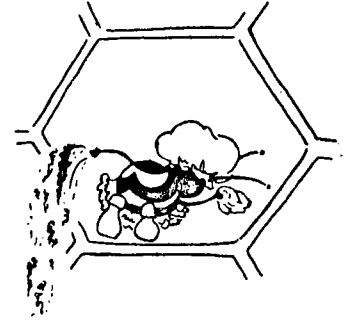




YOUR NEWSLETTER

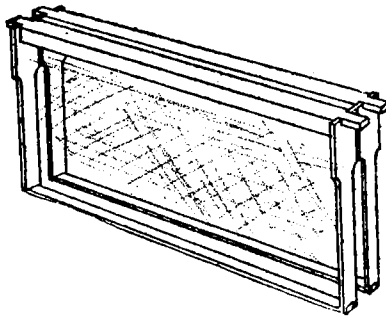
1. I guess that most of you are now in the process of "cleaning up" - those many jobs that occupy the "off" season - making up new and repairing old equipment, painting, melting up old combs and the like.



With today's costs you've got to examine every avenue of operation very closely. I've said before that apart from your bees, your bee combs are the greatest asset you have. I think you'll agree with me that these combs get a pretty rough sort of a handling at times. I guess that's because you have so many thousands of them, it's a case of familiarity breeds contempt.

I've just done a rough costing and do you know that costs of a drawn out comb today come to \$1.75?

This way :-



	Each
Frame Cost at \$231 per 1000 (Hoffman Full Depth)	23c
Foundation : 17.5 Sheet per kilo at \$6.34 per Kilo	36c
Frame, Wire & Nails (approx)	5c
Labour at \$3.50 per Hour - 30 frames per hour	<u>12c</u>
	76c

Now, the bees add approximately 113.4 g (4ozs) of wax to each sheet of foundation.

For each 453.6 g (1 lb) of wax produced by the bees they must consume between 4.5 and 6.8 kg (10 lb - 15 lb) of honey to produce it .

If we take 5.4 kg (12 lb) of honey at 73c kg this amounts to \$3.94 for each 453.6 g (1lb) of wax produced.

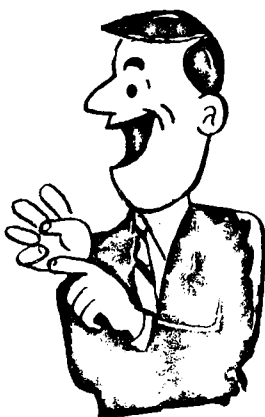
For 113.4 g (4 ozs) wax added to each sheet of foundation it costs 99c worth of honey eaten to produce it.



Total cost of completed comb: \$1.75

This does not take into account depreciation on Plant, cost of power or any other item that should be considered when doing a costing = these are the basic facts.

LESSON 1 =



Your combs are worthy of more care
and attention -

SORT THEM = = LOOK AFTER THEM

LESSON 2 =

BEESWAX

Prices being paid for beeswax at present
have never been higher. Would you
believe upwards of \$4.20 per kilo.

SAVE IT - SELL IT - RECYCLE IT



2. METRICS



Well - how are your "sums" going? -
are you trying?
are you coping?

OR :- are you still talking "imperial" ?

You know, the change to metrics is like the
undertaker = He gets us all in the finish.

Quit fighting it - Face up to it!

And about Honey Containers -

It's surprising the number of honey containers available through retail outlets that as yet haven't "changed over". Maybe it might become necessary to get some stick-on labels for over printing. Don't put a small amount of honey in a big container - the consumer will think they're being done.

The official sized containers for honey are :-

250 g

500 g

900 g

2 kg

4 kg

15 kg

30 kg



I believe that the N.B.A. has been granted a dispensation by the Weights & Measures Department to the end of July 1977.

I am also informed that there will be no more stamping of imperial scales after September 30 this year, so that means your old scales are "out" as from then.



