

THE BEEHIVE

Northwest Ohio Beekeepers

KEEPING LOCAL BEEKEEPERS INFORMED

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Producing Honey Comb

Although beekeepers can't control conditions to maximize honey flows, they can influence dramatically the strength of their colonies. It can't be emphasized too much -- hives should "boil over" with bees! In order to achieve this, some people use the two-queen system; others a single queen. Some run double-brood chambers; others insist that only singles are needed. Some dequeen colonies and give cells or young queens to prevent swarming; others stick with a queen-right system and try to prevent swarming by other means. Most beekeepers reduce double- and triple-brood chambers to singles and doubles, respectively. It's generally agreed that the bees must be crowded in order to "make" them go up into sections. They apparently don't like to work in sections and must be forced to do so.

Crowding, however, produces two management problems -- swarming and pollen storage in the sections. Both are undesirable, and so a balance must somehow be achieved in determining how much room to give a colony which is used for section (comb) honey. This is only acquired through experience.

Timing is extremely important in section (comb) honey production. Bees of field age are a must. That means the queen must be stimulated to lay a maximum number of eggs four to six weeks before the flow. Since the sections are worked from the rear toward the front, supers should be reversed every few days to promote uniform filling. Top supering is recommended by many, but some bottom super. Two supers are added by most at the beginning of the flow; additional ones are put on as each preceding super is one-half to two-thirds full. It's better to err on the side of adding too many at the start of the flow and too few during the latter half. Any error means incomplete sections -- a waste of bee and beekeeper time! Filled and capped sections must not be left on the colony after they are finished. They can become travel-trained and, therefore, unmar-

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Presidents Corner

Hello fellow bee keepers!

Someone had said that this was going to be a normal year for weather...but I do believe that they missed it again! Mother Nature always rules!

This is a reminder that we have a club meeting on May 25th, 7:30 p.m., at the Pandora High School. Bob Parsons is going to talk to us about honey production. It should be very interesting.

Some important dates to remember:

Ladies night out is June 22nd, 6:30 PM, at Henry's Restaurant in Ottawa.

There will be no gathering in July.

Our summer picnic is August 15th, 2:00 PM (we will eat at 4:00) at Ed Ault's.

I hope that everyone's bees are doing well!

Dwight



WANTED: Beekeeper for Magazine Article

(Editor's note: Connie contacted me this week seeking a beekeeper to do an article on. It sounds like a great idea to me and I would do it myself if only my property were more picturesque.)

Hello, My name is Connie and I am scouting stories to be featured in a new magazine called "Living The Country Life" This magazine is published by the Meredith Publishing Group. This is the same publishing company that does "Better Homes & Gardens" and "Successful Farming"

I am interested in featuring a story on BeeKeepers and am hoping someone in your group might be interested. The magazine's only requirement is that you reside on 2-40 acres. I'd like to find someone who keeps bees as a hobby, for honey, medicinal purposes or simply to pollinate your flower gardens. I think we could make a very interesting story on BeeKeeping. The magazine would definitely include pictures with the article, so we'd also need to make sure you had a nice home possibly with some flower gardens.

If you're interested and feel your home might be what were looking for, I'd be happy to talk to you in further detail. Please email me at kcskezar@bnin.net or call me at 574-831-3190

If you would like to find information on the magazine, Living The Country Life, you can find them on the internet at www.livingthecountrylife.com

Thank-You,
Connie



ketable in a short period.

Finally, there is the matter of storing completed sections. Even in strong colonies wax moth eggs are always present. There is no fumigant now labelled which can be used for comb honey. The best alternative is freezing the sections to kill wax moth eggs. To reduce condensation, sections should be sealed in air tight plastic bags while being frozen and during thawing.

In summary, successful section (comb) honey is based on certain principles: 1.Strong colonies "boiling over" with field bees 2.Vigorous honey flows 3.Proper timing A.Stimulating the colony to maximum egg-laying 4 to 6 weeks before the honey flow B.Adding supers as earlier ones are 1/2 to 2/3 filled C.Removing filled supers as soon as they're completed 4.Giving enough room to reduce swarming and pollen storage yet forcing the bees into the sections 5.Proper handling of completed sections to prevent wax moth damage.

Sections (comb) honey production is considered to be one of the highest forms of the beekeeping art -- certainly in the same league with rearing quality queens. It, therefore, requires more work and attention to detail than other management techniques. The end product, though, is well worth the extra effort. The best advice is to start small and increase production as you gain experience.

The shake down method:

One method to produce good sections involves crowding the hive. When the honey flow starts, the queen and sealed brood is moved to a the bottom hive body. A queen excluder is placed over this and the comb honey supers are placed over this. The rest of the brood is removed from the hive and most of the bees are shook out into the hive. The young brood and a few bees can be used to start a split. This leaves the maximum number field bees and a minimum amount of brood space forcing the bees to quickly fill the comb sections. Swarming is minimized using a young queen, only doing the shake down when the flow starts and emerging brood opens a place for the queen to lay.

Recipe Of The Month

Peanut Button Bumble Bees

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1-1/2 cups Graham Cracker Crumbs or finely crushed Honey Grahams
- 1 square Semi-Sweet Baking Chocolate
- Sliced Almonds, toasted



Beat butter, peanut butter and powdered sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add cracker crumbs; mix well. Shape tablespoonful of butter mixture into 1-inch oval to resemble body of bumble bee. Repeat with remaining butter mixture for additional "bees." Melt chocolate as directed on package. Drizzle in lines on top of bees to resemble bees' stripes. Insert almonds into both sides of each body for "wings." Makes 30 bees. Store in the refrigerator for up to 3 days.

Honey-Nut Graham Chews

- 30 Marshmallows
- 1-1/2 cups (3 sticks) butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 20 whole Honey Grahams, coarsely crushed (about 5 cups crumbs)
- 1 cup Honey Roasted Peanuts, chopped

Line 8-inch square pan with foil. Lightly grease foil; set aside. Place marshmallows, butter and honey in

large saucepan; cook on medium heat until mixture comes to boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Add vanilla, crumbs and peanuts; mix well. Press mixture into prepared pan. Cover; refrigerate at least 2 hours. Cut into 1-inch squares. Store in airtight container



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Membership is open to anyone interested in bee culture. Dues are \$6 per calendar year. This is a family membership. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings. Members are encouraged to submit articles to the editor for publishing.

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Pandora School, Pandora, Ohio. Time 7:30 p.m. Field trips and or picnic in June, July and August as announced in "The Beehive". No Meeting in December

The Associations' book and video library is free to be used by all members. Materials may be withdrawn from the librarian at the meeting and are to be returned at the next meeting.

"The Beehive", serving Northwest Ohio, is the official publication of the Northwest Ohio Beekeepers Association.

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