

Taranaki Beekeeping Club



WHAT'S ON IN TARANAKI

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers. We are having a very difficult season. There has been very little honey available since about January! The cold nights with the couple of days of high cloud and sunshine between showers, did not give the plants an opportunity to start secreting nectar as the soil temperature was low and nectar is a high energy product. The best area in Taranaki was along the South Coast, on the land and country. The Manuka flow was very poor and there will be a shortfall in this desirable product this year. Most Beekeepers will have enough for their needs but as a consequence of the shortage you will be in trouble if you were too generous when you took your honey off. In general in this area you need a full box of capped honey in the top box and two or three frames of capped honey close to the brood nest at this time of the year when you 'Winter Down'. That is if you normally use two supers over winter. Many Beekeepers leave a third box, with the few frames of nectar that the bees are currently processing, as an insurance measure but you are advised to do this only if you have a strong hive as they will have more space to keep warm.

For those of you that started beekeeping this season you may have trouble in keeping your colony fed this winter as a small colony would have had to feed the growing family as well as keeping them warm. Nuclei acquired in Dec. or Jan. would be most at risk. Make sure that they have adequate stores and remember that at all times there should be no less than three frames of capped honey in the colony. You may need to feed them to boost their stores and you should do so now and quickly before it gets really cold at night. Stores should be adjacent to the brood nest for easy access. It is no use having all the stores in the box above the brood nest, the bees will be reluctant to go into the cold to get supplies.

Honey from the club hives was removed at the field day – not as much as expected but we were surprised to see how much more an early swarm had produced. The combination of a young healthy queen and a good environment.

Our next meeting will be on Mon. 16th April in the Plunket Rooms opposite the Warehouse at 6.30 pm. when we will be discussing "Wintering Down", what to do if your colony is short of stores, how to keep your bees happy during the colder months and remember that you must have your Varroa treatment operating now or you may lose your bees entirely.

A reminder that there will be a Honey Competition next meeting - the May one - so start to prepare your entry now. We will have three classes:

- (a) Liquid Honey
- (b) Crystallised honey
- (c) Comb honey

We will tell you what is expected and how to prepare your entry at the coming meeting on Monday.

Adrian.

Next club meeting

Monday 16th April

In the PLUNKET ROOMS

6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket

Third Monday of every month

Beekeeping legal stuff

In New Zealand, all beekeepers and the location of their hives must be registered in accordance with the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998. A national register of beekeepers is maintained byASUREQuality, a government owned commercial company - <http://www.asurequality.com>. The Apiary Register is part of New Zealand's strategy to eliminate American Foul Brood (AFB) in managed bee colonies. There is no cost to register hives, but an AFB Biosecurity Levy based on the number of apiaries and hives held by the beekeeper must be paid each year. In addition, each beekeeper must complete an Annual Disease Return (ADR). A separate annual Certificate of Inspection (COI) showing that each hive was inspected for AFB by an approved person must also be completed and returned. See <http://www.afb.org.nz/> for further details.

To register as a beekeeper, register an apiary or change your details on the Apiary Register, please contact the Apiary Registrar, Margaret Roper, Private Bag 4718, Christchurch. Telephone 03 358 1835 or email roper@agriquality.com.

Things to do this month:

Winter down your hives - check food, Check hives for drainage and mouse guards, replace any rotten wood ware. Worked old frames and broken frame to the outside of the super so they can be replaced in the spring. Check for mites. Strips are best but a sugar shake is quick and gives reasonable results. If in doubt about mite numbers, treat. Attend to long grass, mend fences around apiaries and keep an eye on stored honey supers.



Winter Ventilation of the hive

During the winter the bees still attempt to keep the temperature at around 32° and a bit higher if they have brood on the boil.

To do this they eat the honey from the stores and by violent movement of the wings their collective frictional heat generated keeps the temperature at the required value. Bees also breathe and the combination of heat and breathing causes water vapour that rises from the brood chamber, upwards.

A normal hive would have a 'mat' on top and a 'hive lid' over that. Invariably the lid has a metal covering. As a consequence, the rising vapour encounters a cold space at the top of the hive and condenses.

This causes a stream of water to flow from the top of the hive down the sides only to collect on the bottom. Some of the water condenses into the two outer frames on each side of each box and over the winter a mould grows which virtually destroys the wax of the outer frames.

The mould gives off unhealthy vapours that affect the bees and the water lowers the temperature in the hive, especially if it is very cold outside.

All in all, it can be said that if the hive warm moist air can be vented in some way then the nasty problems can be avoided.

What can be done??

1.

A sheet of polystyrene fitted inside the lid increases the insulation

between the hive mat and the metal lid and substantially re-

duces the generation of water from the vapours.

2.

A hole in the centre of the hive mat allows the moist air to vent into the space above the mat but air becomes trapped under the lid.

3.

If a spacer such as a match stick is placed on each corner of the mat, when the lid is placed on top of the hive (and the sticks) a 'chimney effect' is created so that the moist rising air is assisted upwards and out of the hole in the mat and then vented to the outside of the hive.

4.

An entrance reducer can be fitted to the front of the hive. A cut-out of 7mm high and 100mm wide allows the bees to go in and out but prevents mice from getting in. It also increases the chimney effect and aids the venting.

Doubtless other folk will have opinions different to mine and I invite them to write an article on this topic. One thing to remember is that the location of the hive will have a marked bearing on the need for ventilation. If your hive can be stored inside a protected (from the weather) shed or similar box the need for ventilation may not be necessary.

Hope this helps!

