

NO. 6

DECEMBER 1979

HND

**waikato
bee
notes**



Ministry of
Agriculture
& Fisheries

The honey flow is on and we're all busy supering up - aren't we! The wet spring months seem like a bad dream, but were they really so bad?

Sure, the paddocks were difficult to negotiate at times and the bees chewed through a lot of sugar, but queens have mated well and swarming has been almost non-existent. To cap things off, we are going to have a very good honey season. Persevere "gentle reader" and you will see why.



Meanwhile your peripatetic advisory officer has returned from six weeks travel overseas. If you didn't make the social and slide evening on 22 November, that's your loss. You can read all about the trip though, in the November issue of the "Apiarist". Watch out for another article in the Waikato Times on December 5th or the 12th.

HIVE RUSTLING

Appears to be on the increase. Over 107 hives have gone missing from four different locations over the past year. The last case was reported to me only ten days ago.

If you have had hives stolen, you can write them off. Even if I somehow blunder across them in the course of my duties, as happened last year, and set the wheels in motion for a police prosecution, there is still little chance you'll get any of your gear back.

The problem is lack of positive identification and it's no use saying "Oh, but I always nail my boxes a certain way, or I have a certain design of floor board etc". When it comes to the crunch, you have to identify 'beyond all reasonable doubt' every part of the hive i.e. lid, boxes, frames and floor.



Supposing you manage to get a prosecution taken then the offender will simply say he found some boxes lying on a road; 'they must have fallen off a truck', and the rest he found washed down a river after a flood. The judge won't really believe him, but you can't prove anything to the contrary.

Your only solution is to firebrand or punch mark everything, including the frames. This need not take long if you rig up a gas bottle to a branding iron and mount the lot on a drill press. I suggest you use your code number issued by MAF, or your initials or a decorative shape.

It's laborious and time consuming work, but what price 14-15 hives of bees ready to gather a honey crop?

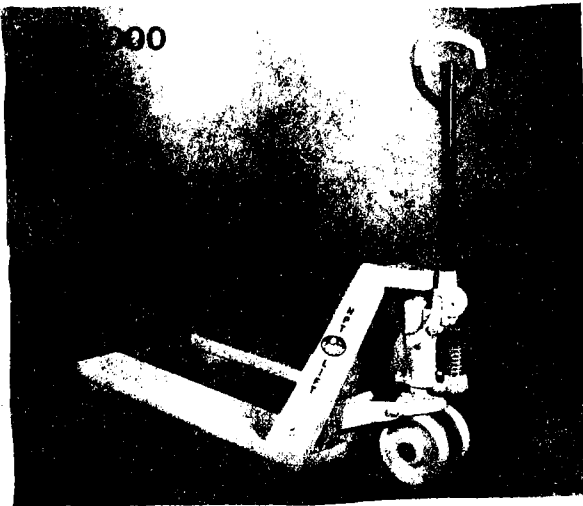
And a thought for Christmas!

"Many who have the gift of the gab, don't know how to wrap it up".

JIFFY HAND PALLET TRUCK

Moving honey boxes, drums or containers on pallets saves a lot of time and effort. But what do you use to shift the pallet?

Fork lifts are the obvious answer and they don't have to be big or even motorized to be effective, especially around the honey house. Ceramco Loadlift Equipment Limited of 2 Maurice Road, Penrose, Auckland Phone 661-209 make a range of fork lifts from the excellent HPT 2000 illustrated, to motorized versions of the same, to larger versions with forks that can be elevated for stacking; some 13 models in all.

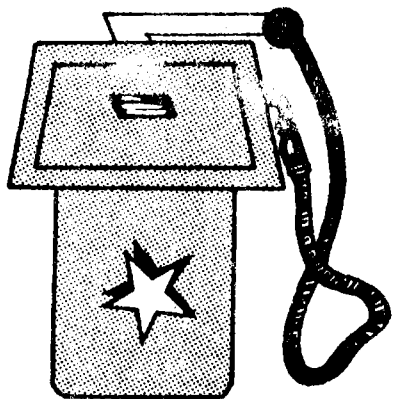


The HPT 2000 comes in a range of fork lengths and widths. Mason Mesco Limited, Hamilton 492-969 have models with forks 673 mm (27") wide by 1066 mm (42") long, in stock.

