
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION

N



NEWS

VOL 16 ISSUE 5

AUG / SEP 2002

1902 - 2002 100 Years of Beekeeping in New Jersey

Discretion of Pesticides license for beekeepers until Nov 2003

Dr. Medhat Nasr

Extension Specialist in Apiculture, Blueberry-Cranberry Research and Extension Center, Rutgers University, Chatsworth, NJ

Early this year, the use of CheckMite (Coumaphos) has become restricted. This means that beekeepers have to have a pesticides' applicator license. Due to the short time to take the necessary exams and the urgent use of Coumaphos in bee colonies for controlling varroa mites, I contacted the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). I made a request to meet to discuss the use of Coumaphos this fall in apiaries owned by beekeepers who did not get the license. The NJ DEP had an internal meeting under the Chief of Bureau of Pesticide Compliance, Mr. John Orrok. He informed me with the following:

1. The NJDEP will use enforcement discretion regarding the use of coumaphos (since it is a state-restricted pesticide, not federally restricted) and temporarily allow beekeepers to use it without a license. This discretion will last until November 19, 2003, at which time all private applicators will need a license regardless of whether the

pesticide is general use or restricted use (as stated in the rules at N.J.A.C. 7:30-8.1). People having trouble passing the exam should consider a core exam-training course before taking the test again. But in any case, there will be no extension of the November 19, 2003 deadline, so all interested parties should prepare and take the private applicator exam before then.

2. The private applicator exam is largely based on core material, the basic safety and importance of the pesticide label, etc., and topics that would benefit all private applicators. Beekeepers may not see specific examples of their type of work in the study materials or in the test questions because the private applicator exam is the core and private category tied together in one test, for all types of agricultural applications (thus the need to keep it general). It may be possible at some point in the future to develop specific "categories" for private applicators (including a category that has specific material regarding beekeepers),

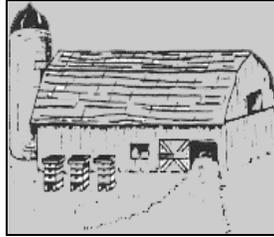
but for the foreseeable future we will administer a more general "one size fits all" test.

I brought these news to the NJBA executives. There were signs of relief. Now, you can continue using

Coumaphos as needed for controlling varroa mites. Meanwhile, I urge you to prepare yourselves to take the exam and get your license before November 19, 2003.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As we move from the Spring honey flow into the dry summer months, beekeepers often take this time to catch their breath and prepare for the late summer and fall months. One great way to take a break, meet old friends and spend an enjoyable day with fellow beekeepers is to attend the NJBA Summer Picnic. Don't forget the beekeeping equipment auction, this is a great opportunity to sell unwanted equipment, or buy needed equipment at great prices. I look forward to seeing you all at the picnic.

The response so far for the 2-Day 100th Anniversary Conference in October has been lower than hoped for. If you plan to attend the conference, please mail in your registration form early so we can better estimate the attendance. The upcoming NJBA picnic is also a great time to turn in your registration form. The 100th Anniversary Committee has worked hard on this event, and it will only be a success if NJBA members support the conference with their attendance. Please also help by spreading the word about the conference to anyone interested in attending.

I am happy to announce that Ed Kozenski volunteered for the position of Secretary, and 2nd Vice President, and Landi Simone volunteered for the position of Treasurer. These members were appointed at the recent NJBA Executive meeting held on June 21st, and the appointments were approved by the NJBA executive board. Thanks Ed and Landi for your time and efforts.

