

## **2023 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #7a**

I am looking at the weather forecast. Next week looks good for some bee work!

I started keeping bees in the before (Before Mites) era. In that era we had a major disease called AFB (American Foulbrood Brood). That disease is still a problem but because of the state's inspection programs, it is at the level that many beekeepers have no idea of what it means to have a hive with AFB. I now am seeing some publicity about research that may lead to getting rid of AFB by creating queens that produce bees that are not only resistant to the disease but immune to AFB. In my early days the best solution to AFB was to burn the hive and bees. It is the reason some states ban the import of hives with comb and bees from their states.

When the weather allows, do a mite count to find out if your bees are facing the prospect of dying under your watchful eyes. I am not a Varroa mite expert. But I do know that the greatest challenge to keeping my bees alive is to do something about Varroa mites.