

Beekeeping Insights #43 Email notes

Can you believe it is October 16. Where has the year gone?

The weather is a factor one must consider when feeding. As days grow shorter the temperatures are also falling. This coming week looks like some will find daytime temperatures in the 60 to 40 degree range which will allow for bee flight. One can still do hive examinations/inspections in most areas where bee work can be done. But time is running out. I just looked at a calendar for December which says that no hive work is recommended. I am sure that there will be some days when hives can be opened (not necessarily to pull frames) during the winter season. But if you have light hives -- no honey stores -- it is now time feed. Feeding has been a reoccurring topic when I talk about bees. It gets rather hard to come up with something to add to the topic. New beekeepers are facing their first winter and such topics as type of feeders is important. Eventually a beekeeper finds a way to feed that serves the bees well and the choice of feeders is narrowed down to a favorite method. It is not for me to tell you what is best! I like to present several choices and provide information one might find useful.

I do appreciate the email I get from those of you who read these notes. The feedback is always appreciated. If you have questions or comments, I will always try to answer and respond. Many clubs are now carrying these notes and individuals reading them are not on the mailing list. For all of you, you are welcome to ask questions!

Dana,

I kept bees in Buncombe county and the county north. Very hard beekeeping in the mountains. Constantly changing conditions, and most of the honey flow happens in a short period when the trees bloom. And flow is immense. Strong hives will fill a super a day. Keeping bees healthy for the whole year for the short flow is challenging. Keeping them from swarming on those flows is challenging, especially when the supers stack so high. The goldenrod there doesn't provide nearly the resources as our Midwestern fall flows. Sourwood is boom or a bust, seems a bust most years recently. I think they did well this year. I have a few bee friends over there if you'd like to be connected.

Happy fall,

Chris