

# Beekeeping Notes Issue 37a

I finally was able to work in the bee yards this week. The job now is to check each hive for brood and disease. I still have honey supers on my hives and I can fortunately say the hives I have in Franklin County have a good amount of surplus honey for the bees to over winter on. In fact, I took two samples of pollen the bees were bringing into the hive this morning. I will try to determine where they are getting the pollen. Goldenrod plants are in bloom but the major flow is still several weeks away. One really knows when bees work goldenrod (the distinctive smell may be mistaken for a rotting dead animal nearby.)

I have no hive beetle problems and I am still trying to determine the mite treatment I will use once the honey crop season is over. I do not have a heavy mite load detected but my bees do have some mites. I used Formic Pro early this spring (I think with good results). I have plans to use Oxalic acid when there is no brood in my hives -- most likely November. I am thinking about treating with another product -- I still have some Formic Pro available, but most likely will use it on a group of hives and then another product on the rest. I can then compare the result of the treatments.

I would be interested if any of you have some experiences to share with me. (Good as well as bad). Summer will hang around for several more weeks and then we will get into fall beekeeping management topics. For me, the thought of Fall is special. I can finally work in comfort in the bee yard. I have reduced the number of hives in my bee yards -- hives I have are loaded with bees. In fact, this morning, I shook a 2 pound package of bees for a student I am mentoring. He is experimenting (I really like this) with trying to raise a queen this late in the season. Often based on past experiences, I "poo hoo" something like this but why not have fun. The experiment with good results or bad results will contribute to a learning experience. I just wanted to give the hive with five frames of brood including some uncapped emergency queen cells, a good population of bees and some frames to draw out 'a boost'. The hive is located on a patch of blooming buckwheat. Normally package bees are introduced to a hive in the spring during the natural growth of bee populations. Now is a time the bees reduce bee populations. I have some hives overflowing with bees. Why not share some of those bees with a weak hive.

I think the time to make splits is long past, but this will be interesting for both my "Bee Buddy" and myself. There are still plenty of drones around to mate with a new virgin queen. My student is really into giving time and effort to see the bees survive. Rather than disappointment, my student knows the odds are against the success of this experiment but who am I to discourage the effort.

We need more "thinking young!"

Dana