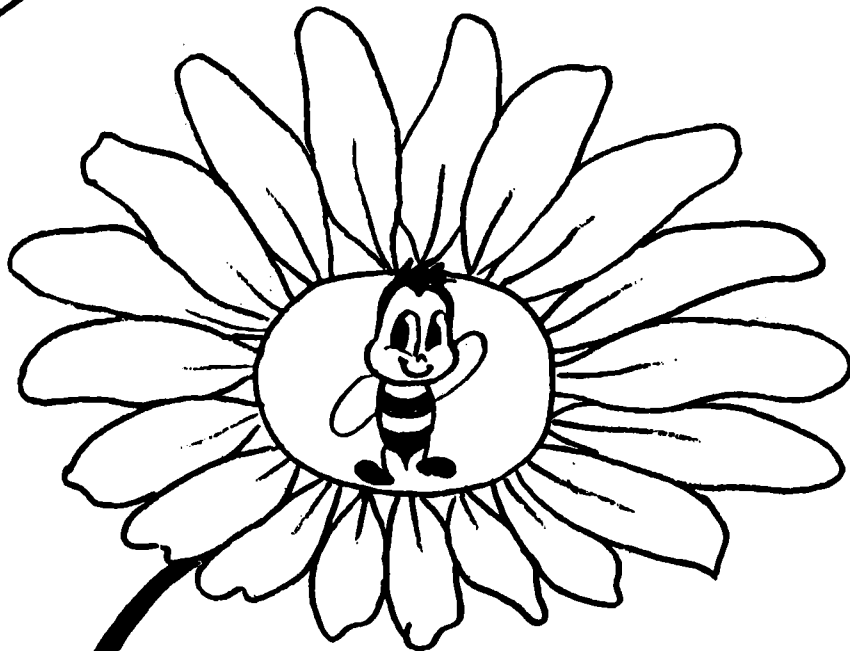


APIARIES INSTRUCTOR
M.A.F.
NELSON



NO. 3

November 1978

**waikato
bee
notes**





Well, the new season is just around the corner. From now until Xmas beekeepers go quietly crazy! And who can blame them. The overdraft goes up and up, some hives are starving, others have too much feed, some are swarming, some will not build up and worst of all some have disease.

The B.L. figures for my district will be the highest ever this year. I hope this is due to the fact that more of you are telling me when you find a diseased hive, rather than an upsurge in numbers.

I've tracked down three outbreaks recently that were infecting bees in nearby apiaries. One was a swarm in an old house (only located by piecing together reports from three beekeepers), another was a neglected apiary, and the third was in an apiary that wasn't being B.L. checked. In all three cases, B.L. hives were robbed out.

There is no telling where this disease will end up. In one of the cases I found it in an unregistered hive and a wild swarm in a tree. Once B.L. "goes bush" we've all got problems.

So in your own interests please

- report all B.L. when you find it.
- report any suspected unregistered hive or hives.

TWENTY - FIVE PER CENT MORE HONEY !

That's the message from Dr Rinderer of the U.S.D.A's Bee Breeding Laboratory in Baton Rouge. It seems empty combs stimulate hording and honey production when nectar is available.

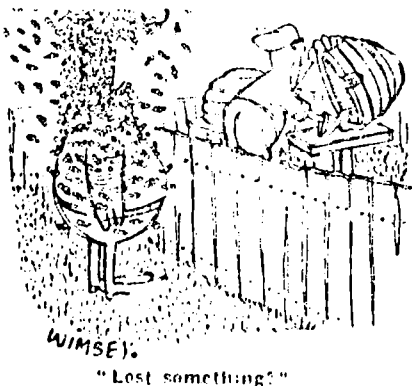
His advice is to crowd the colony as long as possible before the expected flow date, then give two boxes instead of one. Result - up to 25% more honey.

That might work well in clover areas where there is only one flow and it starts and stops pretty much on cue. In parts of our area we need an extra box on early to make room for the willow barberry and buttercup. Two boxes on in the spring could be a bit much especially if some of these flows don't happen.

But one thing is for sure; honey boxes sitting in the shed won't store any honey or relieve a bursting brood nest!

Reference - Australian Beekeeper February 1978. 171

Buzz says "Slippery elm seems to be the wood most used in building political platforms!"



