

## **2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #39a**

It is close to the beginning of the official start of the winter season, but winter conditions have already arrived.

This is the Holiday Season to celebrate the beginning of the new year. The temperature here in Raleigh is going to be frigid cold tonight. The TV news for those living in the North indicates they faced something far worst. Ice, snow and cold blowing winds have shut down many communities.

Previous notes have indicated the management techniques beekeepers should have taken to prevent colony losses. Traditionally, new bee schools will be starting in January, and many individuals will begin planning to start keeping bees. I assume that most of you have already been through a winter season or are seeing one for the first time.

I have received some suggestions for topics in the 2026 season. Let me say it is hard to find something to write about especially when some topics need to be repeated for new readers. Bee losses reported to be in the 50% range seems to be realistic. Even the best beekeeper with a 100% survival rate is extremely lucky. The jury is out on the new products sold to control Varroa mites. We find that opinions vary widely in the beekeeping world. Thus, as far as I am concerned, I cannot recommend any product that is the perfect solution to the mite problem. I have attended a number of bee conferences in past years, but one speaker had this to say about bee products. He said as I recall, "I could put grape juice in a bottle and sell it as a cure for mites. 50% would say it worked for them and 50% would say it didn't work."

**I wish all of you a Merry Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!**

**Dana**