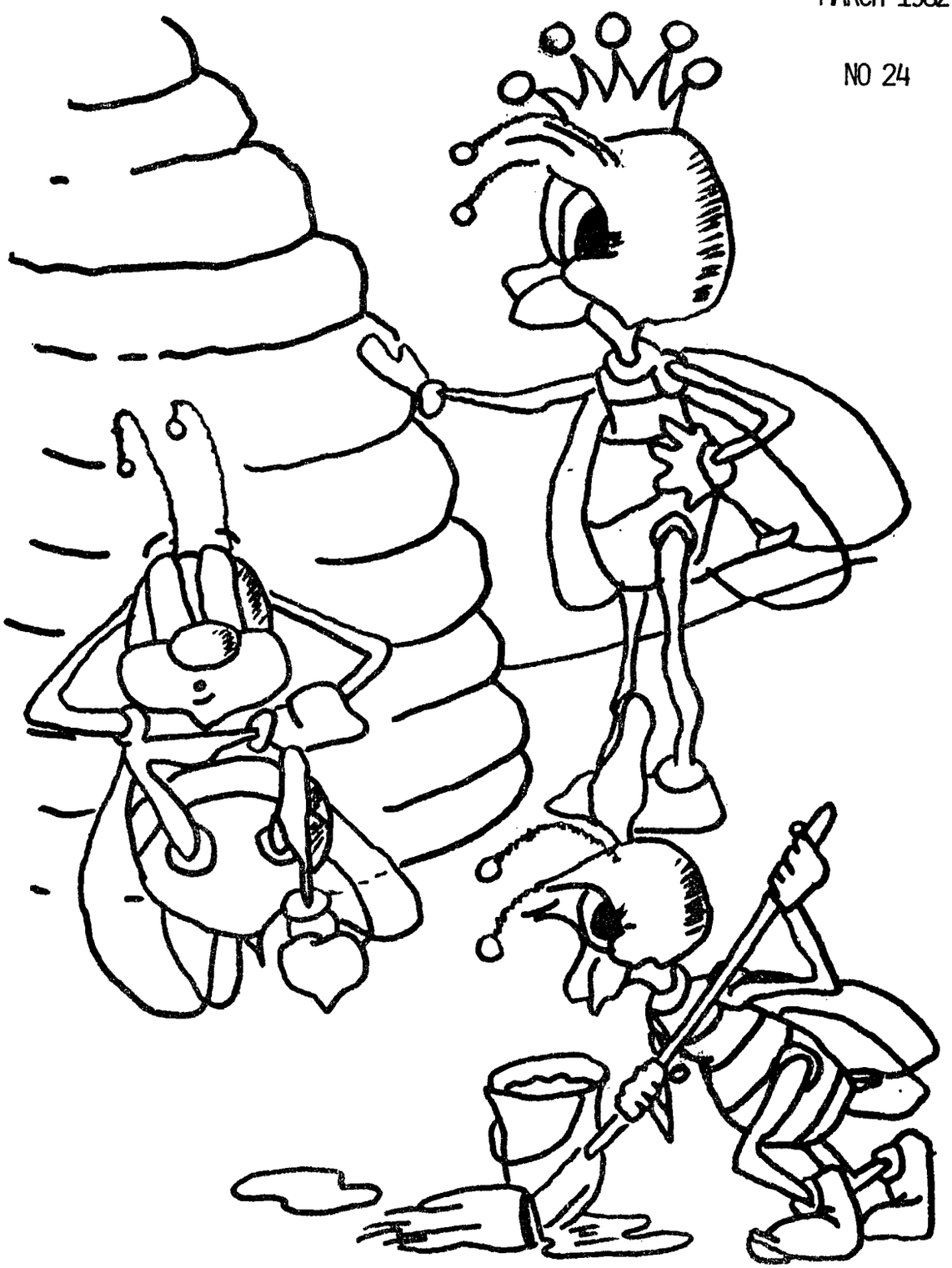
YOUR NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1982

NO 24



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YOUR NEWSLETTER,

Now that I'm reasonably well established here in Tauranga and am gradually getting the feel of the area, it is time to get out and about and to get to know you all.