Quoted price \$675.00. The HPT 2000 only takes 1-2 pumps on the handle to elevate the forks and the hand release trigger gives very controlled lowering. The nylon wheels are easy on floors and the whole unit is very light to manoeuvre. Pay load is up to 2000 kg.

Swinnock & Company Limited, 17 O'Rorke Road, Penrose, Auckland also has several hand hydraulic pallet trucks. I don't have current prices for them, but their capacities are similar to the Jiffy Units.

From Germany comes a warning NOT to use paints containing fungicides to paint bee boxes. The fungicide can be toxic.



THERE'S NO FUEL LIKE AN OLD FUEL

or something'
 Diesel supplies in the country have improved lately which is just as well, because the procedure to get more is laborious to say the least. If you think you are going to run short of diesel, you write to the "Fuel Allocation Division, Ministry of Energy, Private Bag, Wellington". Your letter should cover the following points.

- How much more diesel will be required.
- Why is more diesel required this year than last.
- What measures are being undertaken to conserve diesel.
- What stock of diesel is currently held on the property.

So far so good. The bad news is that the Wellington gnomes will take over two months to process your application.

AND did you know that "Racial prejudice is a pigment of your imagination".





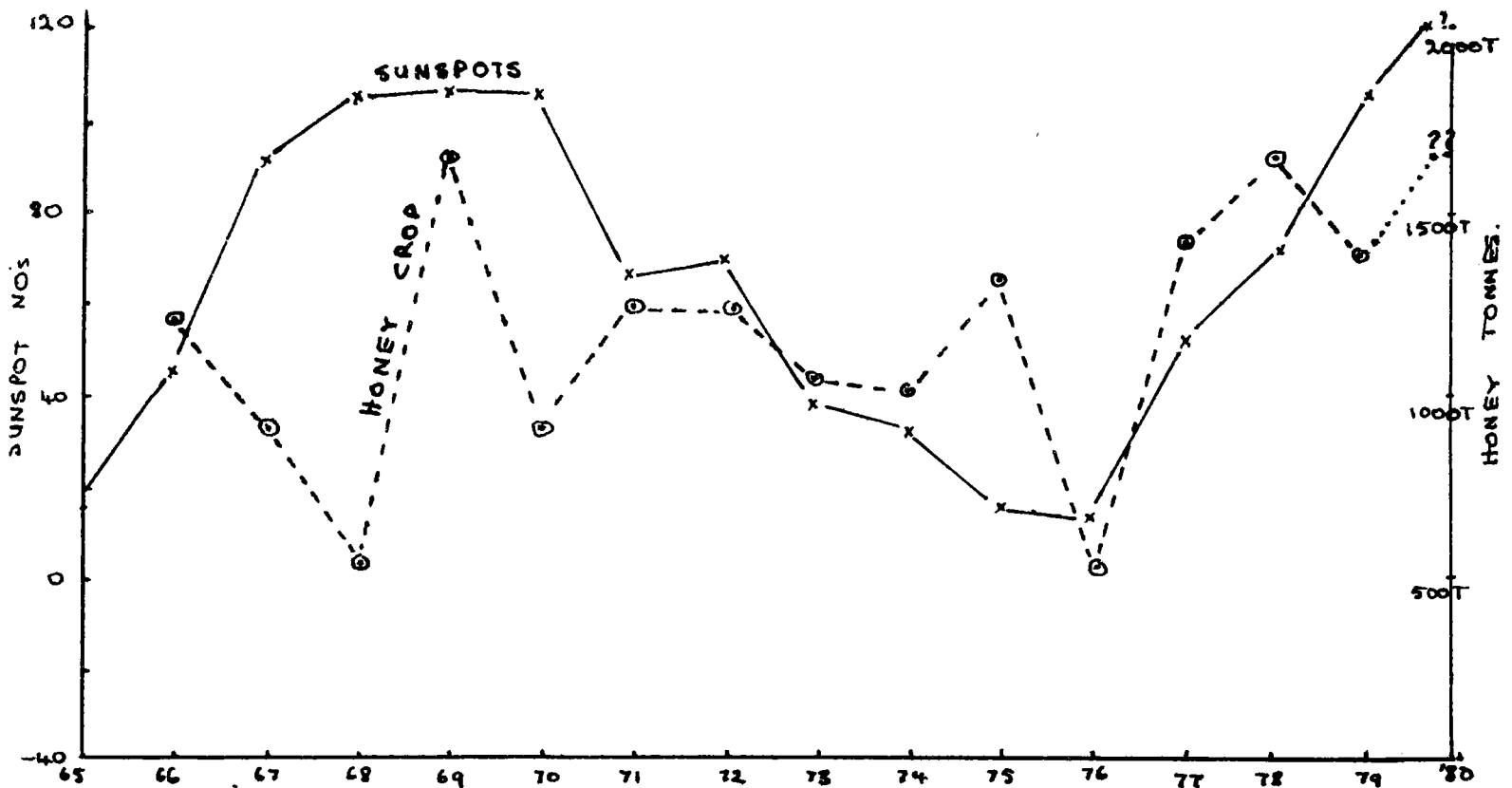
HOW WE'LL ALL BE FEELING
NEXT MARCH

I'll stick my neck out and say we're going to have an excellent crop in the Waikato this year - we've had little swarming, hives are built up well after a stagnant period in October-November; the ground has been well watered, and the long term weather forecasts are for settled weather.

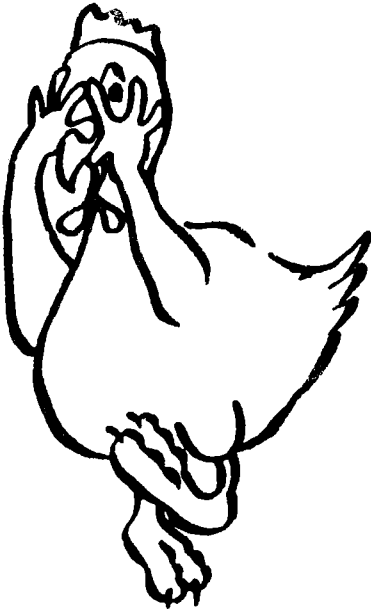
But more than that, Trevor Bryant, Apiary Officer in Gore, put me on to an interesting paper in the Soil & Water Magazine. Here the author was showing what a remarkable correlation there was between

sunspot activity and annual rainfall, using this information to predict flow patterns into the southern hydro lakes. Other authors have done this same exercise on tree growth.

So of course, I had to examine the sun spot cycles in terms of past honey crops. Sun spot activity goes in an 11 year cycle, and apart from a couple of hiccups there is a reasonable correlation between sunspot activity and honey crops. Sun spots will be most active at the end of 1979 early 1980. The greater the activity, the greater the honey crop??



If I'm right about the season, you can buy me a beer, and if I'm wrong, you can still buy me a beer!



