

BEEKEEPERS

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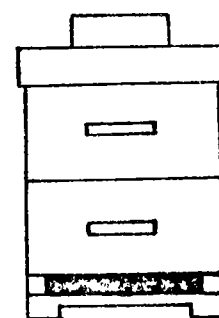
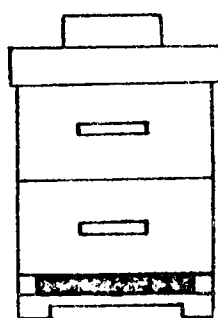
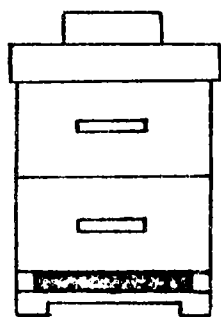
BEEKEEPERS

NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 1975 : NO. 6



Ministry of
Agriculture & Fisheries
New Zealand

1. Well, we're about to start another season. It's surprising the amount of flora that is showing up around the countryside; of course this means activity within the hives and already most hives have got quite large areas of brood.

Spring is certainly with us and the sun is getting quite warm. Even the lawns at home are starting to grow again.



Reports for the past season were good. Most beekeepers had quite a good year, crop wise that is - above average in most places.



2. Now is the time to check out honey reserves on hives. Winter stores have been eaten into and from now on a close watch will have to be kept on this one. I know that with present sugar prices you won't be feeding syrup any more than necessary (and I don't blame you) but don't be penny wise and pound foolish. What about those non productive hives that were passengers last season. It's very important (these days) that you make sure that all hives are producers. If you have only 2% non productive units, this loss is all net.

It works this way :-

On a 1000 hive outfit 2% non productive hives would be 20 hives. On an average crop of 3 tonnes per 100 hives this would work out at 3/5 of a tonne of honey lost. As static costs and management remain unchanged, this 3/5 of a tonne of honey loss is a loss from your net return.

There are two ways of overcoming this -

- 1) To unite failing hives with queen right hives
- 2) Introduce a nucleus (with a young queen) to the failing hive.



- and there's really no need for the first one. The use of nucleus hives is, I think, an integral part of good management for honey production. By maintaining nucs, a supply of young laying queens are always on hand. A nuc to a backward colony works wonders.



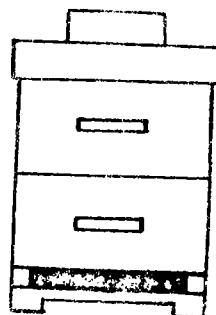
3. POLLEN REQUIREMENTS

Did you know that the pollen requirements for a year for one hive is approximately 16 kilos? (40 lb). There are some areas where a pollen deficiency does exist and some seasons are worse than others.

Check your hives at every opening for reserve supplies of pollen - pollen deficient hives are completely worthless.

The success in feeding pollen supplement (and please note the word "supplement" - it is not a substitute) is that it must be fed before a shortage of natural pollen is felt by the bees.

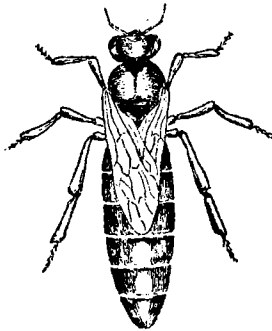
There are quite a few different recipes for Pollen Supplement,



and by and large, all do a good job (and again I stress that the supplement must be fed before the hive feels the shortage of natural pollen). Attached to this Newsletter is a recipe that Professor Hadak recommended when he was here a few years ago. Quite a good one, I think.



4. QUEEN BEE BREEDERS

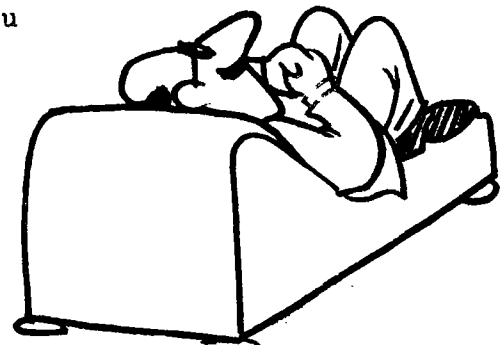


In my last Newsletter, I mentioned that Mr Bruce Stanley, 20 Henderson Street, Whakatane, had taken over the outfit of Neil Bates at Taneatua with a view to setting up a Queen Bee Rearing business.