Let me therefore introduce myself so you know who I am.

Name: Trevor Bryant, married, wife - Judith, no children.

Age: That's my secret!

Beekeeping experience - started young (age 4). My first hive overwintered in my bedroom in an Agee jar. Bees/queen captured from honey house window. Father being commercial beekeeper in Canterbury I spent my holidays etc working with bees. Had three years in Australia and then returned to partnership with my father. After just two years I was offered a position as Apiary Officer, Gore, which was accepted. I have been with MAF for eight and a half years.

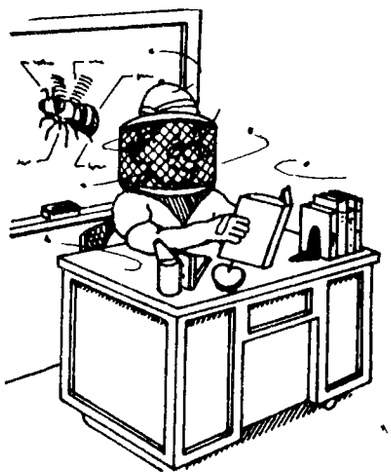
Travelled extensively overseas - 6 months in 1975 LWOP and in 1980/81 I spent 14 months overseas as a MAF exchangee to Alberta, Canada with visits to USA, UK, Israel and Australia.

Qualifications:
National Diploma in Apiculture (earned the hard way).

The next few months are basically familiarisation of district opportunities etc. There are however, a few things planned for the coming year, to mention a few, a seminar on aspects of pollination; a series of disease clinics; ie AFB, EFB, mites etc, known and not present; mini field days and formation of discussion groups (if you see the need). Coupled with the usual work load and involvement with other staff to become conversant with farming and horticultural practices in the area, the above should keep me reasonably busy over the next twelve months.

Before I forget, there is also an evening planned to enable me to show and tell you something of beekeeping overseas.

