

Beware April – A lot is going on!



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This is a general presentation to cover beekeeping issues for April.

- **There must be room for expanding the brood nest.**
- **Swarms**
- **Colony increases**
- **Getting Ready for honey flows**
- **Disease and pest control**
- **Feeding bees**



So many options are available to manage bee colonies in the spring!



- **Swarm management**
- **Hive increases**
- **Honey production**

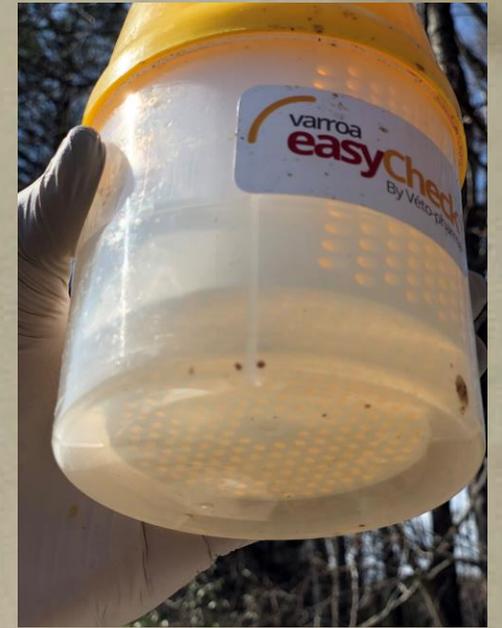
All are based on bee populations – A good queen and large bee populations & colony health!

One of the most important tasks in keeping bees alive is checking mite populations in your colonies.



Various control methods are used but it is important to start early.

One method used to identify mite loads in a colony is a sugar or alcohol shake.





Small Hive Beetles have survived the winter. Now is the time to prevent the damage they can do!

- **Be sure to clean bottom boards where larvae like to develop in the dirt, wax and pollen that drop down to it during winter.**
- **Methods – swifter sheets, traps, and other methods.**



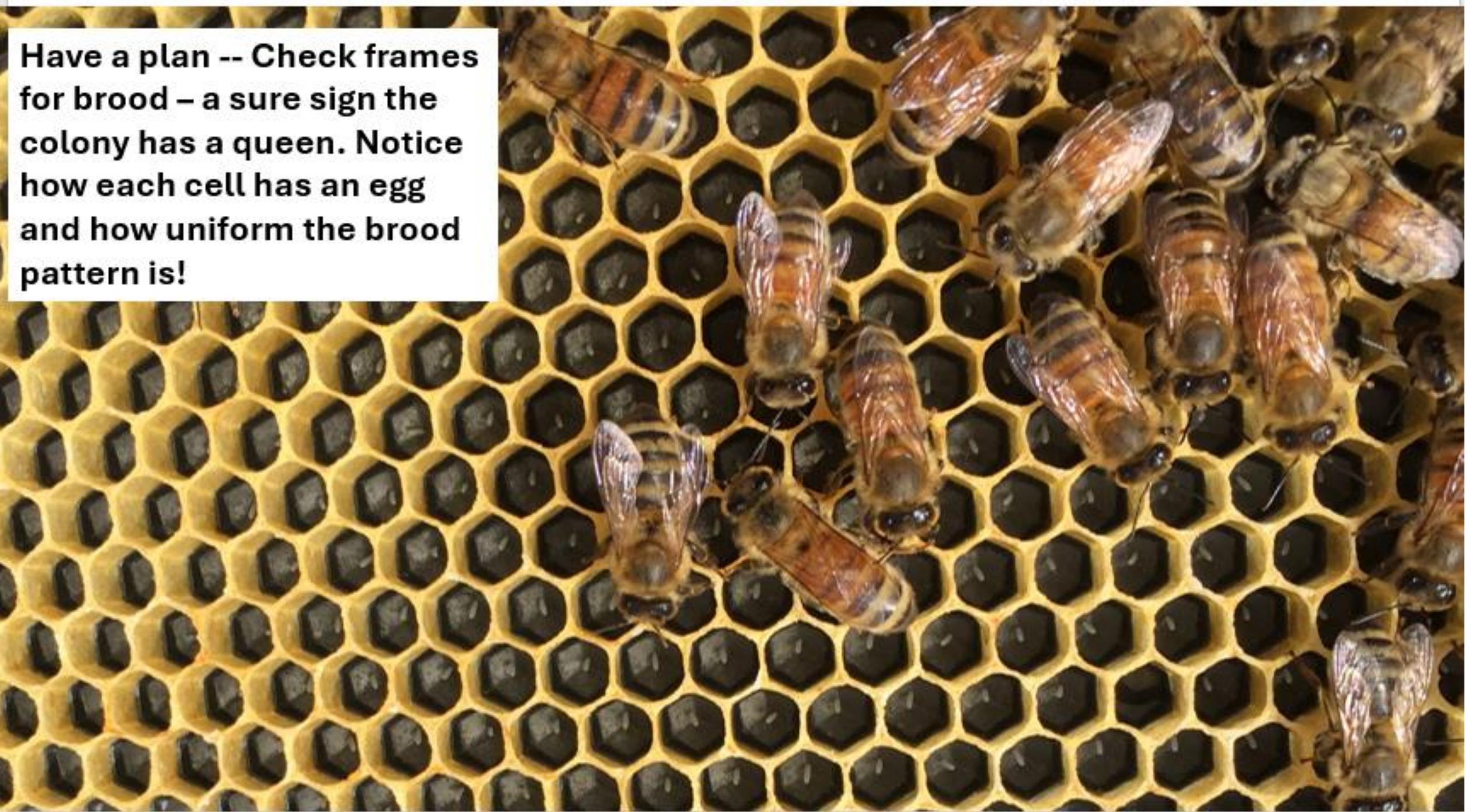
Many overwintered hives die of starvation after making it through winter.

