

Summer Management 2nd Year Day 2



Review Spring Management

- Spring Inspections
- Spring Sampling
- Emergency Feeding
- Why Hives Die
- Mite Treatments



Day 2 Agenda

- Swarming Control
- Honey Production
- Requeening
 - Purchased queen or Nuc
- Methods of maintaining status
- Mites, Mites and Mites
- Other Diseases



Why Bees Swarm

- Most Swarming is caused by over crowding in the hive
 - Normally this could be 2 full boxes of bees, 8-12 frames of brood, drones being raised.
 - Drones tend to be an early indicator when they start raising a lot of them and the hive is very crowded. The drones need about 10-15 days after hatching to mate.



Why Bees Swarm

- Hives don't normally swarm until the honey flow starts up and the hive is getting very crowded.
- Once the honey flow starts in earnest and you see honey being dumped in the brood area they are ready.



Beginning Swarm



Video swarms



How to Prevent Swarms

- Its simple don't let your hives get crowded
 - If you are pushing your brood down every couple of weeks starting about mid April you will note when conditions change. Your recording your inspections and your see the frames of bees and brood increase. As the bottom boxes fills with brood 8-10 frames push honey up brood down. Once the queen is laying several frames of brood second box you and you see them store honey add a super or two to relieve over crowding.



How to Prevent Swarms

- Also monitor your hives weight gain or check local web site for weight gain status.
- Remember the first indicator is usually serious drone rearing. If I see this I make a close inspection if I find nectar falling out of the frame supering is required.
- Rule relieve crowding. Inspect hive week after supering.



I Have Queen Cells



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Now What

- Note these cells are on the bottom bar. Swarm cells can be all over.
- This hive is going to swarm. The queen and the hive are primed and your not going to stop it. Removing cells doesn't stop them and you might miss one so you will need to artificially swarm the hive.



Artificially Swarm Hive

- Find your queen and move her, frame and bees to a nuc box. Find a couple other frames of brood and move to nuc box no queen cells. The queen will hold the bees in the nuc box. You have now saved your old hive and if your cells were capped in the old hive you need two wait 8 days for the cell to hatch and 10 days for the queen to start laying.



Artificially Swarm Hive

- Now inspect your old hive going to the frames that had the queen cells. You marked them right.....Better records remember. If the cells are hatched cut all cells and now inspect the hive for eggs. If you find eggs close up the hive and check again in about 10 days. Should have capped brood and lots of eggs and larvae.



Artificially Swarm Hive

- Look for the queen and I like to move the brood down if up after I find the queen. Make sure the brood area isn't filling up with honey because you had little brood rearing going on and the brood hatched. I usually put a honey super on a hive if I'm artificially swarming hoping they will put the honey there.



Has My Hive Swarmed



Has My Hive Swarmed

- Oh yes it has. Note the two queen cells and that the door is missing and the bottom of the cell is eaten away. Signals two queens have hatched and they went off to settle who would be top queen. That is way we gave you the waiting period to check for eggs. In the case you look at your good notes and try to figure how long the queen has been out.



Has My Hive Swarmed

- Make sure you give the queen lots of time to start laying or to at least be mated. Virgin queens love to hive and fly. Once mated they are calmer on the comb. As you can see it is better to avoid swarms as they create lots of problems for inspection and getting them back on track.



Original Swarm

If you capture your swarm what do you do

- Make sure you have the old queen.
- Add frame of pollen and honey if you have them
- Can add new frames swarms like to draw comb
- Give them a couple of drawn frames for them to lay in right away
- Before replacing queen treat for mites (so you don't harm your new queen)
- Replace the queen in early August as you know this queen has been working extra hard

Hive should make enough bees and honey to over-winter



Open comments

- Review of treatments
 - Formic, Apivar, Oxalic acid
- Temperature review
- Review of field day processes
 - 75 field day students

