One, it gives you a chance to repair and paint the body and check and repair or replace frames of bad comb. Two, it gives the bee that much less room to heat and defend so they can build faster, and they do that. You can just reverse them, but if you can remove the bottom brood chamber for 2-3 weeks, till they need it again I would do so.

Q. *When do I put on my first supers and should they be drawn comb or foundation? Does it matter?*

A. YES, it does matter! Bees draw comb very well in the spring, but once they quit they usually will not go back to doing so. At least that's been my experience.

Year 1, all you have is foundation, usually, so there is no options but to give them foundation. You may not get the colony to draw any supers, but if so I'd count on no more than 2 medium depth supers being drawn.

Year 2, how many foundation should you make the bees draw comb on before you put on the drawn comb? I'd say at least 2 more. Remember, they've already drawn the brood chamber comb, so they'll be ready for supers sooner in year 2 than they were in year 1. If you guess wrong and the bees draw 2 supers of foundation and then fill the 2 drawn supers you have, you could be in trouble. Then you must take off the bottom super, or both of them, extract and put back on the hive. It takes 3-7 pounds of nectar to draw a pound of wax, so when you get 4 supers drawn and you get a good honey flow, 4 supers will not be enough. You'll have to draw more. It takes a lot of nectar to draw wax that could be made into honey, but if you don't have the supers to get it, you still lose out. Every year is different, but you will learn about how many supers you will need, eventually.

We've had colonies draw and fill 250 pounds of honey in one season. Not just one colony either.

We've also had years where a colony or more than 1 didn't even draw 30 pounds.

One other tip---do not mix frames with undrawn plasticell and frames of wax foundation together in the same super. The bees will not draw the plasticell. Once drawn it makes no difference, you can mix plastic and wax drawn foundation. Durigilt and wax together are usually ok (editor's note Durigilt is a Dadant made foundation that uses flat sheets of plastic and a heavy coat of beeswax that is then embossed with the cell pattern. The heavier beeswax coating makes it more acceptable to the bees. The plasticell foundation that Margaret is referring to has the cell pattern embossed into the plastic and usually then has a light coating of wax added. Some beekeepers will add additional wax to make that foundation more acceptable to the bees).

You can get by with a single super per hive, but you must go out at least every other day and remove the center frames, slide the rest together, take the removed frames in to be extracted and replace them the next day. LOTS of work, but doable.

Q. *My bees are hanging out all over the front, sides and under my hive. Are they getting ready to swarm? Will adding a super keep them home?*

A. I'd certainly check to see if they need a super, but I'd say they probably need more air. Lift the lid and put a small rock or board between the outer and inner covers to allow more air circulation. That helps cool the hive better and may take care of the problem.

Q. *Top super or bottom super? Why?*

A. Either way is OK and correct. Bottom supering keeps bees from walking over the filled and capped cells and allows for faster dispersal of the incoming nectar. It also make for more lifting to check and add supers.

Top supering means easier addition of one or more supers to the colony, but if it gets cool the bees may not want to get that far away from the heat of the brood chamber and cram the nectar into the brood chamber area, promoting the swarming tendency. They will also be more likely to travel stain the capped frames.

We prefer bottom supering. (Editors note: If you are giving the bees supers with frames of undrawn comb {foundation}, they should be bottom supered).

Q. *When do I pull my honey? How do I know when it's capped enough? Do I really need a separate room with a dehumidifier to dry the honey? How long should I let the supers set with the dehumidifier before extracting?*

A. When a super is at least 75% capped you can pull it. Or pull the capped frames and leave the uncapped pushed together in one super to be finished. Most beekeepers pull their supers in August so the bees can use the later honey for winter stores. We don't usually start till after the State Fair and find that this is enough time for the colony to store enough for winter: IN OUR AREA.

For a dehumidifier, we use a corner of our open basement with the supers stacked crossways and a dehumidifier and a fan close. We also keep the dehumidifier emptied twice a day. Leaving the supers for at least 2-3 days should be sufficient, unless you know the honey is wet. If in an enclosed room, less time may be needed.