Feeding bees at this time of the year can accomplish two things:

- Save a colony from dying.
- Help a colony build bee populations and draw comb.



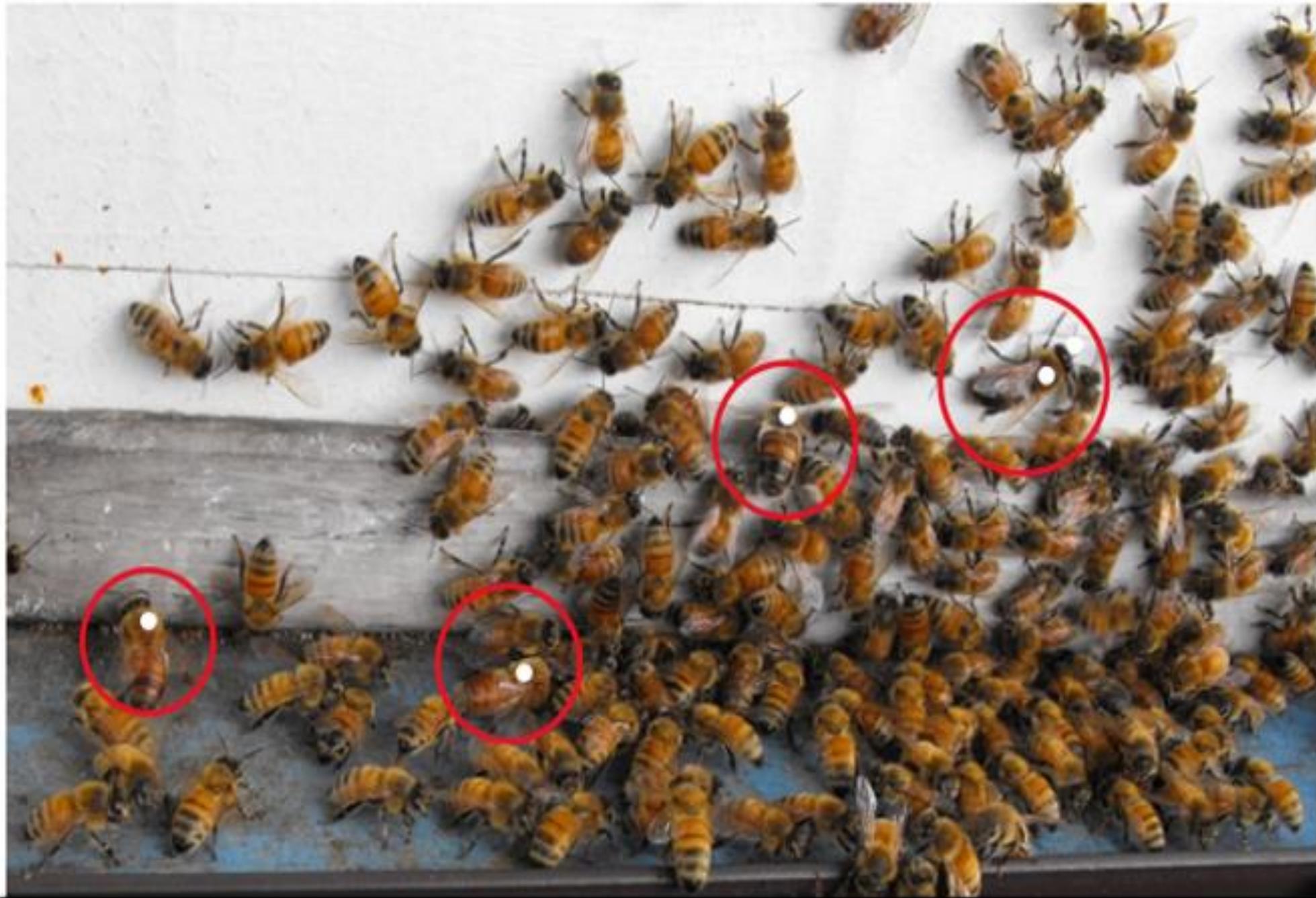
Have a plan -- Check frames for brood – a sure sign the colony has a queen. Notice how each cell has an egg and how uniform the brood pattern is!