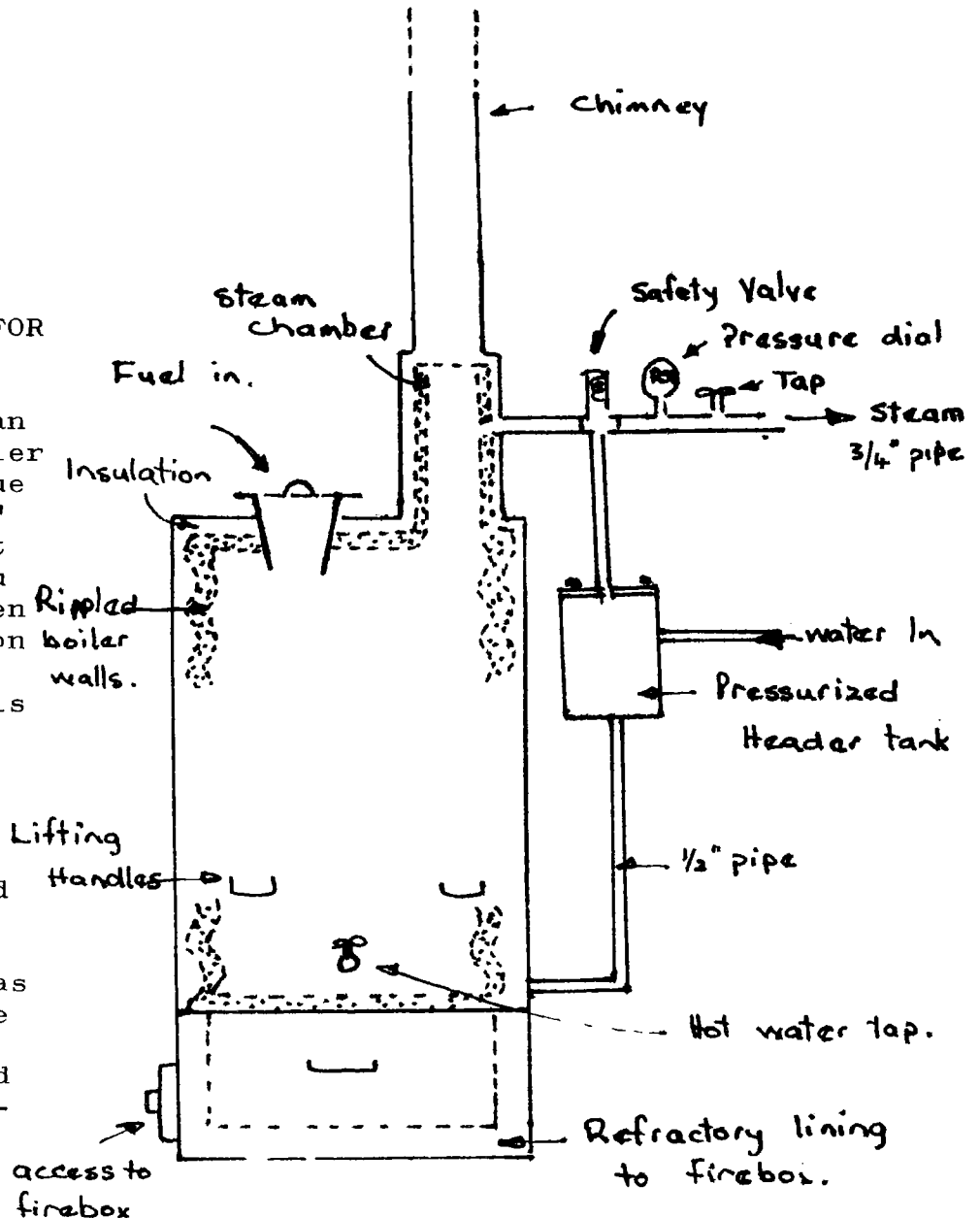
And one for the birds:

Mother hen who was becoming very exasperated with her chicks - "If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy".

BOSCA BUILDS BOILER FOR BEEKEEPERS!

I was too late with an article on this broiler for the December issue of the "NZ Beekeeper" so a brief word about it here. Some of you will already have seen this broiler in action at Environmental Engineering, 119 Ellis Street, Frankton - south end of Ellis Street, across Killarney Road.

Kerry Simpson started the hunt for 'cheap' boilers suitable for beekeepers when he was here in Hamilton. He ended up at Bosca's and I have encouraged Bosca to build a prototype since Kerry left.



access to firebox

The specifications are as follows :

Capacity 5 hp or 73 kg/h of steam at 35 kPa (5 psi). It has been designed to burn wood and rubbish, but will burn coal. It has a very efficient firebox that works on the down draught principle. We were originally looking for a wax boiler where fuel economy and pollution didn't matter. However, this unit is so economical and clean burning, it can be used to heat honey processing equipment, water baths to melt out honey cans, or even swimming pools.

The firebox is very heavy as it is lined with refractory fire brick. The top boiler unit lifts on and off so it can be easily transported on to another base unit nearer your wax shed or swimming pool or whatever.

The current price is \$1680. freight free in the North Island (and only \$74.00 ^{freight} to the South Island if you want to send one to someone down there). The price also includes the 10% sales tax.

Remember that these units are 100% tax deductible and you can probably claim the 10% sales tax too. I told you about this deduction in my No. 3 newsletter. All the details are in Bulletin No. 5 "Incentives for Capital Expenditure on Energy Conservation and Use".