See you at the Picnic,

David

EDITOR'S NOTES

As we approach the time of the year in which most beekeepers treat their colonies, (after robbing them from the

fruits of their labor...) I like to spread a word of caution. The days of "dust this or that, and forget about it" are over. For the ones of you that consider tough chemicals like coumaphos (Check Mite+), you have to worry about resistant mites, residue level in comb wax and honey on top of the fact that the organophosphate (related to nerve gas) has a skin absorption rate in mammals 20 times higher than fluvalinate, a synthetic pyrethroid (Apistan). So if you dare using it, follow the directions carefully, not just retrieving the strips 42 to 46 days after application, but also using protective equipment and disposing of the used strips properly. For the ones betting on alternating treatments with Apistan, unforeseen interactions between coumaphos and fluvalinate are forecast by some. If considering more benign treatments like Api Life Var, a mix of essential oils that will probably soon be approved by EPA and sold by Brushy Mountain, you will have to worry about effectiveness and even though it's a good bet that the oils are safer than coumaphos and fluvalinate, I have read reports of certain oils affecting honey in both taste and yield. And all this is only to deal with the varroa mites. Some terramycin resistant AFB is already a reality, though tracheal mites still seem to succumb after menthol treatment if the daytime temperature during 25 consecutive days of treatment holds between 60 and 80 F.

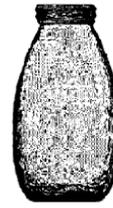
My point is that today, beekeeping is not only as fascinating as it always was, but also a serious challenge, and no easy to follow recipes are available. Research is needed, not only at the scientists' level but at the beekeeper's level as well, for us to approach the health of our hives in a informed, responsible and effective way.

Alejandro Berlin

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The Big 100

As I sit here getting myself mentally ready to start pulling honey, I realize how far into this year we really are. This year, 2002, is half gone already.

My point is that we at the NJBA are also fast approaching the end of our 100th anniversary year.

I would ask that each and everyone do the anniversary committee and myself a BIG favor and think about these two events.

First, is the picnic, July 27th. It is very important that you let me know (Bob Hughes (609 585-4359) how many are attending. Please do this ASAP as there is a lot of food planning that has to take place.

Second is our two day (October 4-5th) at the Ramada Inn in Hightstown. Please make your reservation with Dan Kurela (908 637-6644) ASAP. Forms are also available in your newsletter. There are lots of details to be worked out depending on reservations received.

As I said in the beginning, time is moving quickly. These events will soon be here and gone. Hope to see all of you at both events.

Thanks

Bob Hughes

Treatments for Varroa Mites in Honey Bee Colonies

Dr. Medhat Nasr. Extension Specialist in Apiculture, Blueberry-Cranberry Research and Extension Center, Rutgers University, Chatsworth, NJ

This spring, we found varroa resistant to CheckMite (Coumaphos) in New Jersey. Most of the varroa resistant mites were in migratory beekeepers' operations. In a limited survey, Coumaphos resistant mites were also found in bees that were wintered in NJ. This finding showed that the resistance has been spreading around from mite infested bees or developing in NJ resident colonies. Therefore, it is very important to monitor the varroa mite population in bee colonies. One of the following methods can be used for varroa detection: **1. Check capped drone brood cells:** when examining colonies use uncapping fork to remove capped pupae (preferably drones) and check for the presence of varroa, **2. Ether roll test:** place 200-300 worker bees from brood combs in a Mason jar. Kill with ether, roll the jar, and then check on the sides of the jar for varroa, **3. Sugar shake test:** place 200-300 worker bees from brood combs in a Mason jar with a lid that has screen. Add 1-2 tea spoons of icing sugar. Shake the jar few times. Turn the jar upside down and shake the jar on a white surface, and then check the icing sugar for varroa, and **4. Natural mite fall:** make sticky boards (8"x11") or large sticky board to cover the bottom board using sticky stuff (e.g. Tanglefoot) or a mix of 50% Vaseline and 50% Crisco shortening. Cover the sticky board with 8x8 mesh screen. Place the sticky board under the frames on the bottom board for 24 hours. Take out the sticky boards after 24 hrs. and examine them for varroa.

Varroa can be found in bee colonies most of the year. When the number of mites is 5 or more in the ether roll test or the sugar shake test or on the 8 x11" sticky board (= 25-50 mites on the large sticky board), beekeepers should treat their bee colonies. Due to the finding of Coumaphos resistant mites, it is recommended to use Apistan. In operations where Coumaphos was used for only one year, beekeepers can apply the Coumaphos. It has become important to monitor the varroa population during and after the treatment. After the treatment, bee colonies should be re-examined for varroa presence to make sure the applied treatment killed the mites.



