
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 21 ISSUE 2

FEB / MAR 07

A New Year, A New Beginning

Hi everyone. Yes a New Year and a new beginning. I hope everyone had a great holiday and will have a healthy happy and prosperous New Year. Now that the holidays are behind us, let's look ahead.

I have heard several horror stories about bee losses over the past few weeks and it looks as though most of the colonies have died from starvation. I would suggest that you take a good hard look at your bees the first nice day you get so as to protect your bees from starvation. I would suggest our new members contact your mentor, or any members of the organization, if you have any doubts as to the condition of your colonies. It would be a shame to lose them when it is so easy to keep them alive. I have already been through my bees and found that with this warm weather they are consuming a lot of these winter stores

As I am sure some of you know, Paul Raybold, our Bee Inspector, has decided to retire as of Feb.1. In the past 2 years that I have been president, Paul has always been more than willing to help me when ever I asked for help . I think it goes without question when I say, Paul, Thanks for all your help and good luck and health from all of us in the N.J.B.A in your retirement.

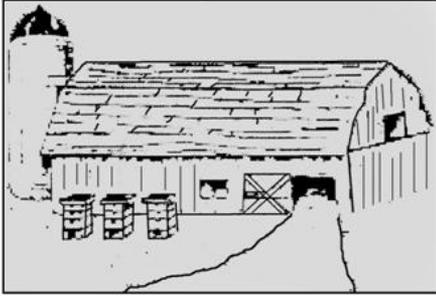
Two important dates to put on your calendar. First, the Honey Show. As I mentioned in the last news letter, Feb. 9 is the last date to get your entries to the Exec. Board so that it can be taken to the Ag. Convention for judging. Let's all make a little effort and send at least 1 entry. We get a lot of press coverage which is always good for our organization. Rules can be found on

our web site or by calling Janet Katz or me. Second, our winter meeting. It will be held again at the Columbus Grange in Columbus, NJ on Feb 17 and I have been promised the heat will be on. The agenda can be found on another page of the newsletter. In this meeting we will have our election of officers to lead us through the next 2 years. I hope that you give some thought to becoming part of our Exec. Board , so as to add your wisdom to this great organization. There has been a slight change in the election committee. Madeline Nist, who I said would be in charge of elections this year, will not be with us as her husband has accepted a job in Florida and she will be leaving about Feb 1. Mary Ann Harrison will be in charge of the elections. She can be contacted at the meeting.

Which brings me to my last point. This will be my last message as the president of the N.J.B.A. and also the last meeting that I will be presiding over. The 2 years have gone by very fast and I have enjoyed it very much. As you may or may not know being president can be easy or very tough. I feel very lucky to have had a great executive board especially such people as Curtis Crowell, Janet Katz, Vic Ammons and Jamie Mirabito to help make my job easy. To all of them, I say, Thank you very much. You did make my job much easier. We as an organization, still have several things to accomplish, but I am sure with the new leadership they will get done. Looking forward to seeing every one at our winter meeting

Bob H

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Winter Meeting, Location / Agenda

Feb. 17 Columbus Grange
Columbus N.J.
South of N.J. Turnpike exit # 7 on
Route # 206

9-930 Registration and Coffee
and Donuts

9.30-11.00 Business meeting to
include election of officers

11.00- 11.30 U.S D.A. Farm
Service Agency, Coleene McGarity
[Small Business Loans and Crop
Insurance]

11.30-1.00 Lunch/ Honey Show,
Winners Auction

1.00 – 1.30 Small Business
Development Center

[Small Business Planning]

1.30- 2.30 . Carl Schulze,
Director of Plant Industry,

[Future of bee keeping projects
within the N.J. Dept. of Ag]

Cost will be \$ 20.00 [12years and
older]

\$ 12.00 [11.00 years and under]

Lunch will consist of

Italian Sausage with Peppers
and onions

Chicken Breast Parmigiana
Home made Roast Beef with
Gravy

Pencil Points/ Macaroni Salad

Tossed Salad/ Dinner rolls

Desert- Pies

Please contact Bob Hughes no
later than Feb. 15 so that enough
food can be ordered for all

HARVEY'S HONEY

912 ROUTE 40

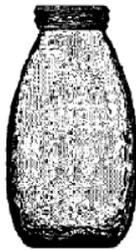
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MY ACHING BACK

Beekeeper meetings often feature hallway talk about that part of the beekeepers body that is often abused without thinking – the back. The muscles of the back were designed for flexibility -- not for lifting. We know of course that the muscles of our legs are powerful and can handle a moderate load – if we position ourselves properly for the job. And therein is the problem - beekeepers need to be close to the beehive. We lift without getting legs beneath us and then we twist with the weight to put the super down on overturned covers. Back ache results from the lifting and the strain of reaching.