THIS NEWSLETTER,



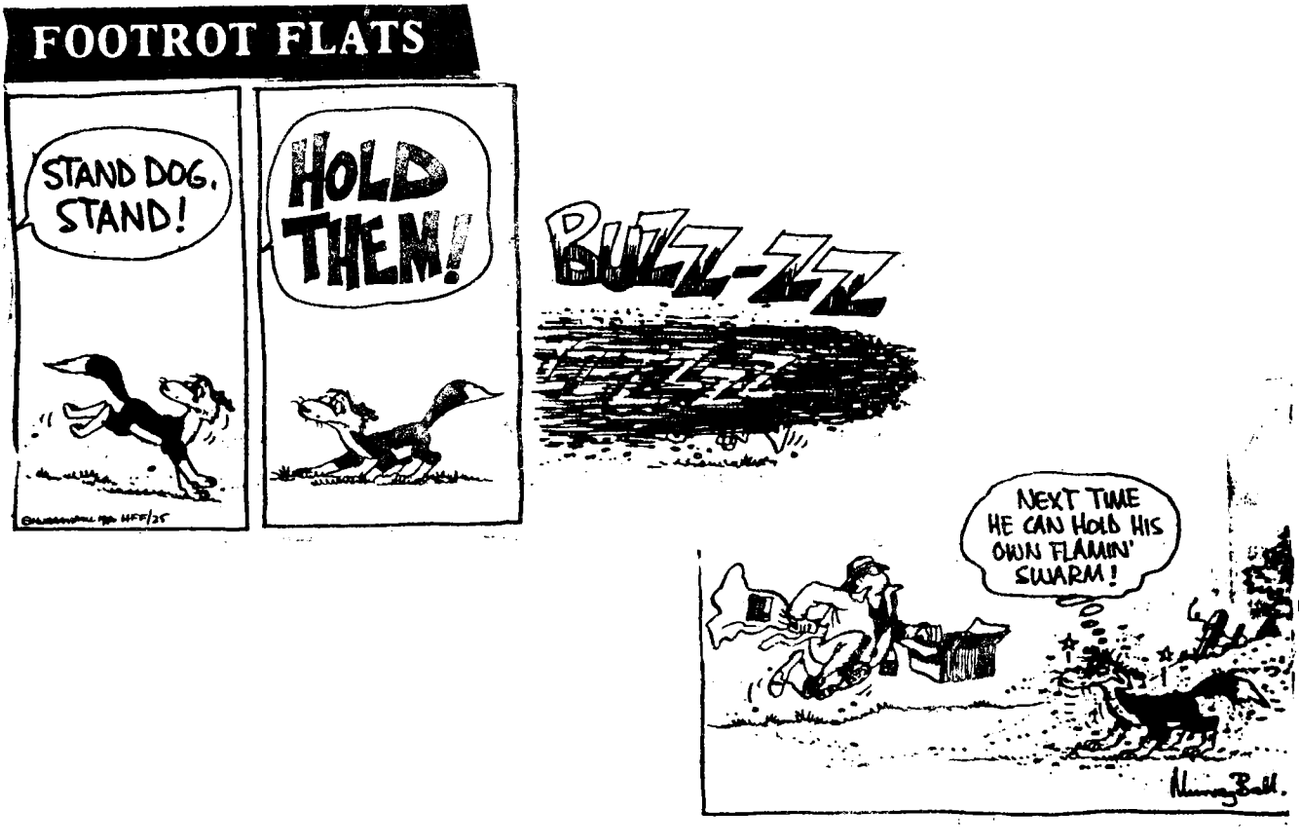
Will continue to be distributed, giving items of interest, that are informative, are topical, and if there is something one of you would like to say, then let me know.

MY ROLE

Generally, my role is to provide a sound technical service to beekeepers in all facets of apiculture and of course, carry out the provisions of the Apiaries Act.

So, if you have a problem and would like to toss it about with someone, then let's hear about it. If I cannot give you an answer, it would be egotistical of me to think I know everything, then I shall endeavour to find someone who does know.

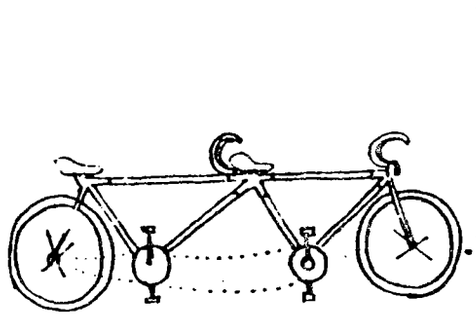
I hope you are all aware of the resource people you can draw on for assistance within MAF; eg Ag Economists, Engineers, horticulturists, researchers etc, etc, so don't be afraid to ask for assistance when it comes to designing your new honey house, drawing up budgets/development programmes etc.



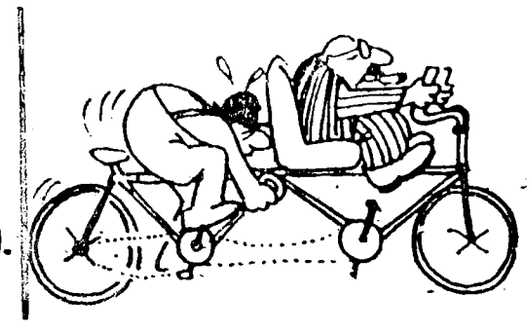
BEES

The Tauranga Apiary district is a large area covering very different climatic zones.

