

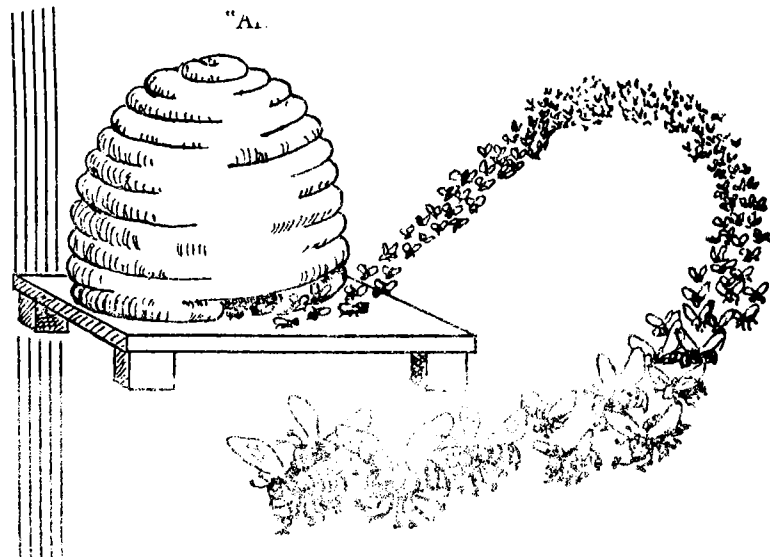


Ministry of
Agriculture & Fisheries
New Zealand

BEEKEEPERS

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1974 : NO. 3



1. The Season - how is it coming along?

The condition of the bees generally is very good and I would say that they are forward for this time of the year - Are your hives in this condition?

Spanish heath, five finger and willow species were disappointing in many places, however, conditions were mild and hives have progressed well. Barberry is now flowering well - Rewa rewa has a good bud showing on most trees so be prepared to take advantage of this. (That is of course, if the weather man has a change of heart). You might be interested to know that the long term weather forecast this year is for hot dry conditions from the end of October to March. With the bees in a forward condition it could well be "on" for a good season - be prepared - it's better to have 50 supers of comb up your sleeve and not want them rather than want them and not have them.



2. SWARMING

To all intents and purposes for each hive that is allowed to swarm the surplus honey crop from that hive is also winged away. Swarm control measures must be taken before the hive makes preparation to swarm. When the bees have made up their minds to swarm - swarm they will.

The cause - ? 3 factors in the main :

1. Congestion in the brood nest
2. Ageing Queens
3. Damaged or Drone comb

Of course there are other factors as well but these are the main three and are also the ones the beekeeper has complete control over. Keep them in mind and provide plenty of laying area for the Queen at all times - young Queens and good worker combs.



3. DISEASE (F.B.)

Now, what about it.

If you're trying to cover it up you're only fooling yourself. There is only one answer to Foul Brood and that is the fire pit.

A Doctor once said to a suspect T.B. patient -

"You can fool yourself -
You may be able to fool your Doctor -
But you can't fool the T.B. Germ."

od one to remember about the Foul Brood, too.

to help you - (and don't forget your inspection
return by November 7, if you haven't already sent it in).



4. METRICS

At long last something definite is now available regarding the new metric sizes for bee wood ware.

How much "metric" talk have you engaged yourself in regarding bee wood ware over the past few months?



I know some are thinking - "I'm too long in the tooth for that - I'm just going to carry on as I have been doing." Maybe - maybe not. All timber sizes will be changed to metric sizes early in the New Year, so the time of the 10 x 1 and the 4 x 2 is all but over. Metrics are here to stay just as decimal currency, and looking back on that it was a piece of cake, really.

Attached to this newsletter are the adopted metric sizes for the Langstroth hive bodies and frames. I know many have been waiting for this so you can now go to it. These sizes are compatible with M.A.F. imperial recommendations.

It is hoped to have metric measurements available for other hive components in the near future.

Get into the habit of thinking and talking metric.



T H I N K M E T R I C

5. RESTRICTED BEEKEEPING ZONE

You will have received my letter advising beekeepers that a new area has been gazetted as a Restricted Beekeeping Zone - the complete Coromandel Peninsula, because of the danger of producing toxic honey.

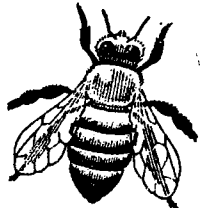
This was found necessary to protect both the beekeeping industry and the honey consuming Public. It is now illegal to have hives of bees in the Coromandel, Thames and that part of the Ohinemuri Counties (the northern most part north of the Waihi-Paeroa Highway) Gazetted as a Restricted Beekeeping Zone during the period December 15 to April 30 each year. During the period May 1 and December 14 of any year a special permit to establish hives of bees in this area will be required and can be issued from this office on written request.

This special permit is additional to the normal removal permit and apiary registrations now required under the Apiaries Act.