Enough for now. Margaret

Dryer Sheet Uses submitted by Margaret Hala

I don't know if you must use Bounce or if any dryer sheet will work, but the list I got says Bounce:

- The US Postal Service has recommended that all letter carriers put a dryer sheet in their uniform pocket to keep yellow jackets away
- It chases ants away from areas where you don't want them and repels mosquitoes and other flying insects when you are outside
- Suppose to repel mice from foundations, cars, car and other trunks, mowers, etc. In fact our lawn mower repair man recommended this to us, but a mouse built a nest in the carburetor in less than a week before the dryer sheet got put in the mower, and it didn't leave
- Tacking a dryer sheet to the front door helps keep flies and other bugs out of the house when the kids don't always close the door behind them
- A dryer sheet takes the odor out of books or photo albums, stored blankets, out of season clothes, helps freshen the dirty laundry smell, keeps sleeping bags and tents smelling fresh, deodorize shoes and sneakers and on and on. I always put a used dryer sheet in our suitcases to help keep clothes smelling fresh
- Wipe your TV screen with a dryer sheet to keep dust from collecting on it. Also eliminates static electricity from the TV screen and Venetian blinds
- Collects cat and dog hair from couches and chairs

The Ten Commandments of Beekeeping by Keith Delaplane, BS, MS, Ph.D., Professor, Walter B. Hill Fellow & Honey Bee Program Director, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, The University of Georgia (submitted by Arvin Foell)

Use Standard beekeeping equipment. Langstroth hives, admittedly, are not ideal honey bee nests, but their standard design gives beekeepers unprecedented power to monitor and improve honey bee health, manipulate colonies for maximum productivity, and buy and sell uniform goods.

Be considerate of non-beekeeping neighbors. Place hives so that bee flight paths do not cross sidewalks, playgrounds, or other public places. In dry weather, bees may collect water at a neighbor's swimming pool or water spigots. Avoid this by giving your bees a source of water.

Maintain good queens. A colony with a failing queen will not be productive. Replace a queen whenever her brood production declines significantly below the apiary average. Young queens maximize brood production, suppress swarming, and suppress certain diseases.

Control disease and parasites. Get a general bee text and learn the common bee diseases. American and European foulbrood, Nosema, chalkbrood, and sacbrood. Seriously consider embracing IPM (ed: Integrated Pest Management) as a guiding strategy for the maintenance of honey bee health. Antibiotics and miticides are important tools for managing pest populations, but beekeepers should think of them as the last resort in a string of previous measures. Encourage the widespread adoption of genetically disease-and-pest-resistant bee stocks.

Maximize colony populations before the main nectar flows. Maintaining good queens and controlling disorders fit into this objective, but there are other tasks, too. Feed bees sugar syrup in early spring if food stores are low. Avoid swarming by using young queens, reversing deep supers, and adding honey supers. Equalize colony strength by giving frames of brood and bees from strong colonies to weaker ones. Don't tolerate marginal colonies; inspect them to diagnose the problem and requeen, medicate, or equalize with brood as needed.

Super colonies according to their needs. Generously super colonies before the main nectar flow because empty comb stimulates foraging. Crowd bees with fewer supers in late summer so bees pack the brood nest with honey for winter.

Take pride in honey and other hive products. Keep honey-handling equipment clean, and strain honey to remove debris. Use standard honey jars; second-hand jars look cheap and unprofessional. Use an attractive label stating the contents, your business name and address, and net weight. Never let your honey jars get sticky on the outside. Market your products confidently and creatively.

Protect your beekeeping equipment. Paint exterior woodenware; raise hives off the ground to avoid decay. Protect stored combs against wax moths and store honey handling equipment in clean conditions.

Help your bees through winter. Ensure that colonies go into autumn and winter with non-damaging pest or disease populations. Make sure colonies are queenright and heavy with honey or syrup. Reduce entrances, provide wind-breaks, and ensure good ventilation that will prevent inner condensation. If winters are severe be prepared to insulate your hives.

Join and participate in a beekeeping association. Local beekeeping associations are one of the best means for promoting beekeeping, and improving the skills of their practicing members. Associations provide programs for youth, continuing education for adults, making them the best way to recruit new beekeepers. Whenever beekeepers have reason to invoke the political process, an association provides organization and strength in

numbers. Most offer regular meetings and import expert lecturers to keep their members up to date. In short, association members constitute the chief ambassadors of the art and science of beekeeping. It is local associations, not large public institutions that play the greatest role in educating the public about the many benefits of honey bees and the pleasures of beekeeping.

Another Method for Performing Splits compiled by Linn and Ann Wilbur

This split method does not require that you find the queen. What follows was compiled from the method two commercial beekeepers use. It took the commercial beekeepers less than 5 minutes in the hive to set this up. We have used this method for a number of years (but it takes us more than 5 minutes). Typically we start the splitting process the day before we know we are going to get queens.