THE SWARM

Did you see the movie? What a yawn. So was the T.V. programme on the movie. I haven't had any harmful feedback from the public so far.

But I am getting plenty of feedback from people with swarms they neither solicit nor want. In the city it's no problem getting hobbyists to collect swarms, but in the country it's a different matter.

I know you're all very busy at this time of the year, but if catching a swarm or disposing of one in a building can be worked in with your programme, please do it. I feel we owe the public a service in this respect; a service you'll find many prepared to pay for. So don't be afraid to charge a realistic fee.

LIVESTOCK OFFICERS

I'm happy to report that the 11 officers being trained to do part time inspection work are proving a very good investment. Five commercial beekeepers have also been retained as well, some to supervise the Livestock Officers. But despite this increased inspection REMEMBER

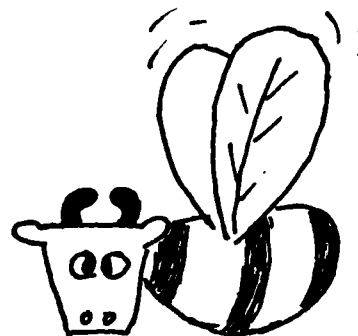
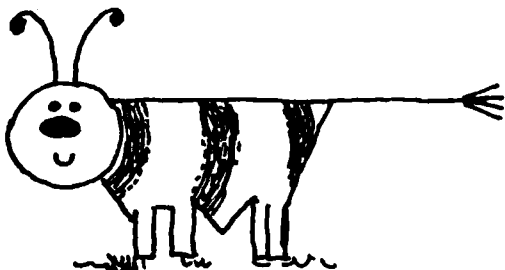
The onus is still on you, the beekeeper, to find, control and report all cases of B.L.

BLACK BEEVBILDE

No, this is not a new type of African bee, but a new breed of cattle developed in Britain. It hails from Nottinghamshire and is the result of 25 years work by one Eric Pentecost.

Apparently it is 92% Angus. The article didn't say what "inspired" the name.

OR





WATCH OUT

Several beekeepers have purchased exterior grade plywood for making nuc's, floorboards, lids etc. Look for a large red stamp on the plywood with the initials T.G.L. This stands for Treated Glue Line.

The glue has 0.5% by weight of Chlordane insecticide in it to kill wood boring insects. It also has a fumigant action which could kill bees.

The Forestry Research Institute (F.R.I.) at Rotorua wouldn't commit themselves on how to reduce the effects of the chlordane but suggested that a good covering of paint or paraffin wax should seal in the insecticide.

I've made some migratory lids with T.G.L. plywood and have paraffin waxed and painted them. So far there have been no problems.

While I was at the F.R.I. I gleaned some information on a new cold or hot soak wood preservative that they are working on. It is an alkyl ammonia compound with the experimental code name of I.W.D.3303.

This product looks quite exciting and is being developed to replace Tanalith. It is safer to use, cheaper and could be used by beekeepers to treat their own timber. As yet the F.R.I. does not have specifications for bee boxes, but they are treating some timber for me to make a couple of hives and evaluate. I'll keep you informed on progress.

REPAIRING FLOORS IS A BORE

Some Waikato beekeepers are nailing four small blocks of 50 x 50 mm treated timber to the runners of their floor boards. I like the idea - it

- (a) keeps the hives further up off the ground
- (b) improves the life of the runners
- (c) the blocks are easily replaced when they do rot
- (d) it is easier to level the floor board on a new site
- (e) old rotting runners can be repaired using the blocks.

Ground treated grass fence battens are the best for making the blocks, but ordinary fence battens last many years as well.

I've been experimenting with a "new" timber preservative. It is a 5% solution of copper sulphate and sodium or potassium dichromate.

These compounds are the main ingredients in the many formulations of Tanalith, without the highly toxic arsenic. These chemicals are available through Kempthorne & Prosser and are fairly cheap at \$1.10 for 500 gm of copper sulphate and 72cents 500 gm dichromate. This is enough chemical for 20 litres of preservative.

I used water as the diluent and got about a 12 mm penetration into pine blocks after a week of cold soaking. I suspect you could improve on that if the mixture was heated or another diluent was used such as power kerosene.

These chemicals are very acid so use a stainless steel or enamel container. I suggest that treated timber be left outside to "cure" for at least a week if you want to paint over it.

And the big question "Does it work?".