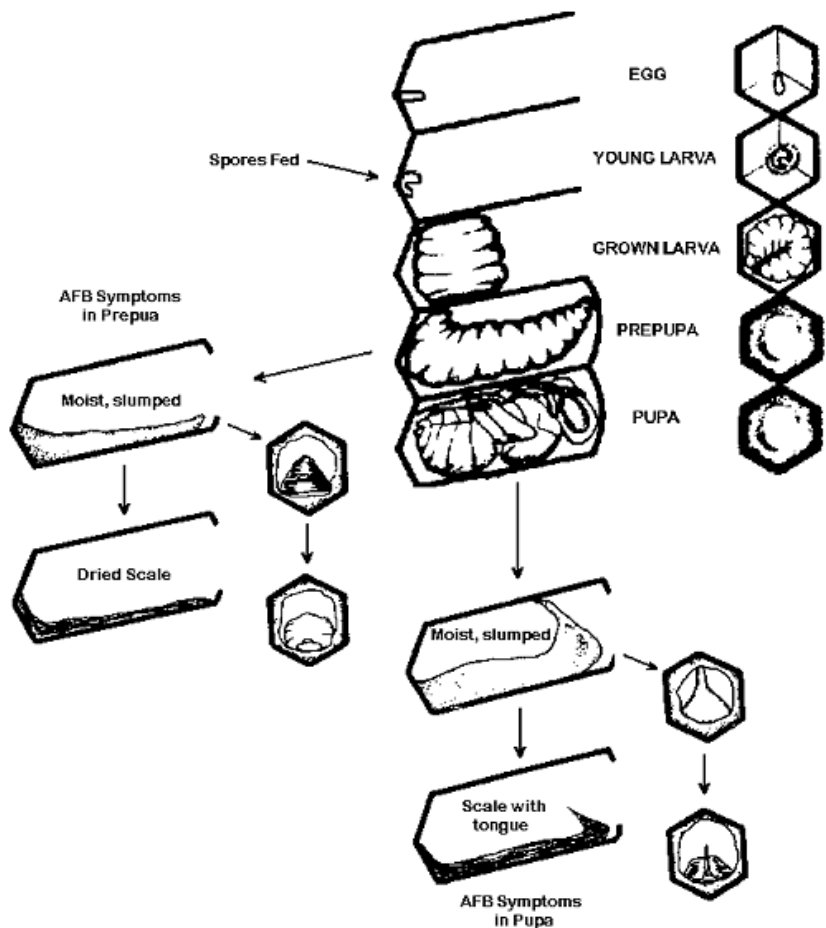
Derek Skinner

2008

Borrowed from Christchurch hobbyist beekeepers' club web site

Development of Brood Infected with American Foulbrood

The developmental stages of worker brood infected with AFB are outlined (see opposite). Larvae are most susceptible to AFB infection when they are less than 24 hours old. Millions of spores are required to infect a larva more than 2 days old, but larvae up to 24 hours old can become infected with ten spores or fewer. Although the AFB vegetative rods multiply in the gut of the larva, they do not penetrate the gut wall and multiply in its tissues until it stretches out before pupation (prepupal stage). Visual disease symptoms do not become apparent until death occurs, either just before or just after the larva pupates. Infected larvae do not usually exhibit disease symptoms until after the cells have been capped. Where uncapped diseased larvae and pupae are found it is usually because the cappings have been removed by house bees.



For more info go to: <http://afb.org.nz/>

Top bar hives: what's the problem?

http://afb.org.nz/images/stories/PDF/top_bar_article.pdf

Dear Beekeepers,

For those who have already completed the survey below we wish to extend our thanks for your efforts. To those yet to respond we would greatly value your input.

Please follow the link below so we can ensure your voice is heard by the association. The NBA would appreciate completion of the survey by April 20, 2012.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2KM3W2K>

The NBA is keen to work more closely with beekeeping clubs around the country to see how the Association can add value to the Clubs' members.

As part of this, the Association has put together a small 'project team' that includes a range of Beekeeping Clubs. We have been working with the NBA secretariat to discuss issues and challenges for the Clubs, and to canvass what the NBA can do to provide Clubs with additional value and benefits.

This whole project has grown out of the concerns some Clubs expressed late last year about the change in subscription levels.

To help the NBA progress this project they've asked us to talk to other Clubs and get their feedback on a range of issues. The NBA Executive will take this feedback on board and, hopefully, it will lead to some positive outcomes for both Clubs and the NBA itself.

To make things easier for Clubs to provide this feedback, the NBA has developed this very brief online survey. If you follow this link, the survey will open on your screen and all you need to do is to tick the relevant boxes.

It shouldn't take more than seven minutes of your time, but it will provide the Association and your local Club with a wealth of very useful information that will benefit you and all other beekeepers.

Thanks in advance for contributing to this survey. We look forward to providing you with a summary of the feedback.

Regards
Pauline

Pauline Downie | Joint CEO | National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand | P: +64 4 471 6254 | www.nba.org.nz



NEED A NEW QUEEN?

I have queens and queen cells for sale
Queens \$30 Cells \$4 each can be picked up
from Adrian's place or Saturday market. Must
be ordered 3 days in advance

Stephen & Fiona
Bees-R-Us
06 752 6860

Beekeeping Supplies

Stephen & Fiona
Bees-R-Us
685 Uruti Road, RD48
Urenui 4378, Taranaki, New Zealand
Tel: +64 (0)6 752 6860
Email: bees@beesrus.co.nz



Club contacts

Adrian King 753 4681 President
Stephen Black 752 6860 Secretary
Sue Billing 751 4337 Treasurer

Beekeeping equipment and supplies.

Serving Taranaki Beekeepers for over 30 years

Ecroyd's authorized Taranaki agent

Ray and Barbara Scott

New Plymouth Honey and Bee Supplies

21 Skinner St

New Plymouth 4310

Ph 06 7515080

Mob 021 1717731

Email; brscottnz@gmail.com