KEEP TRYING
=====



Also Remember :-

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED - - THEN YOU'RE ABOUT AVERAGE



3. POLLINATION

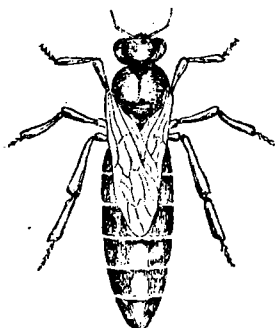
The demand for hives of bees for pollination continues to increase. Last year 2,200 hives were moved into orchards.

This year it is expected that about 2800 hives will be required - mainly for kiwifruit.

In relation to the number of hives moved into orchards last season there was very little mortality reported, however, there is no room for complacency. It's also reported from some areas that hives came out in surprisingly good order and were able to produce a reasonable amount of surplus honey for the owner - sure, the season was late and it could well be that it beekeepers could choose their sites when the bees come out of orchards they may get a reasonable return of honey in most seasons.



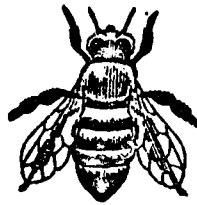
4. QUEEN REPLACEMENT



Have you got your order away for your spring queens yet? You can't hope to get a good crop of honey if you've only got old or punk queens at the head of your hives. You've only got to lose the honey crop from about 1% of your hives & you've lost more than the cost of "unpurchased" queens, and on the other hand, by requeening regularly with good queens, I'm willing to bet that your crops would be up from between that 1% and 5%. It's like changing the oil in your car - it's in your own interest (as well as the national interest).

6. WINTER STORES

Keep your eye on this one - you've got a long way to go yet. There's quite a lot of Spanish Heath already in flower in places and also Wattle but don't get over confident too soon. Cold weather is yet to come - was checking some hives the other day and I was surprised to find them so light in stores.

7. RESTRICTED BEEKEEPING ZONE (Eastern Bay of Plenty)

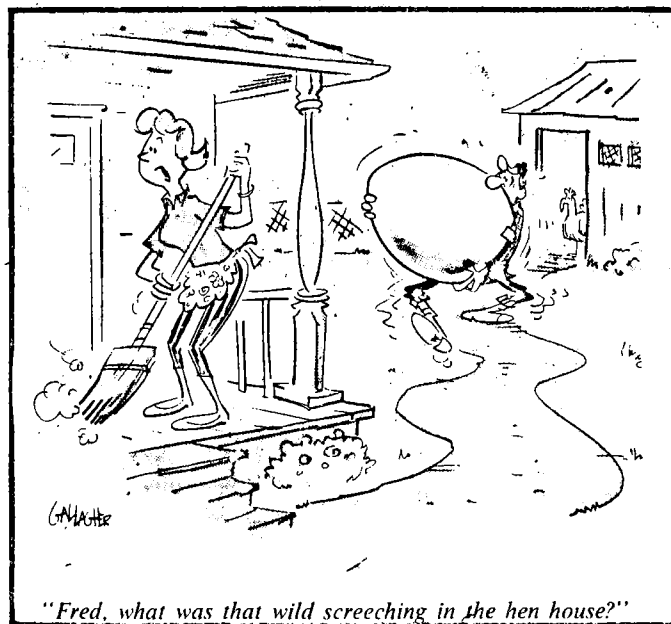
Up until recently only beekeepers with 400 hives or more registered in the Tauranga and/or Hamilton apiary registration districts could make use of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Restricted Beekeeping Zone.

The Minister has agreed to a recommendation put to him that now beekeepers with 100 hives registered (Tauranga and/or Hamilton Apiary districts) may move hives into this area for hive build up or honey production during the period May 1 - November 30 in any year. Those beekeepers desirous of making use of this area must first obtain a Special Permit from this office before moving hives into the area. Of course a removal permit and the registration of the Apiary concerned is still necessary as is the case for the establishment of any new apiary.



6.

7. Well, I hope the spring is kind to you - watch your pollen reserves - especially those of you who are engaged in pollen trapping.



D.A. Briscoe
Apiary Instructor