

2022 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #18a

Good bye April, Hello May

In trying to keep notes timely, I have been aware that the subject of beekeeping varies from one just beginning to those that have kept bees for some time and many of you are new to beekeeping. I am currently mentoring three very interesting new beekeepers. They have bought bees from different vendors and I am concerned that some vendors are more interested in making money than helping beekeepers.

It is obvious to me that there is no standard for what a nucleus colony should be. I am not sure if bee schools are making attempt to discuss and teach the subject in detail other than teaching that a nucleus hive gives students an advantage over package bees. I am seeing nucleus hive being sold with obviously poorly mated queens raised by allowing bees to raise their own queens (emergency response to being queen-less). Queen failure in a nucleus hive is a big issue. I have that issue going on right now with one beekeeper I am mentoring. Rather than a hive with a laying queen, the hive had almost no brood and a young queen laying poorly. That queen had to be replaced. The new beekeeper was depending on getting a faster start because that was taught in bee school.

Well, I will get off my soap box.

May is honey getting month in many regions. We have a good honey flow with Tulip Poplar in the Raleigh area. In fact, some beekeepers are harvesting the early honey which is capped over at this time. Blackberries are in bloom as well as clover. Fields are being prepared for crops here. As one drives thru the countryside, observe what you see. I learned a long time ago that bee located just two miles from each other had different results - one producing a great honey crop and the other not nearly as much. Bee books have used the term (Location). Some locations are better than other locations.

More on honey getting in up coming issues!

Dana