The method involves using a queen excluder, a caged and mated queen, and 2-3 visits to the hive over a 5 to 8 day period:

- Select 2-3 brood frames with a mix of sealed brood, larvae, and eggs
- Brush off all the bees from the selected frames and place them in an empty hive body directly over the old hive's brood area with a queen excluder between that new "split" box and the rest of the hive
 - The commercial beekeepers shake off the bees and are not concerned with removing all the bees, rather they remove a majority of the bees--their method basically consists of lifting the selected frame about half way out of the box and then quickly snapping the frame down, without knocking the frame on anything. One quick shake. Is actually easier to do than explain!
- Is important that the new "split" box be directly above where the old hive has active brood production (don't ask how we learned that lesson)
- If you have any additional boxes from the colony above the brood area (example, honey supers), you need to clear out of the bees then place the boxes above the new "split" box as you close up the hive. In the spring this isn't usually a problem as your brood is towards the top of the hive, but if doing this later in the year after supering you need them cleared out to assure the queen isn't there. Again, brush off or use the shake method and clear the majority of bees off
- Replace the brood/larvae/egg frames that were taken out of the old colony for the split with foundation frames
 - In the Spring slide all the remaining brood together in the old hive and put the foundation frames immediately to the outside of the brood frames
 - As the season progresses (and it gets warmer) you can replace those frames with foundation without shoving everything together, rather alternate frames, brood then foundation frames--is a form of "checkerboarding" that encourages frames to be pulled and reduces swarming tendencies. This is not appropriate when the weather is cooler and there is a chance of brood getting chilled
- Place additional foundation/honey/drawn comb frames you will be moving into the split into that new "split" box also--but to the outside of the brood
 - If you have it, a frame of empty drawn comb and a frame with capped honey are ideal to add

- The drawn comb provide a place for the queen to immediately lay
- The capped honey provides assurance the bees will have resources to raise the brood
- If you still have space in your split box (for example if you are going to go with a 10 frame final split) complete it with frames with foundation
- Need to keep all the brood/larvae/egg containing frames in the split box together and any other frames going into the split to the outside
- Divide any non brood frames equally on each side of the brood
- Commercial beekeepers set their splits up for 10 frame boxes (often 8 frames and a 2 frame internal division board feeder), but this equally works with just 4-5 frames if going into a nuc. i.e. do not need to fill the entire 10 frame box with comb for this to work when going with a nuc split
 - The split box is there for such a short time that the bees handle any extra space fine without building any burr comb
- We close up the hive and let it set overnight, others say letting it sit for 3-4 hours is sufficient
- We pull that "split" box off as a new colony early the next morning--or after the time you think is sufficient
- Pull the excluder and put the old colony back together

What occurs is the nurse bees move up to feed and protect the larvae and eggs, so you get a predominate nurse bee population. After setting the new split, the sealed brood emerges and quickly boosts the population, so you need all stages of brood production to make this work the best--the sealed brood to boost and the unsealed brood to draw the nurse bees up. The queen stays down below the excluder and you don't have to worry about or look for the queen when you set this up (or "queens" --multiple queens in a hive are not unheard of).

- You can introduce the caged queen to the split colony either immediately after pulling off the hive or wait for a period of time for them to realize they are queenless--that period of time starts after you pull the split colony off the old colony
 - Introduce the caged queen just like you would for a package
 - Consensus appears to be an acceptance of 80-90% if placed immediately and up to 95% if wait for them to realize they are queenless for a minimum of a "day"
 - Typically we pull off the split early in the morning and place the caged queen just before dusk that same day, others say wait 1, 2 or 3 days before placing the queen
 - Check back in 3 days after placing the queen and assure the queen has been released
 - If not released by then, release her
 - Others say just let them be and do your first check in a couple of weeks--theory is you can stress a new queen if you go into the hive too soon after she has been released
 - Commercial beekeepers do not check until there is another reason to get into the hive

- The new split should be fed sugar syrup and pollen patties regardless of the time of year
 - We typically feed until they won't take any sugar syrup or we know they are well established and have a least 10 frames of drawn comb

Lots of discussion and opinions on the need to move these splits to a new location to avoid bees from the split returning to the old colony. We don't necessarily move them. With the higher percentage of nurse bees using this method there is less of an issue of field bees drifting. We do move them home when we split our "out" apiaries, but that is more for management purposes. At home we can keep a better eye on them and can monitor their sugar syrup consumption.

Our experience is the young colonies like the smaller space of the nuc and thrive better, so our splits are based on 5 frame nucs. Doesn't take long before we move to a 10 frame box--or what we do more often is put another 5 frame nuc box over the top with foundation and then move this to a 10 frame box setup when that second nuc is 80% drawn.

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