Swarming may be around the corner. Is there anything in this picture to indicate that?

If you see drones flying from your hives, that is a clear indication that swarming season has arrived.



Swarming

Swarming is a natural instinct for reproduction.

If a colony swarms, the old queen and a large number of bees leave the hive that produces both good and bad results for beekeepers!





Strong donor colonies are used to make splits

If I have bee resources, I can raise queens, make increases in hive numbers, and get good honey crops.



Strong colonies get honey crops.

Can anyone guess why the top covers have been taken off most of the colonies being inspected?

What is the record for honey produced by one colony?

There are many ways to make hive increases

Colonies with strong bee populations can be referred to as bee resources!

If a beekeeper has resources – a number of things can be accomplished with such hives.

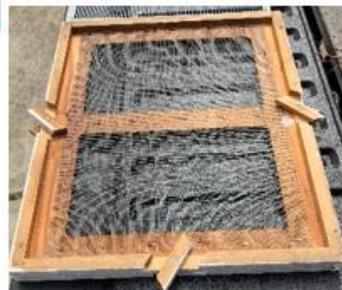
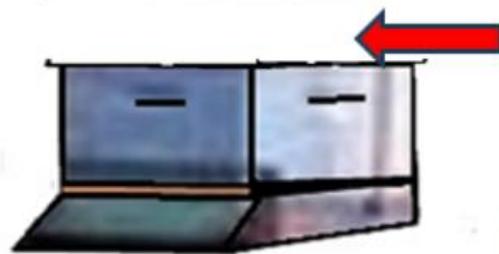
They can be used for honey production, build foundation (as shown here), or make hive increases.

When making hive increases, one must consider equipment availability, honey bee resources, queens, and places to keep them.



A vertical split – is good for those with limited resources.

This is a unique way to make a split. It can also be used to help weak colonies survive!

