

What to do in March

- We have had a mild early winter and hives checked in Jan. had some brood
- Average brood was on two frames 4 to 6 inch across
- One strong hive was reduced to single box
 - 16 frames of bees in fall, had 2.5 honey supers
 - Now 7 frames of bees
- Two strong hives were moved to bottom hive body
 - 16 frames of bees in fall, 1 box of honey
 - Now 10 plus frames of bees

Bee Yard Behind Barn-checked 1-24

- Bees are using the front the entrance.
- These bees spent the summer in Blanchard and were all last year packages.
- They were treated late early Oct. with Apivar and formic together.
- They had two supers full of honey
- These hives have 16 frames of bees currently.



- Using a wire to remove dead bees in hive is advised. Bees were all over the front entrance on all eight hives.
- Note the moisture and mold on the inner cover which I didn't like as maybe they weren't ventilated good enough.



Inner cover removed

- With the inner cover removed note the amount of bees on the top of the frames this is excellent.
- Note they are closer to the front of the hive.
- I would rate this hive box to have 16 frames of bees.



- Note the bees on the top bars of the bottom box. Again this hive had about 16 frames of bees.
- I removed a honey and outside honey frame and then slice the frames to the middle to see if brood was downstairs.
- No brood but there was some honey downstairs still.



Top Box

- I pulled a honey frame out and slide frames till I got to the middle.
- Note the queen in the middle of the frame toward the top.
- Note the bees are clustered a little tight.
- Brood is under that cluster





Note the nice looking 2019 Queen

Hive Inspection

Prep prior to opening hive

- Starting smoker
- How to apply smoke to the hive prior to opening
 - Lightly smoke top entrance and main entrance and hole in inner cover
- Gently smoke top of frames as you remove the cover and inner cover
 - Bees should duck down between the frames

Opening Hive

- Remove the cover lay the cover behind hive with inside up and smoke the hole in inner cover
- Remove the inner cover lay on ground in front of hive with inside up and smoke the top of the frames to force the bees to duck down between frames

Set your top box on cover

- We are going to need to remove all the frames and clean the frame rests bottom board
- If you have a nuc or empty deep move the frames into that
- Remove an outside frame from the bottom box

Checking Your Hive (when the weather is better)

Top hive body full of bees in a tight cluster on middle frames



Bottom hive body with bees cleaning up frames notice loose cluster. Work your bottom first.



| Bottom Hive Body

Gently remove the frames carefully to keep them in order and clean frame rests and bottom board. Having an extra box is great to hold removed frames

If weather allows you can start moving brood etc from top box to the bottom. Remember keep the brood in order and don't separate it.

Put a honey frame on the outsides and if you have a pollen frame put in next to the honey.



Honey Frame and Pollen Frame



Add rest of brood from top hive body to bottom and make sure there is a honey frame on the outside



Add your last honey frame and then put the rest of the frames in 2nd hive body. Put a frames of honey directly above the brood in bottom hive body.

Brood Frames and Production



Fact: a deep frame is 50 cells high and 90 cells wide or about 3100 cells per side



Fact: Queen can lay about 7000 eggs per week or 1000 per day



lets assume each frame is used about 70% for brood + 2100 cells=2 days for queen to lay a complete frame. When starting a package which = 4 frames or about 10,500 bees/3#.



Mite checking

Conditions

- Temperature-night time 40 degrees or higher
- Activity-Loose cluster with daily flights
- Brood-4-6 inches capped brood two plus frames

Recommended testing procedure

- Alcohol-this method is being taught in all our classes and field days. Gives us the best results.
- If you don't know how stop in one of the bee shops.

Results

- **Positive Test 0-2 ok if 3 or more treat**
- **Negative Test check again 3-4 weeks**

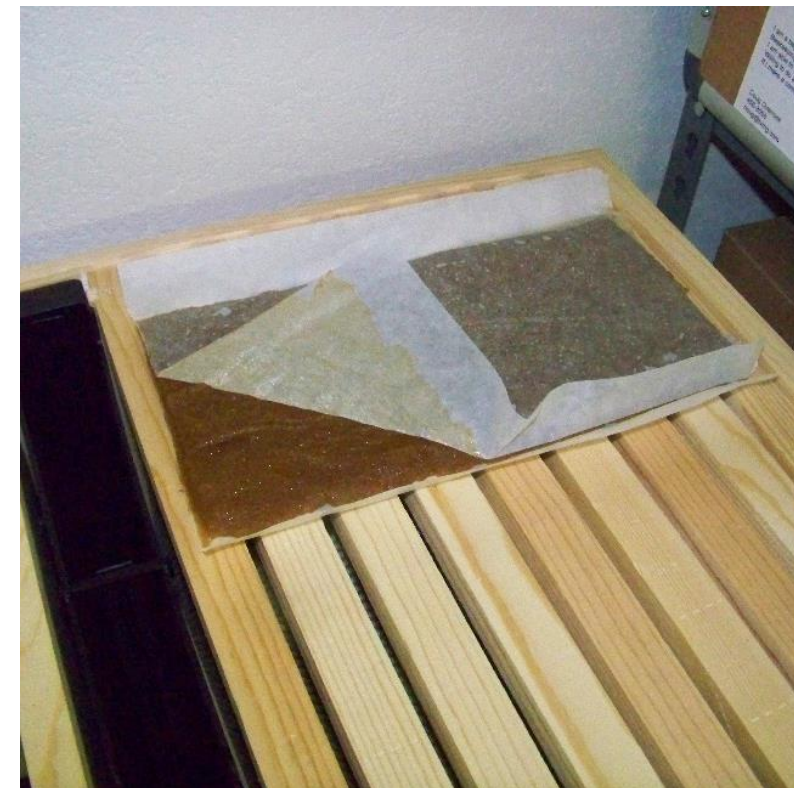


Feeding in the Spring

- How to feed and what to feed are very dependent on weather and hive conditions
 - Night/daytime temps
 - Cluster condition
 - Is cluster 5, 7, 10 frames of bees
 - Honey stores
 - Can move honey next to cluster
- If brood is present what size and where

Feeding

- Entrance Feeder
- Inline or Frame Feeder
- Winter Patties
- Jar feeder on top of frames



SUGAR SYRUP <small>(Sugar: Water)</small>	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
1 : 1 Syrup	YES 1, 2, 3, 5	NO	NO	NO
2 : 1 Syrup	NO	NO	YES 1, 2, 3, 5,7	NO
NON-SYRUP	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Honey 4	YEAR ROUND	YEAR ROUND	YEAR ROUND	YEAR ROUND
Dry Sugar 4	Emergency Feeding	NO	NO	Emergency Feeding
Candy 4	YES	NO	NO	YES
Fondant 4	YES	NO	NO	YES
Sugar Patty 4	YES 6, 8	NO 8	YES 6, 8	YES 6, 8
Pollen Patty 4	YES 6	NO 8	NO	NO

1. Outside temperature must be above 40-45 F for inline feeder use.
2. Remove inline feeders when bees stop taking syrup. Replace with: In spring-empty frame, In fall - fully capped honey frame.
3. Entrance Feeders can be removed at night and replaced with warm syrup in the morning.
4. Be aware of what bee clusters are doing day and night.
5. Moved from feeder into frames for use and storage. Over filling can result in plugging out the queen.
6. Used as needed food source, not moved into frames for stored.
7. To Estimate fall feeding requirements, figure that one gallon of 2:1 syrup will fill one empty drawn frame.
8. During hot months patties will melt and gum up the inside of a hive.