It is important to get a comfortable grip and lift with our legs while keeping the back straight. Lifting, then twisting to set the hive body down, is a double insult. And the best solution -have another person assist with lifting the hive is not usually an option. Alas, beekeeping is often a solitary pursuit. At least help your back by putting the colony on a hive stand.

The "World's Strongest Man," Magnus Magnuson, says that although he wears a belt, which we perceive as a brace, its purpose is to remind him to keep proper form while lifting and not to take the weight for him. Do you use a brace? Beekeepers should consider a brace beneath the coveralls.

We know we shouldn't reach or

lean to pick up hive bodies or smokers more than 12 inches away. This throws the body off balance and may cause loss of balance and sustaining a possible injury. We also know we shouldn't reach over our head for heavy objects such as supers. Many beekeepers discover just how heavy supers are after they have become injured from removing them, or having a super fall on them as they attempt to lift it off.

If you are on your knees doing work, the reaching principle also applies, so move closer to the item. Sit on a tool box (or even a hive body on end) to reduce leaning-over back strain. Straighten up frequently and arch your back to a proper shape. Give your back a break every few minutes but not at the expense of working on your knees.

One of the best precautions to avoid back injury is to work to strengthen the back before you do the bee work. Do moderate strength exercises for the abdominal muscle group because the abs are "the front of the back." If you expect to move quite a few heavy supers, take a few minutes to warm up the muscle groups you will use. Warming up reduces the possibility of injury and better prepares the muscles for work.

Work with your back – not against it – for beekeeping safety.

Dewey M. Caron

Disease & Pest Information

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE SPREAD OF BROOD DISEASES:

- Keep the apiary clean and tidy. Do not throw propolis or burr comb on the ground where it may be robbed. Place it in a suitable container and remove from the apiary.
- Do not buy colonies of bees except from disease-free apiaries. Do not accept swarms of unknown origin.
- Do not buy old combs without knowing the disease history.
- Disinfect secondhand equipment before use.
- Do not feed honey or pollen from doubtful sources.
- If a colony dies, close the hive pending an examination to prevent remaining stores from being robbed.
- Do not exchange brood or super combs unless

they are from disease-free colonies.

- Prevent robbing at all times.
- Minimize drifting as much as possible.

Inspect your own colonies for disease, do not wait for someone else to do it for you. Always keep a careful watch for signs of disease. If you see suspicious signs of diseases, call upon your **apiary inspector** for advice and assistance.

(Cont'd on Page 8)

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Nucs!

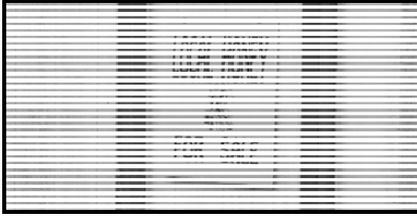
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the diseased cell becomes moist and

American Foulbrood Disease

Cause: *Paenibacillus* (= *Bacillus*)
larvae, a spore-forming bacterium.

Effect: American foulbrood is one of the most widespread and the most destructive of the honey bee brood diseases. At first, the population of an infected colony is not noticeably decreased and only a few dead larvae or pupae may be present. The disease may not develop to the critical stage where it seriously weakens the colony until the following year, or it may advance rapidly and seriously weaken or kill the colony the first season.