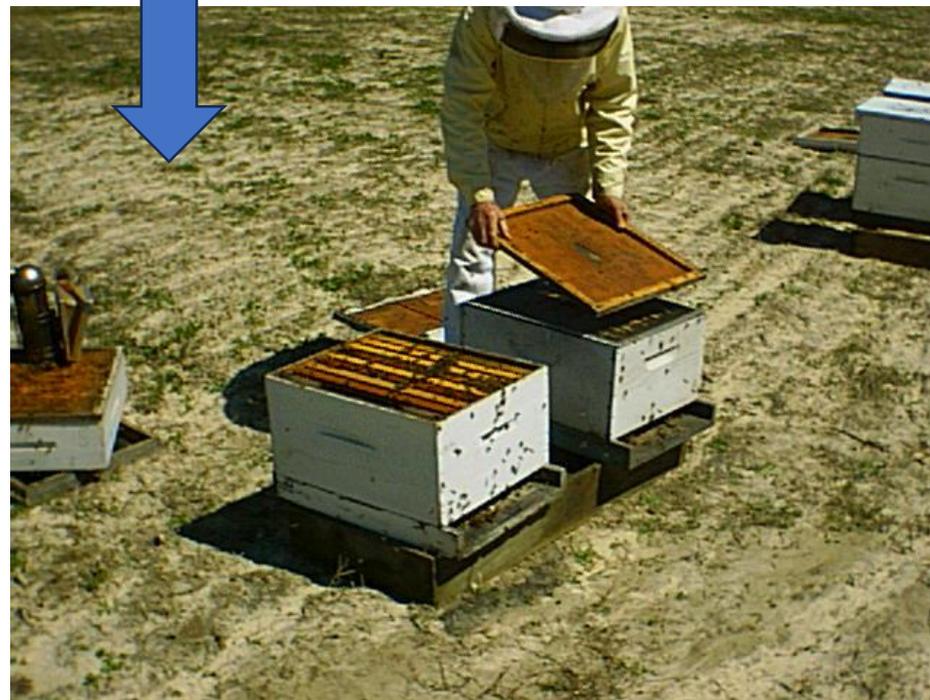


This is a double screen board. This one has three choice for an entrance, most will have a entrance to the back and only one entrance is needed.

Check out the bee catalogs or bee equipment dealer in your area to buy one. They can be made by anyone working with wood. Screened

wire is placed ½ inch or more apart so bees can not touch each other. It separates the two hives from physical contact.

This method uses heat from the hive below to help the hive above maintain the temperature necessary to raise brood. It can be used in many other management decisions such as: making up nucs, raising queens, making splits/hive increases, and even to produce honey as a double queen hive.



This is a common method –

One colony is split to make two hives. Both are going to be weakened in the process but if time allows, they will be strong enough to gather honey if a late season honey flow is available.

Removing frames from a colony of bees is one way to reduce crowding in a colony of bees. Thus, it is a positive thing to opening up the brood chamber to reduce congestion which is a major cause for swarming. Removing several frames with brood does little harm to a strong colony of bees.



One nuc will have a queen and the other 4 can raise queens. Bee populations can be equalized between the nucs before being sold.

In fact, nucs can provide a beekeeper with some return (cash). All these nucs were made up from one strong colony of bees.

That strong hive of bees might be sold for \$350.00.

As nucs it will be 5 x \$180.00 or \$900.00.

The beekeeper keeps all equipment except frames because the bees and frames are transferred to cardboard/disposable boxes and new frames replace the old frames used in the nuc.

This is a method developed by C.C. Miller

Each feeder colony gives up only one frame of brood every 9 days.

They keep their forage bees, house bees, and queen. None of these colonies are over drawn and continue to get stronger during the period

A new strong hive is created!



This is a feeder hive giving up one frame of brood and bees.

Feeder Hive

ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT!

A hive body set up is needed to receive frames from the feeder hives! Each colony gives up only one frame.



This is the new hive

The bottom deep holds the donated frames of bees and brood. Foraging bees will return to find this hive in place of the old hive – thus adding bee population.

One can immediately add a queen excluder and a honey super.

One can either introduce a laying queen to the hive or let them raise a new queen.

This hive is capable of gathering & storing honey immediately even without a laying queen.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT!

The new hive being created can be placed where a strong colony with a large foraging population was located!