Beehives Evaluation Report

Recently Alex Berlin and I were asked to evaluate about 2000 honey bee colonies used for cranberry pollination.

On the positive side, about 83% of the colonies had good bee populations. We saw operations of strong and healthy bee colonies, some with nearly perfect scores in our evaluation, which proves the benefit of sound management and maintenance.

However we were very disappointed with the other 17%. We found small hive beetle, chalkbrood and roaches in many colonies. We found coumaphos strips left in colonies that should not have been there during honey production, as well as evidence of applications of chemicals not registered for use in the USA, probably Amitraz.

We saw about 500 colonies with equipment in such bad shape that would not even qualify as junk. Shallow supers with no foundation, mice nests, old feeders full of comb, rotten hives with bees coming out from all over, front, back, sides, tops and bottoms. We saw whole operations with hives that had bottom boards made of pressure treated wood still bearing the warning labels that read: "Caution: Arsenic is in the Pesticide applied to this wood.... Do not use treated wood for mulch, cutting boards, counter tops, beehives, animal bedding or structures or containers for storing animal feed or human food...." And we also found colonies infested with American Foulbrood, some dead, being robbed by other colonies. Some of these, that appeared to have died some time ago, came to New Jersey from other states.

The need for a full time Apiary Inspection Program is certainly very apparent. Diseased bees should not be allowed to be moved across state lines. It's not fair to the beekeeping industry in New Jersey.

Jake Matthenius

Retired NJ Apiary Inspector

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Resistance to Check Mite Plus Found

From "*Brushy Mountain Bee Line*"

Lawrence Cutts, Chief Apiary Inspector for the State of Florida reports Varroa Mite resistance to Coumaphos, the active ingredient of Check Mite Plus.

Resistance was first found in a commercial apiary in Maine. This beekeeper also has colonies in Florida and when the Varroa Mites from these colonies were tested they also showed resistance. Mr. Cutts thinks that the resistant Varroa Mites were picked up in some state other than Florida and concludes that these resistant mites are probably widespread all across the United States or will soon be due to the nature of commercial beekeeping in the US. In Florida, four commercial operations were tested and all reported positive to resistance at a 50% level.

Once again the problems seem to come from the unlawful application of the active ingredient by commercial beekeepers.

When the tolerance level was set for Coumaphos by the EPA in honey it was set a 10 times the residue level which occurred in a worse case scenario during honey production in tests done in Florida. This tolerance level was set at <35 parts per billion.

Unfortunately samples were taken from a commercial beekeeper and found to contain 3500 parts per billion, which proves the improper application of the active ingredient.

This adds to all the other problems we are experiencing and now we need more than ever another tool to deal with this terrible problem we are facing.

On swarms and splits...

I bet many of you got swarms or made splits this crazy spring. My bee yard grew from the two colonies I got from S&F Honey Farm last year to the six I have now.

In most cases, new colonies are started on frames of new foundation. Some might develop fast, while others might still be drawing comb in the first or second deep super, which will have to be full of honey before the winter arrives, for the colony to have a good chance of surviving the cold season. But before that, the bees need to draw the comb, and they will stop drawing comb once the nectar flow is over. That's why you should consider to keep feeding 1:1 sugar syrup until September or so. That might take about 20 to 30 pounds of sugar per colony, (and about \$10) plus a few trips to the yard. If there is enough natural nectar for the bees to gather, they will let you know by not taking so much sugar syrup, though they will still take some on rainy days and nights.

This way even if the nectar flow were to dry out in the later part of the summer, your brand new colonies will be ready to fill up the newly drawn foundation with nectar from goldenrods and asters in the fall.

Of course, do not feed sugar syrup if you are ready to set honey supers on your hives. I believe that will amount to diluting the honey with sugar syrup, which is called adulteration, and is probably prohibited by law, at least if you intend to sell it.

Alejandro Berlin



Robert Simonofsky, President of the NWNJ Branch, displays a piece of comb with bees after skillfully cutting through the ceiling of someone's home to remove it. I guess they were not paying rent...