Symptoms: First the capping of

darkens in color. Then as the larva shrinks, the capping is drawn down into the mouth of the cell so the normal convex capping becomes concave. Worker bees may puncture this sunken capping and eventually remove it altogether. Death of an infected larva takes place after the cell has been sealed and the cocoon has been spun. At death, the diseased larva changes from a normal pearly white color to a creamy brown, then gradually darkens. These larval remains can be drawn out into a brown thread or rope. As the larva dries, it becomes dark brown. The final state is a very dark brown scale that lies uniformly on the lower side of the cell and extends from just

below the mouth of the cell down to the base. These scales adhere very tightly to the cell and can be removed only with great difficulty. (If death occurs at the pupal stage, the tongue of the pupa may protrude from the scale.) The overall appearance of a comb infected with American foulbrood disease is patchy because of the mixture of diseased and healthy brood cells and also because the remains vary from the ropy moist larvae in cells with dark sunken or perforated cappings to the dry scales lying in open cells whose cappings have been chewed away completely by the bees.

Transmission: The spores are fed to young larvae by the nurse bees. They then germinate in the gut of the larva and multiply rapidly, causing the larva to die soon after it has been sealed in its cell. By the time of death of the larva, the new spores have formed. When the house bees clean out the cell containing the dead larva, these spores are distributed throughout the hive and more and more larvae become infected. The honey in an infected colony can become contaminated with spores and can be a source of infection for any bee that gains access to it. For example, as a colony becomes weak, it cannot defend itself from attacks by robber bees from strong nearby colonies; these robbers take back the contaminated honey to

their own colony, continuing the cycle of infection. The beekeeper also may inadvertently spread the disease by exposing contaminated honey to other bees or by the interchange of infected equipment. Moreover, drifting bees or swarms issuing from an infected colony may spread the disease.

Nosema

Cause: *Nosema apis*, a protozoan.

Effect: Nosema disease is widespread and can cause extensive losses of adult bees. It may also be responsible for some superseding of queens.

Symptoms: No symptoms are specifically indicative of Nosema. Inability of bees to fly, excreta on combs or lighting boards, and a pile of dead or dying bees on the ground in front of the hive may be manifestations of Nosema infection, but they may also be caused by other abnormal conditions. The disease may be present without any obvious signs. However, if crawling bees or unusual numbers of dead bees are seen or if a colony fails to build up properly in the spring, Nosema disease should be suspected and your apiary inspector should be contacted for advice and assistance.

Transmission: The spores of *Nosema apis* enter the body of the adult bee through the mouth and

germinate in the gut. After germination, the active phase of the organism enters the digestive cells that line the midgut where it multiplies rapidly; the contents of these cells are used as its food supply until reproduction ceases and new spores are formed. The cell then ruptures and sheds the new spores into the midgut where they pass down through the small intestine to the rectum. Here they accumulate and are voided in the excreta of the bee. The cycle begins over again when the spores contaminate the food of other bees. Spores will remain viable for many months in dried spots of excreta on brood combs. Near the end of winter, combs are often soiled with excreta from infected workers. Other bees become infected when they pick up the spores in the excreta as they clean the soiled combs during the spring expansion of the brood nest. Thus, the disease within the colony increases rapidly for a time, and a colony may dwindle in the spring because of the premature death of the overwintered bees. Usually, the colony survives and the proportion of infected bees begins to decline rapidly. This decline occurs because the excreta are normally voided away from the hive when regular flights become possible in spring.

Since the old bees now die off and are replaced by healthy bees emerging from the brood combs, the disease may not be detectable in the colony by the end of the season. However, enough spores remain on the combs from the previous winter to infect a few bees in the cluster that forms when winter sets in again. These infected bees then form the nucleus for a repetition of the cycle. The disappearance of the infection during the summer seems to indicate that outside agencies such as drinking water, flowers, or vegetation are not important in the spread of the disease. Also, the honey is probably not contaminated to any significant degree, since excreta are not deposited on the honey combs during the honey flow. The spread of Nosema disease occurs chiefly because of the use of contaminated equipment and the robbing of infected hives, through infected package bees, infected queens, and her attendant workers.

Viruses

Honey Bee Viruses

At least 10 honey bee viruses have been reported to infect honey bees in the U.S., including Kashmir bee virus (KBV), acute bee paralysis virus (ABPV), sacbrood virus (SBV), black queen cell virus (BQCV) and deformed wing virus (DWV). Most honey bee viruses are single stranded RNA viruses and are very similar in size and shape, making them difficult

to distinguish from each other using physical characteristics. Furthermore, with the exception of SBV (top) and DWV (bottom), most honey bee viruses do not cause noticeable symptoms, making it difficult to assess their importance.