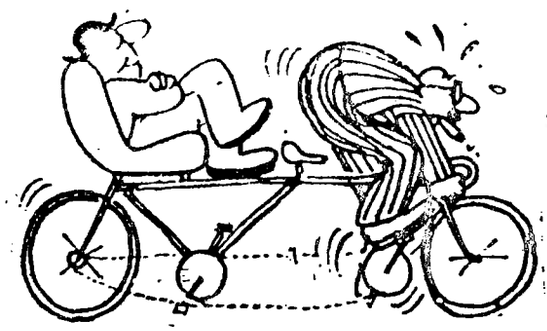
From comments it would appear the overall crop is about average, 3 tonnes per 100 hives.



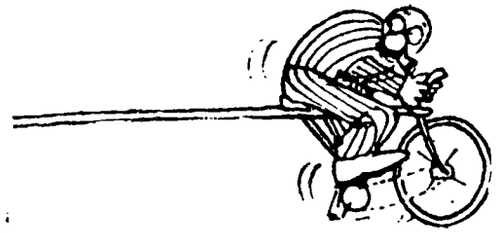
HONEY MARKETING.



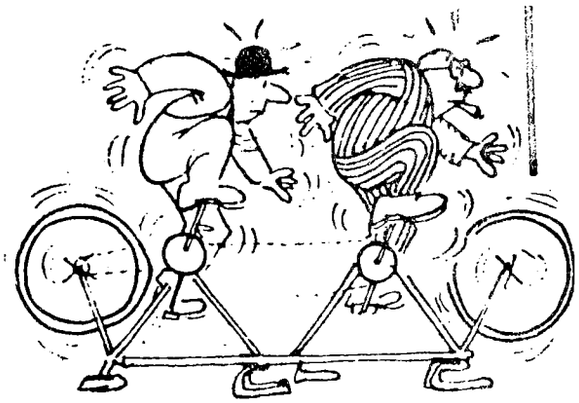
HOW THE NORTH ISLAND WANTED IT



HOW THE SOUTH ISLAND WANTED IT.



HOW GOVERNMENT WANTED IT



HOW IT IS NOW.

AND HOW THE FUTURE LOOKS!

For some the crop will be in the drum. Others are only just starting and now is the time to think about autumn requeening; the cells should be out and virgins mated and laying. You could still use mated queens.

You should also be thinking about wintering down; don't be greedy, leave enough for the bees. Remember the old adage.

'Bees never freeze to death, they starve to death'.

A rule of thumb guide - temperate climate 7 - 14 kg; cold climate 27 - 40 kg. If you don't weigh individual hives then count each full frame of honey as being approximately 2.7 kg.

Your colonies should have been inspected as you took the crop off and be free of disease, be queen right and not too much can go wrong before spring rounds, except floods, hives knocked over by livestock, wasps, rustling, nosema, excessive dampness and no sunshine, dysentry, mice and that's just a few small things that can go wrong.

Top ventilation is a very neglected aspect of hive management in New Zealand. We seem to have the idea that bees need to be tucked up in bed and kept warm.

Langstroth wrote over a century ago "No extreme cold experienced in latitudes where bees flourish can destroy a strong colony, well supplied with honey, except indirectly by confining them to empty combs. They will survive in coldest winters, in thin hives raised on blocks to give freer admission of air, or even in suspended hives, without any bottom board at all. Indeed in cold weather, a very free admission of air is necessary in such hives to prevent the otherwise ruinous effects of frozen moisture ..."

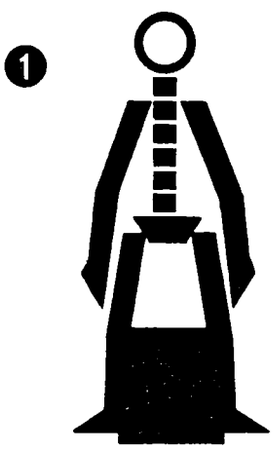
Think about it!

Do you know? No. 40

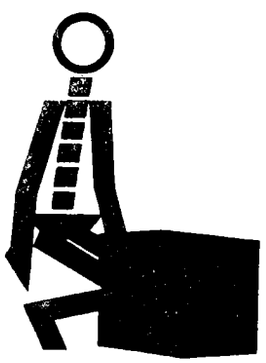
In NZ over 17 000 people suffer serious back injuries each year.