I'm pleased to be able to inform you that Bruce is well under way in his venture and is hopeful of producing approximately 6000 Queens for the industry this coming season. Next year he hopes to have considerably more than this available.

This Queen Rearing enterprise is timely and should help to fill a need in the Beekeeping Industry.

Good luck to you, Bruce, and we wish you well for the future.



I might also mention that
Theras Broadley (210 Moanataiari

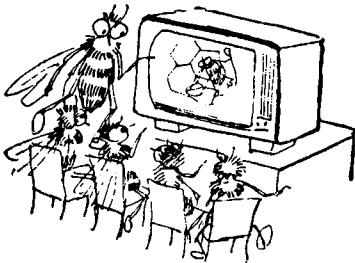
Street, Thames) also hopes to have some queens available this year over and above his own requirements.

There is room for improvement in bee stocks generally so what about it - you can buy a new queen for the price of a 2 kg tin of honey and you can't tell me that a good queen is not going to give you much more than that in return.

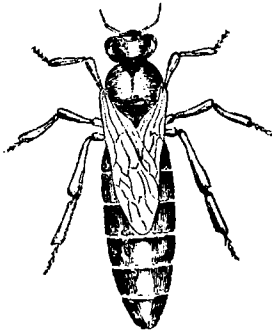
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FLOCK HOUSE COURSE

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While on the subject of Queens - did you know that because the last Queen Bee Breeders course that was held at Flock House was so successful, it is planned to hold another one in January 1976.

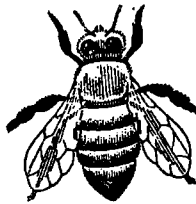


The dates are January 19 to 23 1976. Get your name down early. I have spoken to quite a few who were sorry that they missed out on the last one. Write to G.M. Walton, A.A.O., Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Private Bag, Palmerston North, for details.

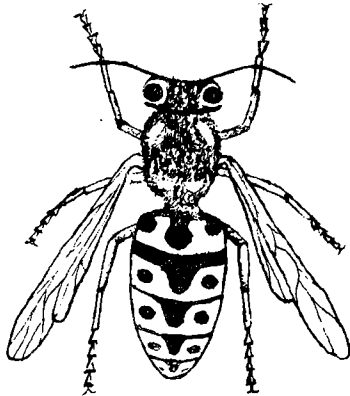


5. BEESWAX

- And the price for beeswax has gone up again by about 20c (hasn't everything else'.) When you are doing your spring checking this year, what about taking a tin along with you and a 75 mm (3 inch) scraping tool and clean up these top bars - you'll be amazed at the amount of wax that will be recovered. (Anyway, not telling tales, there are quite a few Guys that scrape the top bars and just leave the scrapings on the ground round the hives - boy, what a waste - and have you considered the disease risk?



6. NOW then - our friend ('?) the wasp -

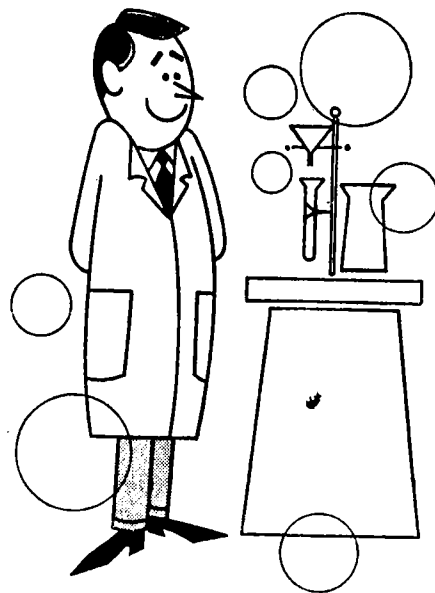


I have received quite a few enquiries since my last "letter" from beekeepers, about the availability of Arsenate of Lead for the control of wasps. It would appear that some retailers have told beekeepers that this material has been withdrawn from the market by the Department of Health.

I have checked this one out with the Department of Health in Rotorua, and the Supervising Inspector there, John Edwards, advised that his Department has not withdrawn Arsenate of Lead from the market and as far as they are concerned, it should still be freely available, however, local checks with retailers do not clarify the position. I intend checking it out with the

Master Distributors, so one way or another, I'll report to you again. In the meantime - get some if you have the chance.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries intend doing some trials on this one during the coming year.