Your contact at Bosca is Peter Keegan or Neil Martin, phone HN 76074 or 78236.

Look out in the March NZ Beekeeper for full details or go and see the prototype for yourself.

DEFINING - ISMS

Socialism is when you have two bee hives and the Government takes one and gives it to your neighbour; Communism is when you have two hives, the Government takes both and gives you some honey; Bureaucracy is when you have two hives, the Government burns one, robs the other and then spills the honey; Capitalism is when you have two hives, you sell one and split the other.

And still in a lighter vein, - I think.
How about these two papers from the Journal of Experimental Zoology.



PATRICIA M. SALING, JANICE SOWINSKI and BAYARD T. STOREY.
An ultra-structural Study of Epididymal Mouse Spermatozoa
Binding to Zonae Pellucidae in Vitro: Sequential Relation-
ship to the Acrosome Reaction

ROBERT W McGAUGHEY, DEBORAH H. MONTGOMERY and JOEL D RICHTER.
Germinal Vesicle Configurations and Patterns of Polypeptide
Synthesis of Porcine Oocytes from Antral Follicles of Different
Size, as Related to Their Competency for Spontaneous Maturation.

I guess they're speaking English.



ASSISTANCE AND INCENTIVES FOR
FARMERS 1979-1980

This valuable little booklet is available from MAF offices, Federated Farmers, Stock and Station Agents, Rural Bank and Livestock Improvement Agencies. Have you got a copy? If not, why not?. Find out what you can claim off tax.

ALWAYS CHECK YOUR ENTITLEMENTS BEFORE
MAKING COMMITMENTS

EXPORTERS OF HUMAN FOOD

The MAF Annual Report had this to say "As a nation we are exporters of human food and food is unacceptable unless its quality and purity is beyond reproach Heavy metals, bacteria, pests and diseases and various contaminants are all assuming major importance in determining access to overseas markets".

What that means to the Government is that 1000 more staff are employed in quality assurance than in advisory or research.

What it means to beekeepers is that the clearance certificates for honey demanded now by Queensland, West Australia, Italy and France are next to impossible to sign. In short - no certificate no export.

The problem is not just one of honey house hygiene or how you treat your honey while processing it, but one of disease control in your apiaries, and the disease control practised by your neighbours as well.



This is dedicated to all who suffer from hayfever - you have my sympathy.

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Bumper stickers seen in the USA.
 "Crime doesn't pay - neither does beekeeping".
 or this one on a Chevrolet utility - "When I grow
 up I'm going to be a Kenworth".

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW!

Yep, it's your reminder to get your returns in. November 7th was the deadline you know and you've had one official reminder. The system is as easy as it's ever going to be so sit down tonight and get those returns corrected and mailed to me.

Collecting these returns is a time consuming, expensive and a thankless task. Your tardiness doesn't help - sorry those of you who have been diligent. There are rumblings from the Apiary Section about handing this job over to the NBA - see what they would do to your hive levy!

The world honey output in 1979 is estimated at 714,000 tones, about the same as estimated consumption. Production is slightly higher than the 705,000 tonne total in 1978, when output slightly exceeded production.

FUNNY BUGS

Our mystery disease has appeared in greater numbers again this spring. The symptoms are -

- * affects mainly larvae which become cream coloured and may coil around the lip of the cell where they dry out to form a half moon shaped flat scale, dark brown in colour.
- * The larval contents are not ropey.
- * Some cells may be punctured as with BL or SAC brood.
- * The brood can be seriously affected and at least one hive has died out from it.
- * The queen may lay numerous (10-40) eggs in some cells.

Several Management techniques have been tried, namely -

- (a) shaking on to foundation - diseased larvae reappeared but too early to say in what numbers.
- (b) Adding a strong swarm - appears to have cleared up the "disease"
- (c) Requeening - hive recovered but went down again this spring. Hive superseded this spring (two queens present) and has recovered again.

Time will tell whether this is just a nuisance thing like SAC brood or whether we have another problem disease on our hands. In the meantime if you note this disease, isolate it or keep a note of where it is.

Samples sent to Wallaceville and Rothamstead in the UK confirm that the "disease" is not bacterial. It may be a virus.

