

Beekeeping Insights #47 email notes

This has been a very interesting week -- Weather has dropped into frost/freezing over night. I have read some of the bee blogs about "over crowding of bees". Seems like someone brought some bees into an area a local beekeeper kept a large number of hives for gathering honey. I see over crowding becoming a real problem among hobby beekeepers. It is not going to be long before we as beekeepers will begin to become more familiar with American Foulbrood because it is spread quickly by an already infected hive that may be near-by. I read an article about a commercial beekeeper from an old copy of American Bee Journal complaining about getting red honey. Seems he could not discover the location of any honey plants in his search of what might be producing red honey. It turned out that another commercial beekeeper was open feeding his bees with broken candy canes set out in 50 gal. drums. Thus, the first beekeeper had a honey crop adulterated by nothing more than sugar used to make the candy canes and the dye used to make red stripes on the canes. He was unable to sell his honey crop. I do not remember how that problem was resolved. But it was reported in the bee journals of that time.

I also remember a discussion I had with a fellow by the name of Tyce living in Georgia. I was looking for a place to keep my bees. I was from Ohio. Tyce informed me that I was not welcome and to look for another location. He indicated that bees from Ohio have a problem surviving in wrong locations in Georgia. He said, he knew of someone who brought bees down, dropped them off, and went back to New York. Seems that while the guy was home -- back in New York -- someone set fire to his bees. When he returned all he had left were nails. Some beekeeper's have strong territorial feelings.

Dana