6. HONEY HOUSES

Most, if not all of you, will be aware that it is intended that Inspectors of Health will be taking over the responsibility for cleanliness in honey houses in the foreseeable future. One of the biggest headaches in honey house planning and forethought is to know what to put on the floor. In my opinion, the best possible is a good T & G flooring and well under pinned with a covering of material called "Altro" safety flooring. This "Altro" flooring is a vinyl material, non slip and has fantastic wearing properties and is available (at present) in three colours - Donkey Brown, Mushroom and Pewter Grey, it is 1.82 meters (72") wide. The edges are "welded" together on laying to make a watertight flooring. Certainly consider this one for your new honey house floor. I think its the goods.



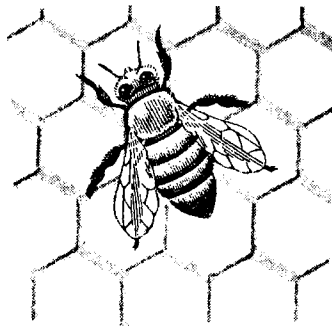
7. HONEY TANKS

There are still available a lot of stainless steel milk vats from Dairy Companies at give-away prices - some refrigerated models are also still available. These make excellent honey tanks and this one is certainly worth following along.

The following is a list (and certainly not a full list, I'm sure) of Dairy Companies that have tanks on hand at present.:

Get in touch with the TRANSPORT MANAGER in each case.

Te Rapa	Pukekohe
Waharoa	Kerepehi
Waitoa	Reporoa
Te Awamutu	Te Puke



8. BULK HONEY

With the honey season coming up you will no doubt have packed some extracted honey in bulk containers before my next newsletter. (That is, of course, if the weather man can be induced to change his tactics.)

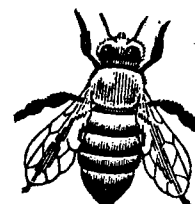
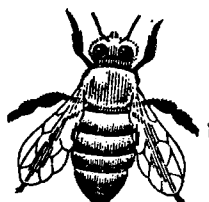
Be sure to check the inside condition of the drum before filling. Those who were at the Seminar at Taupo in August will remember the classic that the Honey Grader, Mr Rope, showed - the rusty lid of a 400 kilo drum. This could affect your payout points and it doesn't take a sec. to have a look inside the drum before filling.

Equally important is to check your straining equipment regularly (or if it's borderline, improve it before extracting commences). You would be amazed at the reports we get about specks in honey.

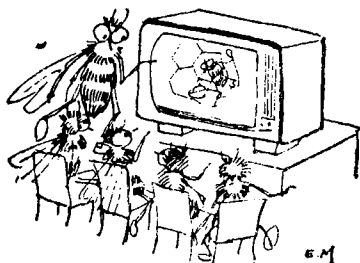
Have a medium mesh wire strainer first to your extractor to remove 80% of the coarser particles of wax and foreign material and then finer mesh for the final

strainers. I still like the nylon stocking type straining for the smaller particles - these do a good job but require changing from time to time. Whatever system you use make sure it works. Don't allow your strainer to "float" in your bulk tank. From time to time fill up a preserving jar of your liquid honey and hold it up to the light and see if you can see any suspended specks in it.

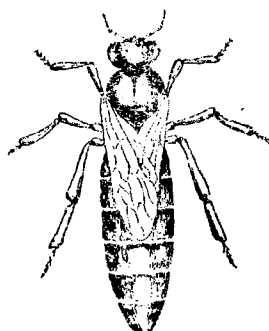
Honey is a food - please handle it as such.



9. TAUPO SEMINAR



This was a great success and I'm sure those present took away a lot of useful information. Those that weren't there - well, you missed out. Keep it in mind for the next one, though.



10. WASPS

Yes, again - remember in the last newsletter mention was made of a wasp bait that had been used by a commercial beekeeper with success - about 4 kilos of piping sugar and a quarter packet of Arsenate of Lead in an empty hive in the troublesome apiary. If any of you care to try this during the season, I would appreciate hearing of your results, success or otherwise. Your contribution could be of help to others.



I hope you have a good season.



D.A. Briscoe
Apiary Instructor
TAURANGA

ADOPTED SIZES FOR THE
METRIC LANGSTROTH HIVE

HIVE BODY TIMBER THICKNESS

20 mm (derived from 25 mm green-sawn)

HIVE BODY OUTER MEASUREMENTS

505 mm x 405 mm

HIVE BODY INNER MEASUREMENTS

465 mm x 365 mm

HIVE BODY DEPTH

- (i) brood chamber (full-depth Langstroth)
238 mm (derived from 250 mm green-sawn)
- (ii) honey super (three-quarter depth Langstroth)
185 mm (derived from 200 mm green-sawn)
- (iii) section super (half-depth Langstroth)
133 mm (derived from 150 mm green-sawn)

REBATE

- (i) rebate depth
13 mm
- (ii) rebate ledge
10 mm

FRAME SIZES (in millimetres)

	Hoffman type	Manley type	Section holder
<u>top-bar</u>			
length	482	482	482
width	25	25	38
thickness	16	16	8
lug thickness (at point of contact)	10	10	8
<u>bottom bar</u>			
length	450	450	450*
width	25	25	38
thickness	10	10	8
<u>end-bar</u>			
length	230	177	125
width	33	43	46
thickness	10	10	8

*this length subject to further evaluation

STANDARD SECTION

overall length : 428.6 mm
width : 46 mm
thickness : 3 mm
folded size : 108 mm square