BEEKEEPERS FIELD DAY

Advance Notice. Next year's field day will be held at Norm Finlay's honey house at Ohaupo on March 8 1980.

It will be modeled on the Southland version with demonstrations in the field and in the honey house; there will be something organised for the womenfolk and hobbyists as well.

NBA and HMA matters will be discussed off to one side for those that are interested. There will be several trade displays too, including refractometers, Bosca boilers etc.



We could be hosting a tour party of Aussie beekeepers also if they have a good season over there. More details later.

Meanwhile, HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND TAKE TIME TO RELAX PROPERLY

Regards,

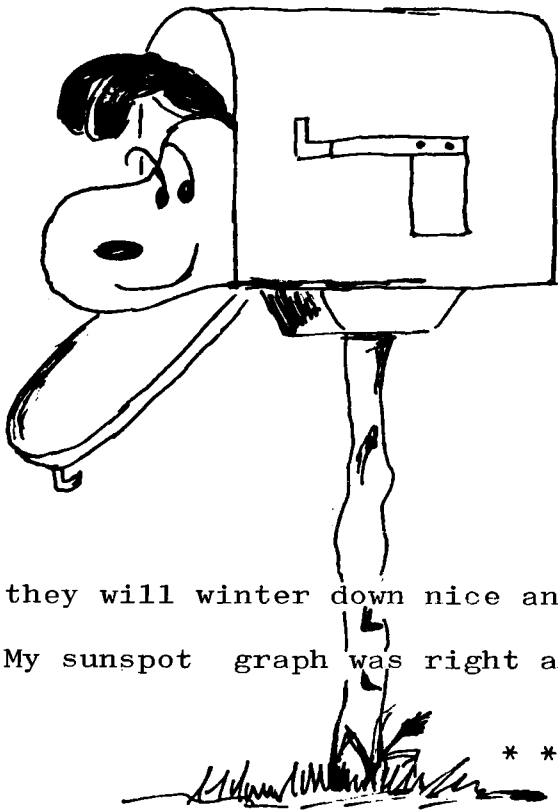
Murray

Murray Reid
Apicultural Advisory Officer



THIS-NOT THIS





Well, was I right, or was I right? I made my honey crop (and sunspot) prediction back in mid December when things were looking good. Then what happened? You get two guesses and the first one doesn't count.

Still we can console ourselves with the thought that others got it worse than we did. And who can remember a flaw going on so long into February? We could still end up with an average crop. Some areas have done very well and as for the rest - well,

they will winter down nice and heavy.

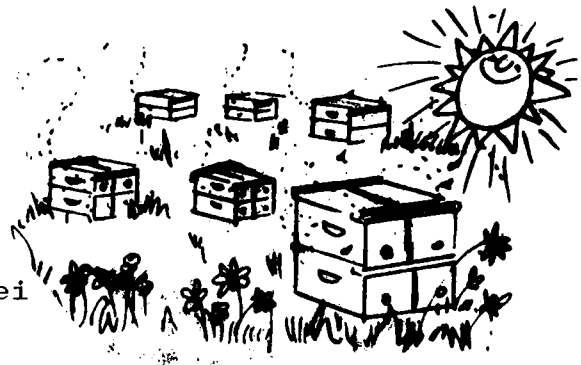
My sunspot graph was right about one thing though - all that rain.

* * * *

Nuc's, Nuks, or Nuclei

It's time we revived the ancient art of "4 frame nucing" - not to be confused with "2 time necking"!

I am a firm advocate of the 4-5 frame nuc. I also believe that any hive increase and winter replacements should be made up by establishing 4-5 frame nuclei in the late summer - say late January - early February.



Nuc's made up with two frames of brood and bees and some honey and pollen, and a ripe queen cell will consolidate sufficiently to overwinter on their own. Splitting colonies in the spring should be done as a swarm control measure or to provide nuc's for uniting onto other colonies, that decide to "pack up" in December. Over wintered nuc's will be too strong for this purpose in December.

Some beekeepers say these autumn queens lay on too long into the winter. That may be so, but this tendency is related to the genetic strain of the queen as well as to her youthfulness. This propensity (I like that word) to produce too much brood is one of the faults of some of the commercially available strains. All the more reason why you should be selecting your own breeding stock!