Feeder
Hive

Feeder
Hive

Feeder
Hive



This strong hive with a good foraging population is moved.

Why:

A strong hive with a good foraging bee population can be moved and recover the ability to renew the foraging population usually within two weeks. Thus, it remains strong.

The new hive with frames from donor colonies is placed in the location of the moved hive to pick up the foraging population of bees from the moved hive!

Feeder
Hive

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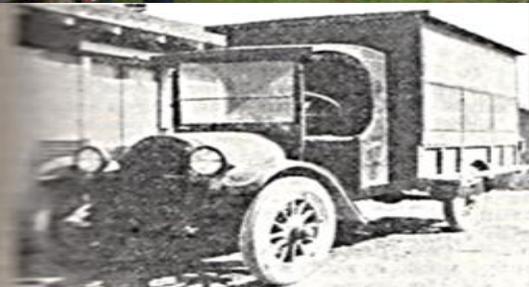
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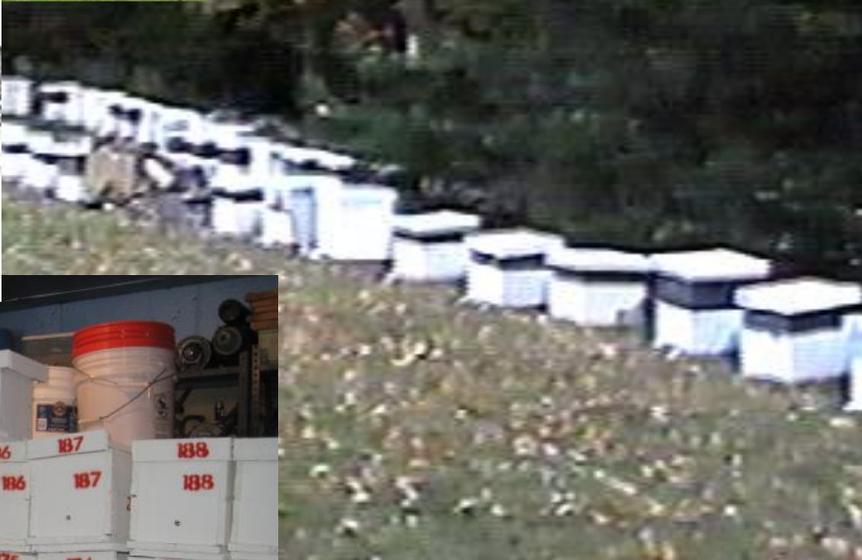
The future of beekeeping is changing for a number of reasons:

1. A number of new pest are arriving to add to the already problems such as viruses.
2. Nectar & Pollen producing land is shrinking due to changing land use - Farming as well as urban spread.
3. Some areas are over populated with honey bees. A fixed area of land will only support a limited number of bees.





Stahman bee truck 1922



OHIO STATE
BEEKEEPERS ASSN.
LIPSTONE GOVERNMENT AWARD
PRESENTED TO
DANA STAHLMAN
MARCH 7, 2009
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO BEEKEEPING. DANA IS AN EAS MASTER BEEKEEPER, OHIO BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR, 1998. DANA HAS SERVED AS AN OSBA OFFICER IN MANY LEVELS SINCE 1997. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE RELOCATION OF THE "OLD ROTHENSCHILDER BEE LAD" FROM THE OSU CAMPUS IN COLUMBUS TO THE OARDC CAMPUS IN WOOSTER. DANA WAS ALSO A LEADER IN ORGANIZING THE OHIO QUEEN PROJECT IN 2007. HE DONATES MANY HOURS OF HIS TIME TEACHING BEEKEEPING SKILLS TO BOTH BEGINNERS AND EXPERIENCED BEEKEEPERS. IT IS THE UNSELFISH GIVING OF HIS TIME AND KNOWLEDGE THAT CONTINUES TO MAKE BEEKEEPING IN OHIO AMONG THE BEST IN THE NATION.

OSBA BEEKEEPERS
EXHIBITOR
SPEAKER