

NCBA newsletter October, 2014

Serving committee;

Matt Nix and Doug Swanson

The Meeting is 7:00pm. October 20, 2014

Northland Arboretum, Brainerd, Minnesota

Directors meeting 6:30pm.

Program;

Supervisor of company that sprays under power lines.

The mosquito Squad.

Please come with any and all questions that you have about their methods, chemicals and practices.

Election of Officers;

We will elect the officer team who will guide the North Central Beekeepers Association thru the next year. We also need a director for a three year appointment. Please consider taking an office to help continue the workings of our old and successful club promoting beekeeping in central Minnesota. It is your club help keep it strong!

Please nominate and accept an office if nominated.

Dues;

Dues are \$10.00 per year due at or before the January meeting. Our newly elected treasurer will be accepting 2015 dues after this meeting.

Are your bees ready for Winter ?

Have you checked for mite populations? Mites need to be at a very low or even absent level going into winter. It is not too late but that time is fast approaching when approved mite treatments will no longer work because of our annual change of seasons.

Have you fed your bees since honey harvest? Double deep hives need to weight about 190 to 200 pounds total to have adequate food for the winter. This weight is 70 pounds or even more of honey or sugar syrup. If you need to feed to get this weight, feed with 2/1 syrup in a large volume feeder. Use a frame feeder, hive top feeder or even an inverted bucked feeder inside an empty super. The idea is to get the maximum amount of feed into the hive in the least amount of time. A boardman or quart jar feeder just will not work for this high volume feeding. A good strong hive will empty a 2 gallon feeder in a day to day and a half. 2 gallons is equal to 20 pounds of feed, feed as much as they need. A strong hive needs about 1/3 of a box for the cluster.

If you had fed earlier while there was still brood you could feed until the bees quit taking syrup. That way the bees would have empty cells to cluster on as the brood hatched out. The bees need empty cells to cluster on during the winter so that the cluster can be tighter and the wax supplies some insulation.

Are your bees in a protected area? This can be a tree line, grove or even a row of big round bales nearly anywhere out of the wind. In many areas near here the hives may be drifted over with snow. This is not usually a problem in fact usually the heat generated by the bees will melt a cave inside the drift where the bees can take short cleansing flights and stay quite cozy.

Even though you have got your bees out of the direct wind they should be wrapped to further restrain the wind. And channel the hives moisture to the outside. As stated many times by knowlagable bee

keepers” cold don’t kill bees wet will”. The product of bees eating honey is heat and water vapor and this water vapor must be expelled. The way to get this done a hole the same size needs to be at the bottom and as close to the top as possible. This will provide a natural flow of air. The top should be insulated with about two inches of insulation to prevent the water vapor from condensing on its way out of the hive.

Around the hive and over the top should be black construction paper (tar paper) all taped, stapled or tied shut all except the two entrances on the top and bottom. The wrapping can be done almost any time now but should be done before the temperatures stay below 40 degrees.

Want ads;

Handmade bee Equipment for Sale

320-241-0549 or 320-292-2452

Gilbert Frank

31979- 456th. Ave.

Aitkin, Mn. 56431

Repair older equipment also