One of the main characters I look for in a breeder is how the hive comes through the winter interms of food consumption and brood production.

Queen cells are easy to produce. I'll help anyone who needs it.

And it doesn't take any time at all to make up nuc's if you use hives that have obviously failed on the honey crop. Give the honey boxes

Now back to our Bill of Sale. What information does it need to contain? It must contain:

- the date of the transaction.
- a useable, specific and detailed description of the goods transferred. This aspect is often neglected. For example, hives in recent years, have been sold on the 'understanding' that there would be two boxes of honey on them. After a poor season, that 'understanding' came to mean "whatever crop was on the hives". The purchaser loses out on deals like this.
- the purchase price.
- the way payment is to be made, describing exactly where, when and at what rate of interest payments are to be made, if time payments are involved.
- if delivery of the goods is part of the agreement, then details of who pays for the delivery, who handles the delivery and when and where the goods are to be delivered should also be included.
- a statement that the seller owns the items.
- a statement that the seller transfers ownership of the described goods to the buyer.
- penalty clauses can be inserted if desired.
- the signature of the seller.

As a further protection, if the hives are purchased during the winter when there is no opportunity to do a BL check, I suggest you obtain a money back guarantee on any hives going down with BL up to September 31. *Thirty days hath September.....*

If you really want to be sure of ownership then you can insist on an Affidavit of Title. This again can be simply worded by the seller in which he states that he is the lawful owner of the goods described in the Bill of Sale. The seller must also state that the goods are free from any debts, liabilities, obligations and imcumbrances.

And most important this Affidavit of Title must be signed and sworn to in the presence of a Notary Public.

If this all seems too complicated for you then your lawyer will be able to arrange a Bill of Sale and an Affidavit of Title, for a certain fee of course!

It seems that the gate between Heaven and Hell broke down.

Saint Peter called across to the other side, "Hey devil, it's your turn to fix it this time!"

"Sorry", replied the boss, "My men are too busy to worry about fixing a gate".



"Well then", growled Peter, "I'll have to sue you for breaking our agreement".

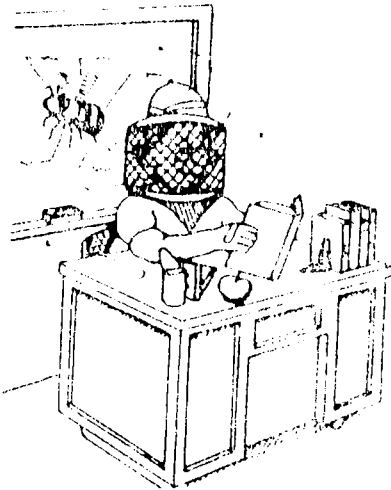
"Oh yea," said the devil, "where are you going to find a lawyer?".

HIVES FOR SALE

Speaking of buying hives. Doug Briscoe, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Tauranga, advises that Mr Barry Hosking, Maketu Road, Te Puke, is in the nuc production business. Barry has a supply of 4 frame nuc's available for spring delivery. Prices and conditions of supply are available from Barry.

E.E.C sugar subsidies cost around \$8,400,000
a year

Span. 23 (1) : 28-29 1980



FLOCK HOUSE COURSES FOR BEEKEEPERS

There are two courses being offered at Flock House (MAF's farm training institute near Bulls) this year.

The first is for commercial beekeepers and/or their wives, and is on Financial Management, June 30 - July 3 1980.

The course will include keeping and using cash flow records, sources of industry finance, incentives, accounting principles, interpreting a set of accounts, estate planning, taxation and marketing.

Further information and enquiries should be directed to: The Registrar
Flock House Farm Training Institute
Private Bag
Bulls

The second course is on "Expanding into Commercial Beekeeping" from August 25 - 28 1980.

This course is designed for beekeepers who have recently taken the plunge into full time beekeeping, are considering doing so, or wish to run a number of hives in conjunction with a part time or full time job.