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Jersey Queens available

Grant Stiles has begun a breeding program for local Jersey queens. The stock has survived two years in NJ with no mite treatment other than formic acid, and Grant says the parent colonies are really booming. These bees are adapted to our local conditions. They have been tested and found free of tracheal mites and nosema disease, both of which have been a serious problem for many of the southern queen breeders some of us still buy from. The price is \$10.00 per queen. Grant's place is around Fords, NJ, where queens can be picked up. Mailing them might also be arranged. His number is (732) 661-0700.

Honey bee tracheal mite

The honey bee tracheal mite, *Acarapis woodi*, or acariosis as the disease is known in Europe, afflicts only adult honey bees. The parasite was first described in 1921 in bees in Great Britain. This discovery and concern over the potential impact that this mite would have on beekeeping in the United States led to the enactment of the Honeybee Act of 1922, which restricted the importation of honey bees from countries where this mite was known to exist.

When over 30 percent of the bees in a colony become parasitized by *A. woodi*, honey production may be reduced and the likelihood of winter survival decreases with a corresponding increase in infestation. Individual bees are believed to die because of the disruption to respiration due to the mites clogging the tracheae, the damage caused by the mites to the integrity of the tracheae, microorganisms entering the hemolymph (blood) through the damaged

tracheae, and from the loss of hemolymph.

The tracheal mite has now been reported on every continent except Australia. Initial detections of *A. woodi* were reported in Brazil in 1974, in Mexico in 1980, and in Texas in 1984. The mites are transmitted bee to bee within a colony by queens, drones and workers. In addition, the movement of package bees and queens, as well as established colonies, has resulted in the dissemination of this mite throughout much of the United States.

One of the first problems that became apparent when the tracheal mite was detected in the United States was the lack of agreement on their economic impact. The literature from Europe did not always agree and beekeepers, research scientists and regulatory officials had differing opinions on the interpretation of the data. However, it soon became evident that the mites were having a serious impact on beekeeping and spreading faster than predicted. The level of infestation within colonies was higher than expected. It is apparent that the tracheal mite found an extremely susceptible honey bee host in the United States.

The population of *A. woodi* in a colony may vary seasonally. During the period of maximum bee population, the percentage of bees with mites is reduced. The likelihood of detecting tracheal mites is highest in the fall and winter. No one symptom characterizes this disease; an affected bee could have disjointed wings and be unable to fly, or have a distended abdomen, or both. Absence of these symptoms does not necessarily imply freedom from mites. Positive diagnosis can only be made by microscopic examination of the tracheae; since only *A. woodi* is found in the bee tracheae, this is an important diagnostic feature.

In sampling for *A. woodi*, collect moribund bees that may be crawling near the hive entrance or bees at the entrance as they are leaving or

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returning to the hive. These bees should be placed in 70% ethyl or methyl alcohol as they are collected. Bees that have been dead for an indeterminate period are less than ideal for tracheal mite diagnosis.

Menthol is the only material that is currently approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the control of these mites in the United States. Beekeepers can minimize the impact of tracheal mites by intensive management practices to maintain populous colonies and by using menthol.

Directions for Using Menthol: Colonies can be treated with menthol when there is no heavy nectar flow and daytime temperatures are expected to reach at least 60 F. The best time being in the spring when the weather is warm, and in the late summer or fall of the year immediately after removing the surplus honey.

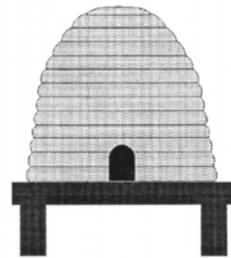
Fifty grams (1.8 ounce) of crystalline menthol should be enclosed in a 7" x 7" plastic screen bag or equally porous material and placed inside a colony for 20-25 days. Menthol placed on the top bars is the preferred method of treatment provided the daytime temperature does not exceed 80 degrees F. During hot weather, the menthol should be placed on the bottom board of the colony. There should be no honey supers on the hive during the treatment, and the menthol should be taken out of a colony at least one month before any anticipated flow. Before using menthol, read and follow the approved label carefully.

