

Beekeeping Insights #51 email notes

Time flies they say. There will be one more beekeeping note coming yet this year. We will continue to send notes on beekeeping out in 2022. It is enjoyable to be able to continue writing these articles. My 83rd birthday just came and went like a blink of the eye. My wife, Judi, helps me to a great extent -- she checks the material I write -- I often take too much for granted and she points out what is not clear to her.

I am facing the same challenges many of you are facing. My bee losses this year have been high. Replacing dead out hives in this year in particular is going to be hitting your pocket- book rather hard. Lumber prices have gone thru the ceiling. It has always been easier to buy bee boxes and frames than build them yourself. It is even more important to buy standard equipment than build your own. Resale value of used bee equipment has remained fairly steady. I read and watch the commercial beekeeping web post and the price of honey has only slightly been affected by the problem of shipping honey into the U.S. Prices for hives is high right now because many large beekeeping operations have moved bees south to be ready for the Almond pollination in California. After Almond pollination prices usually drop. I am also noticing some post in bee blogs about the quality of bee boxes being produce by some of the larger bee supply companies. If you purchase bee boxes that do not fit together properly, make sure you let the supplier know and share the response with fellow beekeepers on how the company handled your complaint.

Queens are usually available earlier from those queen breeders in Hawaii. At this time most have not posted prices for queens. But in talking to those who are producing queens and selling packages, the price is going up.