Ask me that in 10 years time!

Then there was the fisherman who kept dolphins
for immoral porpoises

SO YOU THINK YOU HAVE PROBLEMS?

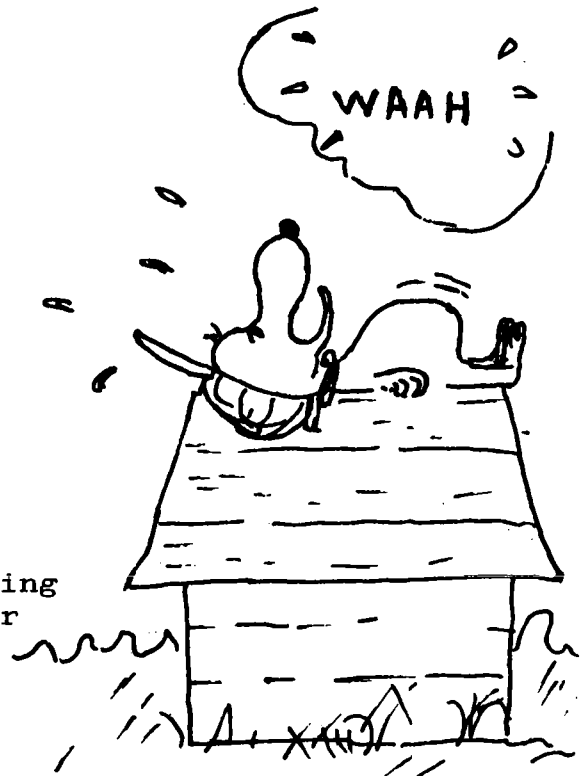
The October "Honey Notes" from the Department of Primary Industry, Canberra reports that market activity is quiet in Argentina.

They had a large crop last season and have exported 30,000 tonnes, but there is still around 6000 tonnes left to sell. Beekeepers are reluctant to sell the rest with inflation running at 8% a month! and little opportunity for investment.

EUROPEAN HONEY SEASON

American Bee Journal - October 1978.

West Germany	-	Patchy-poor
Greece	-	early bumper crop
Portugal	-	about 20% down
Spain	-	poor
Sweden	-	25% down on previous year
Ireland	-	below normal.



UNITED KINGDOM MARKET

- (a) Honey - Current prices for origins shown are as follows:
 Australia Light Amber £549.00 per tonne
 c.i.f. U.K., Pale Amber £536.50,
 Medium Amber £523.50 and Dark Amber/
 Manufacturing £517.00, Argentine Light
 £530.00 and Mexican Light £520.00.
- (b) Beeswax - The market is quiet, with adequate supplies.
- (Source: Australian Trade Commissioner, London. 13 September 1978).

WORLD HONEY PRODUCTION

Reached an all time high of 683,000 tonnes according to the U.S.D.A. This is an increase of 5.5% over last year's production.

American Bee Journal - November 1978.



Buzz heard Miss 5 year old discussing the prospect of starting school - "It's no good me going, I can't read or write".

ACCOUNTING FEES

Do we really use our accountants? They are there to act as financial advisers not just prepare our annual balance sheets and our IR whatevers for the tax man.

If you're only using your accountant to prepare your tax returns they you might get a much cheaper deal from H & R Block. I was talking to a beekeeper the other day who literally uses "all accounts into a shoebox" method of filing. He presented this mess to the H & R Block man, waited one week, paid \$46.00 and is now waiting for a \$400 refund from the Tax Department.

I took my carefully prepared ledgers and numbered accounts into my accountant, waited two months, paid \$178.00 and my IR tax forms still haven't been sent in.

The standard forms and balance sheets used by H & R Block should be acceptable to any finance organisation when and if you go seeking loan money.

And while I'm on that topic, I was reading recently a very interesting report in "The Accountants Journal" April 1978. It was the results of a survey of 100 bank managers in NZ which tried to find out just what criteria bank managers considered important when evaluating loan applications.

The results certainly surprised me. Some managers paid attention to the financial statements prepared by accountants but most relied on personal factors such as the ability and experience of the borrower and his past banking history.

WANT 100% TAX WRITE OFF?

No, not off all your tax, - but on NEW plant and machinery designed to use natural energy resources. You may even qualify for a refund of 10% sales tax or loan finance from the Development Finance Corporation.