7.

BULLETIN 267

BEEKEEPING IN NEW ZEALAND

At last - (we hope)

Latest information on this one is that this Bulletin will be "hot off the press" next month. This publication is in great demand. Owing to the need to revise it, and also the change to metrics, the delay has been unavoidable - so, I guess you can pass the word round that it's on the way.

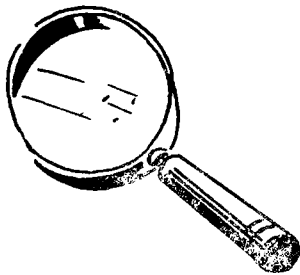


8. METRICS

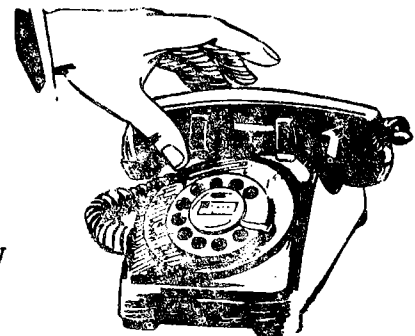
How are you adjusting to metric talk? Oh Boy! - never mind, stick at it. The Ministry is working on a "Hand Out" piece of material covering the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries' recommendations and metric sizes for bee woodware. Keep in touch. If you have any queries in the meantime, drop me a line.



9. DISEASE CHECK

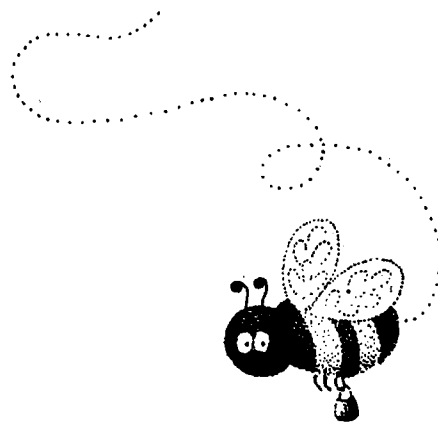


A good soldier always takes his rifle with him wherever he goes. (guess a lot of you can still remember the bull ring) - so a good beekeeper should always check for B.L. disease at each hive opening. If you spot something you are not 100% sure of, get on the phone to your Apiary Instructor. I would prefer to have a false alarm than come up later on and say - if only you had contacted me!



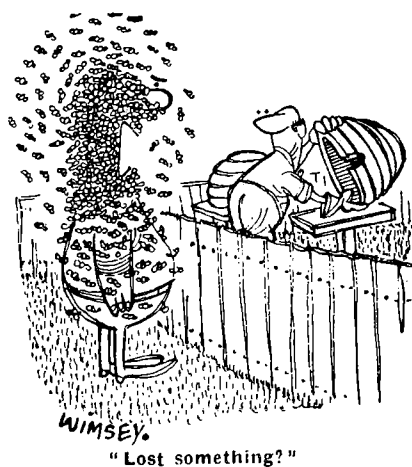
If you haven't received a pamphlet in the past that deals with A.F.B. (Bacillus larvae) and you would like one, please drop me a line. I'll be happy to send one out to you.

Early return of your inspection form would help me immensely - could you oblige on this one, please.



10. Well, here it is - another season is with us and we all wonder what it's going to bring forth.

I hope it's a good one for you.



D.A. BRISCOE
APIARY INSTRUCTOR

POLLEN SUPPLEMENT

(Professor Haydak)

3 Parts Soya Bean Flour

1 Part Dried Brewers Yeast

1 Part Dried Skim Milk Powder

* in addition add

1 Part Commercial Casein

$\frac{1}{4}$ Part Dried Egg Yoke

TO MAKE UP IN CANDY FORM :-

Prepare 2272 ml (2 quarts) Sugar Syrup

(2272 ml Sugar)

(1136 ml Water)

1136 ml (1 quart) of solution + .45 kg (1 lb)
of substitute = 1.6 kg ($3\frac{1}{2}$ lb)

.45 kg (1 lb) Candy is enough to feed
1 colony for 3 weeks or 3 hives for 1 week.

* The addition of the Casein and Egg Yoke
is not imperative