

Greetings Bee Keepers;

January Serving Committee; Dawn Ykema

We still need some help on the serving committee. Amy Kowalzik is all alone in May. Even though July is usually the work night at the fair booth no one has signed up, dry, sweaty people will need a drink and something to wash it down. The November meeting needs a couple names as well. With the number of people at our meetings the lunch keeps people there so you can pick their minds. Please help.

Congratulations are in order for our own Rose Zak. Her picture is the cover for Bee Culture Magazines annual calendar. The theme was bees and water. Rose caught a great photo of tending bee hives by boat near Aitkin during summer 2013 flooding. Well done Rose!

Our program this month will be a video from PBS Genetic Roulette- the gamble of our lives. This is a documentary on how GMOs may not only be working against our bees but ourselves and our children as well as the world we live in. This will be a sure conversation starter.

The January 2015 American Bee Journal contains an article By Randy Oliver about how he and his sons had been caught flat footed by mites in their bee yards. Randy was the main speaker at the 2013 Minnesota Honey Producers convention and is recognized as a leading hands on researcher on honey bee problems. He and his sons had felt everything was under control and had spent a little too much time lecturing not in the bee yard.

There are several ways to keep mites in control both physical and chemical. If you are a no treatment bee keeper you need to know a good bee supplier you are going to need him. You are going to loose bees maybe lots of bees.

The chemical controls are both hard and organic; both will and do work if properly and timely used. The hard stuff (Amatraz, Mavric etc.) are the same chemical. Amatraz is the legal approved form, Mavric is the back door, shop towel unapproved form. This is the second time the active ingredient has been approved for use. When tracheal mites were the problem this was the one that worked but resistance started to appear and the approval was removed. Now with Varroa it was reintroduced and again was approved and Eastern states are now again starting to find resistance.

The organic (soft) stuff works but do have problems. The thymols are showing some problems with drone fertility. This is a possible source of some Queen problems. These include drone layers, early supersedure and poor laying patterns. Hoggard depending who is talking is either the real deal or a complete bust and areas in between. Most agree that for any effect Hoggard must be applied multiple times and in higher amounts than originally advertised. For real effect it appears to need more replications than labeled for. Hoggard has been reformulated and more testing is underway. Oxalic Acid has been registered in Canada and Europe for many years but not in the USA. Oxalic is used illegally every day in the USA and shows excellent results when used during a period with no sealed brood present. Oxalic will not reach mites under sealed cappings so if used with any sealed brood the hive will soon reinfest. Oxalic can be mixed with sugar syrup and dripped down each seam of bees in the hive. This is the preferred method in the late fall. Bees poured with Oxalic should be allowed to have multiple flight days to allow them to void the injected product. Oxalic may also be vaporized into the hives by heating in a device designed for that use. The common knowledge in Europe state a bee should never receive oxalic Acid more than once. What about Queens? Formic acid can and will control control mites and is available in an approved formulation. There are dangers with

Formic that it can kill bees and brood and cause the queen to be balled. Do your homework and research before any mite treatment.

Removal of sealed drone brood and brood break are two other useful tools to consider and use in control of the Varroa Mite. Very little natural resistance has yet appeared in the honey bee due to their breeding system. A drone has no father so only passes on !/2 of the genetic material.

WANTS;

For sale: Sprig nucs, headed up with new queens, disease free. All nucs from our own bees. \$99.00 each; Ready in May. \$20.00 deposit to hold. Book early- supply is limited.

Don Jackson, 2056 co. 17SW. Pequot Lakes, Mn. 56472 218-568-8469

Want; Bee suit for 50 to 60 pound child: Ron Storbakken 218-894-1326

Service; Fix old, build new bee equipment Gilbert Frank, Aitkin, MN. 56431, 320-241-0549, 320-292-2452

For sale; 2# bee packages with mated Queens see Bill Krieger 320-277-3510