

## 2026 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #11a

The weather has been interesting this year. I have been pondering the issue of robbing here in Raleigh. My bees began a few weeks ago when I noticed a few of my mini-nuc mating nucs were being attacked and robbed out. I have some interesting photos to share in the next issue as well as go back to a period of time when American foulbrood was a major issue.

Honey crops vary from year to year, and this year is looking like a bust for me. Thus, I am looking at doing something about mite control that I observed in Ireland two years ago. I have noticed that a few beekeepers are shifting into the thinking that mite populations can be controlled with brood breaks. Since gathering honey has always depended on large bee populations, it seems reasonable that brood breaks done in June and July can show some opportunities to disrupt the mite reproduction cycle.

I would like to hear some feedback on what you have found to be effective controlling varroa mites. Now is the time to start thinking about winter survival. Treating for varroa in September is too late for new bees to build up a healthy winter cluster.

Dana