Detecting honey bee viruses

Recent advances in molecular technologies have enhanced our ability to detect and analyze honey bee viruses. Using these powerful techniques, we are able to detect one or more viruses in individual bees, and have found that individual honey bees can harbor at least four viruses. These analyses, however, are quite costly and are normally limited to specific research projects.

Transmission of honey bee viruses

Since the parasitic mite *Varroa* feeds and moves regularly between brood and adult bees, these mites have the potential to act as either biological or mechanical vectors of bee viruses. We have recently used molecular techniques to measure the role of *Varroa* in transmitting bee viruses. We have demonstrated that *Varroa* mites are not only efficient vectors of virus, but that uninfected mites can acquire virus by sharing a brood cell with infected mites. However,

because viruses have been noticed in U.S. honey bees prior to the arrival of *Varroa* and because we have detected virus in stages of bees (eggs and larvae) not normally associated with *Varroa*, we feel other transmission mechanisms are involved. Currently, we are investigating possible virus transmission by drones and transmission through the egg in a hope to gain a better understanding of the process.

Assessing the impact of honey bee viruses on colonies

Despite evidence that viruses can dramatically affect honey bee health under certain conditions, the impact of viral infections on honey bee colonies in the field remains basically unknown. While we have dramatically improved our ability to *detect* honey bee viruses, *it remains difficult to link the presence of any given virus with colony collapse*. For example, in the Pacific Northwest the presence of KBV has recently been blamed for wide-scale colony deaths. We have examined bees from dying colonies from two diverse geographic locations (Pacific Northwest and the Northeast) and have not detected KBV. Furthermore, research colonies in our own Beltsville apiaries that have KBV have not perished. We hope to follow the course of these colonies in an effort to establish which viruses are economically important, that is, are detrimental to colony health.

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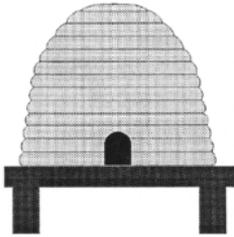
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NJBA MEETING DATES

Executive Board Meeting, Feb 9, Ag Building, Trenton

NJ State Honey Show, February 12-14, 2007
Tropicana Hotel, Atlantic City

Winter Meeting, Feb 17

CENTRAL JERSEY

ESSEX COUNTY

Second Tuesday, Extensive schedule of events at Essex County Environmental Center. Contact Landi Simone for dates and topics.

JERSEY CAPE

Third Thursday, 7:00 PM at Cape May County Extension Office

MORRIS COUNTY

NORTH EAST

Third Friday, 678 S. Maple Ave, Glen Rock

NORTH WEST

SUSSEX

SOUTH

OTHER EVENTS

NJBA NEWS Annual Ad rates

Ad size	Location of ad	Price
Full page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$150
1/2 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$100
1/4 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$75
1/8 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$50
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1/4 page	rest of newsletter	\$50

THIS IS THE START OF THE NEW YEAR. ALL BRANCHES SHOULD UPDATE THEIR CALENDAR FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND THE WEBSITE!!!!!!

Don't forget your dues for 2007 - your expiration date is on the mailing label of this newsletter.

Do you know new beekeepers? Sign them up today with this form!

NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Membership Form

Note: Memberships start in January and expire in December

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Essex County - Joseph Lelinho - 15 Hill St, N. Caldwell, NJ 07006

Jersey Cape - Bill Eisele - 280 Old Tuckahoe Rd, Petersburg, NJ 08270

Morris County - Janet Katz - 460 Route 24, Chester, NJ 07930

North East - Karl Schoenknecht - 683 Summit Ave, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

North West Jersey - Karin Weinberg - 337 Tunnel Rd, Asbury, NJ 08802-1120

South Jersey - Patty Schuler - PO Box 228, Richland, NJ 08350

Sussex County - Marion Stickle - 12 Crystal Spring Rd. Hamburg, NJ 07419

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