It will consider aspects of colony management, financial planning and marketing. This course is by invitation. I have sent a list of people I consider suitable to Kerry Simpson, the course organiser. If you have not heard personally from Kerry by say the middle of July, and wish to go to the course then apply to the

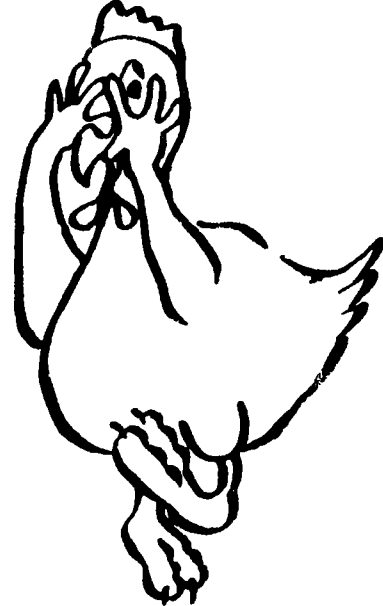
Registrar, Flock House.

Fees for both courses will be about \$17 for tuition and \$7.50 per day for all meals and accommodation.

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There are nine hens sitting on three perches arranged one above the other; which hens do you own?

The lower ones - the rest are on "higher perches"!



NEW INCENTIVE ALLOWANCES FOR EXPORTERS - Effective April 1 1980

An important feature of the new incentives is that they are given as a tax credit against tax payable. You can calculate your incentive at the time of export rather than waiting until the end of the year. Established exporters can elect to move onto the new scheme now or wait until the income year commencing April 1 1983. Once you're on the new scheme you must stay with it.

The rate of credit varies according to the local domestic content of the goods exported. This value has been determined by the Dept of Trade and Industry. However, you can apply to the Development Finance Corporation if you consider that the assessed domestic content of your product is too low.

There is no base period sales requirement as in the old scheme.

The following table shows the domestic value added band and rates of incentive allowance:

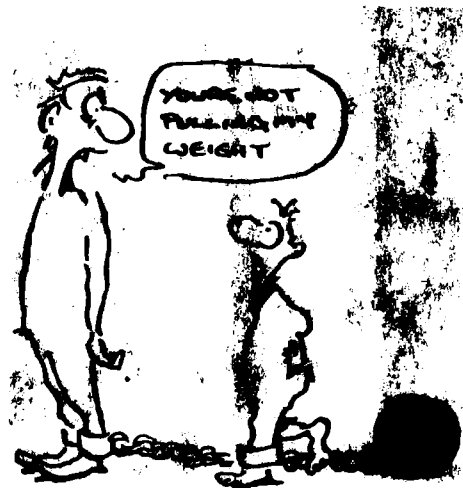
Band	Domestic Value Added %	Mid-Point	Specified Tax Credit Rate %
A	80 - 100	85	11.9
B	70 - 80	75	10.5
C	60 - 70	65	9.1
D	50 - 60	55	7.7
E	40 - 50	45	6.3 - comb & packaged honey
F	20 - 40	30	4.2
G	0 - 20	10	1.4 - bulk honey

Claims are made on form IR 320 and attached to your tax return. Further information is available in "Public Information Bulletin" No 100 September 1979 available from Inland Revenue Offices.

The Government Printer in Hamilton sells copies of the tax credit rates for all products, exported from New Zealand - ask for "Export Performance Taxation Incentive - Schedule of Export Goods".

NBA CONFERENCE

Conference this year is at Willow Park Motor Hotel, Tauranga, from July 23 - 25. No doubt the formation of co-operatives will occupy a lot of time and energy. Perhaps this little cartoon would make a good logo for the conference.



Bye for now

Murray

Murray Reid
Apicultural Advisory Officer

New prices from Frankton Dairy Company, for bee boxes cut to length are:

Full depth	\$3.00
$\frac{3}{4}$ depth	\$2.50
$\frac{1}{2}$ depth (cut comb)	\$2.50
$\frac{1}{4}$ depth ($\frac{1}{2}$ depth)	\$2.00

A number of beekeepers have been upsetting Mr Stuart Moffat, Manager of the Box Factory, by ordering boxes then not collecting them for months. The factory is a very busy place and they don't want traffic ways clogged up with stacks of supers. Full depth supers are cut 240 mm deep. They're not prepared to alter saw settings for every other beekeeper who comes along wanting something different.