Article from Beltsville Agricultural Research Center web site:

www.barc.usda.gov/psi/brl/mission.htm

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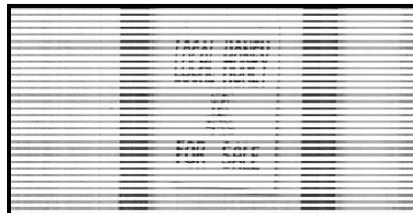


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Essex, Joe Lelinho (973) 228-4806

Fellow Beekeepers: If the public calls you about honey bees living within the walls of their homes please refer my phone number to them. Robert: (908) 730-0830 Or pager (908) 707-7894. After the beeps enter your number followed by the # sign.

Beekeeping In The 21st Century

October 4th & 5th, 2002

Ramada Inn, Hightstown, NJ

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association by attending our two day educational and celebration event.

Friday: All Day Workshops with a special workshop on honey bee queens

Friday Evening: NJBA Business Meeting & Social Hour

Guest Speakers: **Dr. Dewey Caron** (Delaware University);

Dr. John Skinner (Tennessee University);

Ms. Susan Cobey (Ohio State University);

Mr. Tony Jadczyk Maine State Apiarist, Maine Dept. of Ag;

Dr. Sridhar Polavarapu (Rutgers University);

Dr. Mark Feldlaufer (USDA-Bee Laboratory, MD); and

Dr. Medhat Nasr (Rutgers University)

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Make check out to: NJBA and mail to:

Dan Kurela, 43 Quenby Mountain Road, Great Meadows NJ 07838

For Additional Information:

Bob Hughes 609.585.4359

David Wasitowski 908.806.7611 dwasitowski@yahoo.com

NJBA MEETING DATES

July 27, Auction, party & pig roast. \$12 for adults, \$9 for 6 to 12's. At the Hughes. For reservations call Bob at: (609) 585-4359
Oct. 4 & 5, 100th Anniversary Event in Highstown, NJ. More on registration form on page 13

BRANCH MEETING DATES

CENTRAL JERSEY

Nov. 30, Christmas Party

MORRIS COUNTY

July 26, 27, 28, 4H Fair, Chubb Park, Chester
Sep. 21, 10 AM. Hive opening & preparing for Winter
Oct. 25, Mini-Mac, Chester
Dec. 8, Annual Holiday Party

NORTH EAST

Sept. 20, Glen Rock Annex 7:30 PM
Oct. 18, Glen Rock Annex 7:30 PM
Nov. 15, Glen Rock Annex 7:30 PM
Dec. 20, Glen Rock Annex 7:30 PM

NORTH WEST

July 29 to Aug. 3, Fair at Warren County Fairgrounds
Sep. 8, Club Picnic/Meeting at Weinberg's house
Oct. 26, Club Meeting at Warren County Complex 3PM-7PM
Dec. 15, Chirstmas Party at Reaville Rod & Gun Club, Reaville NJ 1-4PM

SUSSEX COUNTY

July 28, Fair Setup/Picnic at Michele Townsend's
Aug. 2-11, State Fair
Aug. (TBA), Picnic at the Osborne's
Sep. 15, Picnic w/South NY at the Webb's
Nov. 23, Annual Dinner Party at Glen Brook Inn

SOUTH JERSEY

No listings

**ESSEX COUNTY
JERSEY CAPE**

No current newsletter

OTHER EVENTS

Being Social (EAS) 2002

Cornell University

August 5-9, 2002

This year Eastern Apicultural Society conference is hosted by the Empire State Honey Producers Association, Dyce Laboratory for Honey Bee Studies and the beekeepers of New York State and will be held on North campus of Cornell University, at Ithaca in the Finger Lakes Region of Central New York.

For activities and/or registration visit:

www.eas2002.cornell.edu

or contact: **Mike Griggs**

President EAS 2002 Conference

mhg3@cornell.edu (607) 564-0656



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