Cut the Stress

When you lift - bend your knees not your back



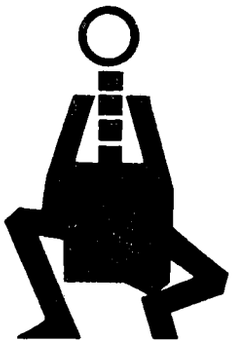
1 Size up load — good balance



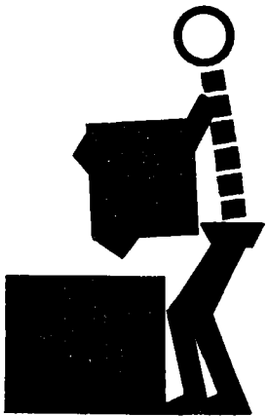
2 Bend knees — keep back straight as possible (not necessarily vertical)

3 Grip load with palms of hands and fingers

4 Use body weight to start load moving — then lift by pushing up with legs



5 Keep arms and elbows close to body



6 When lowering load — bend knees — do not stoop

Don't take a risk - if it's too heavy get help.

Accident Compensation Commission

HI THERE,

It's me again. Firstly I am sure you all join with me in welcoming Trevor and his wife to Tauranga. As for his secret, if I ever find out I could be tempted!

As you can see, I've had the new "worker" in the "hive" hard at it already. Didn't even give him time to "settle the dust".

Welcome to the "hive" Trev!

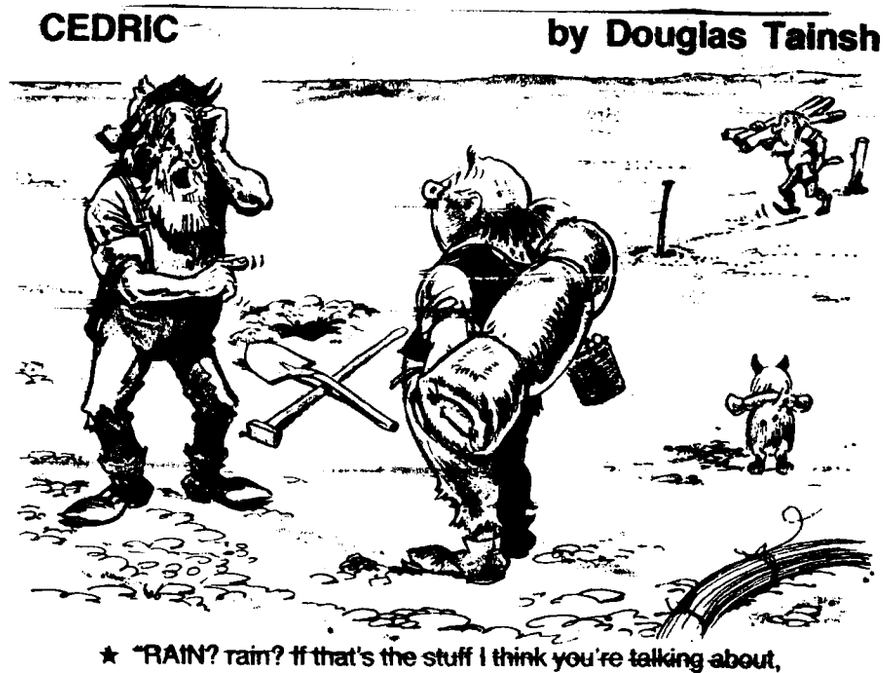
Inspection Returns

My apologies to those who received a reminder notice when they had already forwarded their returns - BUT, to those of you who still haven't furnished a return, PLEASE DO SO!!

Have a Happy Day.

Cheers

Kathy



★ "RAIN? rain? If that's the stuff I think you're talking about, you'll have to ask me father!"