The scheme is designed to encourage the switch from using imported fuels to indigenous ones. It also covers instruments or control equipment to monitor energy flows. I should imagine hot room thermostats come under this. However, if you claim this 100% write off you can't claim depreciation or the investment allowance.

One beekeeper has worked this one on converting from a hot top to a cappings spinner. A number of you will be looking for new boilers soon. Perhaps coal, wood or electric may be a better bet than diesel.

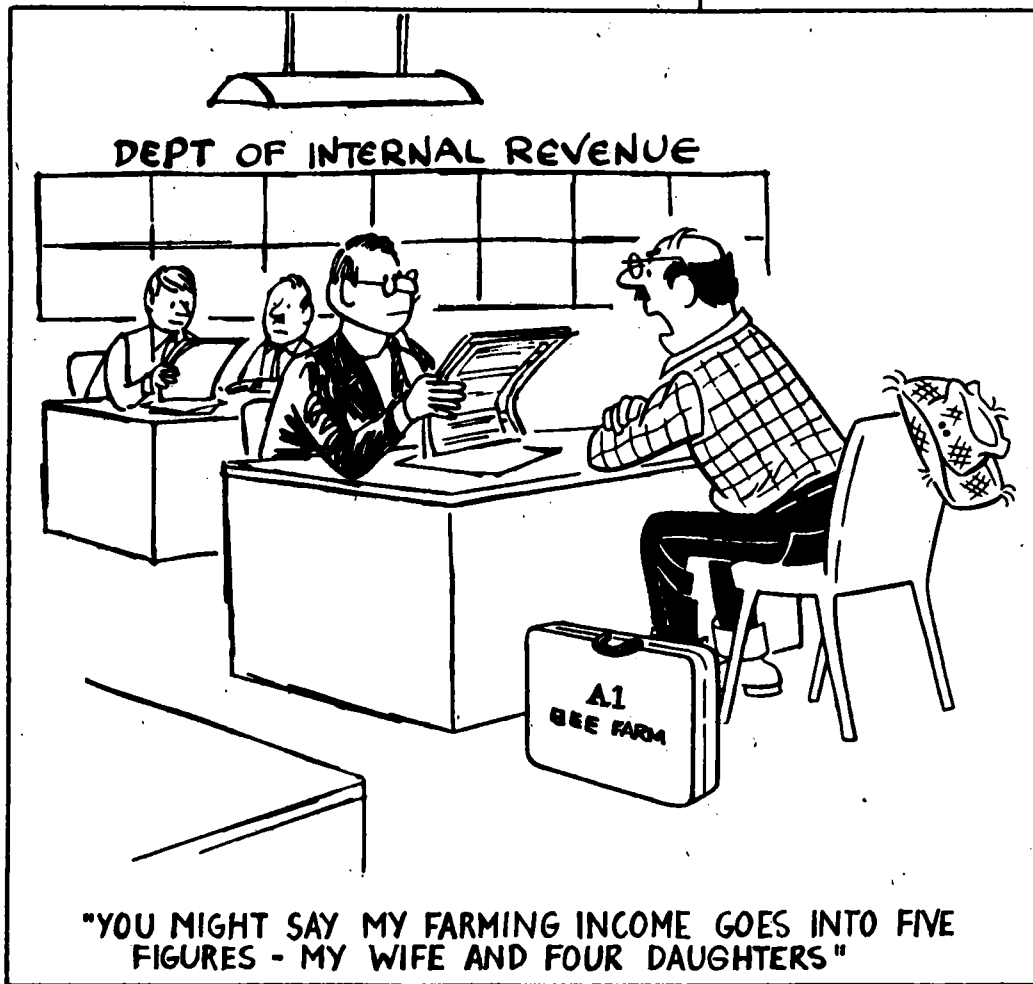
All the information is in Bulletin No. 5 "Incentives for Capital Expenditure on Energy Conservation and Use".

Available from Ministry of Energy Resources,
Box 5082
Wellington.

INSPECTION RETURNS

There are still a lot of these to come in yet. Hurry along now. Just change the details on the list of apiaries I supplied to you. I'm sorry the inspection sheet to note any BL details on was not included. Just use the back of the form or another piece of paper.

<p>Take time to have a good rest over this Xmas. I hope the season is kind to you.</p>
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Murray Reid.