WAX MOTH

Next to your bees, good quality combs are your most valuable asset. Don't let them become infested with wax moth.

If you have a wax moth problem don't use Vapona (dichlorvos) pest strips or 'borer bombs' or any other chemicals without first checking them out with MAF. There have been all too numerous cases of whole apiaries being knocked out; one of 3000 supers rendered unusable.

The only safe chemicals to use are paradichlorobenzene (PDB) crystals, methyl bromide (without chloropicrin) and Ethylene oxide (ETO).

Methyl bromide and ETO are high dangerous and must be used with care.

FROM THE SCIENTISTS

Combs -

I earlier stated that drawn combs are one of your most important assets. There are many theories about combs; eg preference for dark or white, drone cells for honey production, loss of production when foundation is used and so on.

A Swedish paper examines many of these questions.

One group of hives supered with an equal mix of drawn foundation during the flow, gathered an average of 97.5 kg surplus; a second group received only drawn comb produced 112.5 kg per hive. A statistically significant result and is about what most beekeepers would expect.

The experiment showed that about 0.7 kg of honey was consumed per comb drawn or 6 kg per 8 frame super. The experiment also looked at the number of swarm cells made per colony and found no difference between those drawing foundation and those not.

Reference: Fries, I. 198. The influence of comb building before and during the main honey flow on the swarm tendency and honey yield of honey bee colonies. AM & JM 121 (9) : 651 - 652, 655 - 656.

Answers to some other questions:

- Dark combs give darker honey, even when no heat is applied.
- There is no evidence to support the theory that old combs give smaller bees and less honey. Nurse bees will remove pupal skins from cells if the cell diameter is being reduced.

- Comb replacement does, however, assist in controlling nosema disease.

- Bees store as much honey in white combs as in dark.

- Early results from some research in Canada (Beaverlodge) shows that all factors being equal, colonies given all foundation stored 25% less honey than those given drawn comb, while those given starter strips stored 50% less.

Bits & Pieces:

- Professor Cameron Jay, University of Manitoba and world authority on honey bee orientation will be in New Zealand on sabatical for eight months commencing September 1982.

- Anyone for metrics:

(Adapted from an article by Dr I R Evans of Alberta)

What weighs most, an ounce of feathers or an ounce of gold?

Answer: An ounce of gold.

Gold and silver is weighed in apotherary or Troy ounces.
1 ounce of gold = 31.103 grams
1 ounce of feathers = 28.349 grams

Does it follow that a pound of gold should weigh more than a pound of feathers?

Answer: No. A pound of gold under the Troy system weighs only 12 (Troy) ounces, whereas an ordinary (avoirdupois) pound consists of 16 (avoirdupois) ounces. Thus:

1 pound of gold = 373 g
1 pound of feathers = 454 g

We know that 20 ounces = 1 pint.

In the US 16 ounces = 1 pint.

Therefore, a US pint or gallon should equal four fifths of a Canadian pint or gallon.

Answer: Wrong. A US pint is five sixths of a Canadian pint.

Why? A US fluid ounce is larger than a Canadian fluid ounce.

Thus:

One fluid ounce US	= 29.6 mℓ
One fluid ounce Canadian	= 28.4 mℓ
One pint US	= 473 mℓ
One pint Canadian	= 568 mℓ
One US gallon	= 3.8 ℓ
A Canadian gallon	= 4.5 ℓ

- Paraffin waxing, hot dipping in paraffin, will not arrest decay in wood ware.

  Paraffin is not a preservative and you should use an effective timber preservative in conjunction with it; eg Metalex (cost $1.00 per super), tricunol (cheaper), Woodlife II.

Here's a formula from Beltsville Bee Laboratory, USA by Dr H Simanuki.

Pollen Substitute Formula:

$$X = \frac{(\%\ P)\ \ (WT)}{(\%\ S)} = \frac{(23)\ (100\ gm)}{45}$$

X = 51 gm add 49 gm sucrose

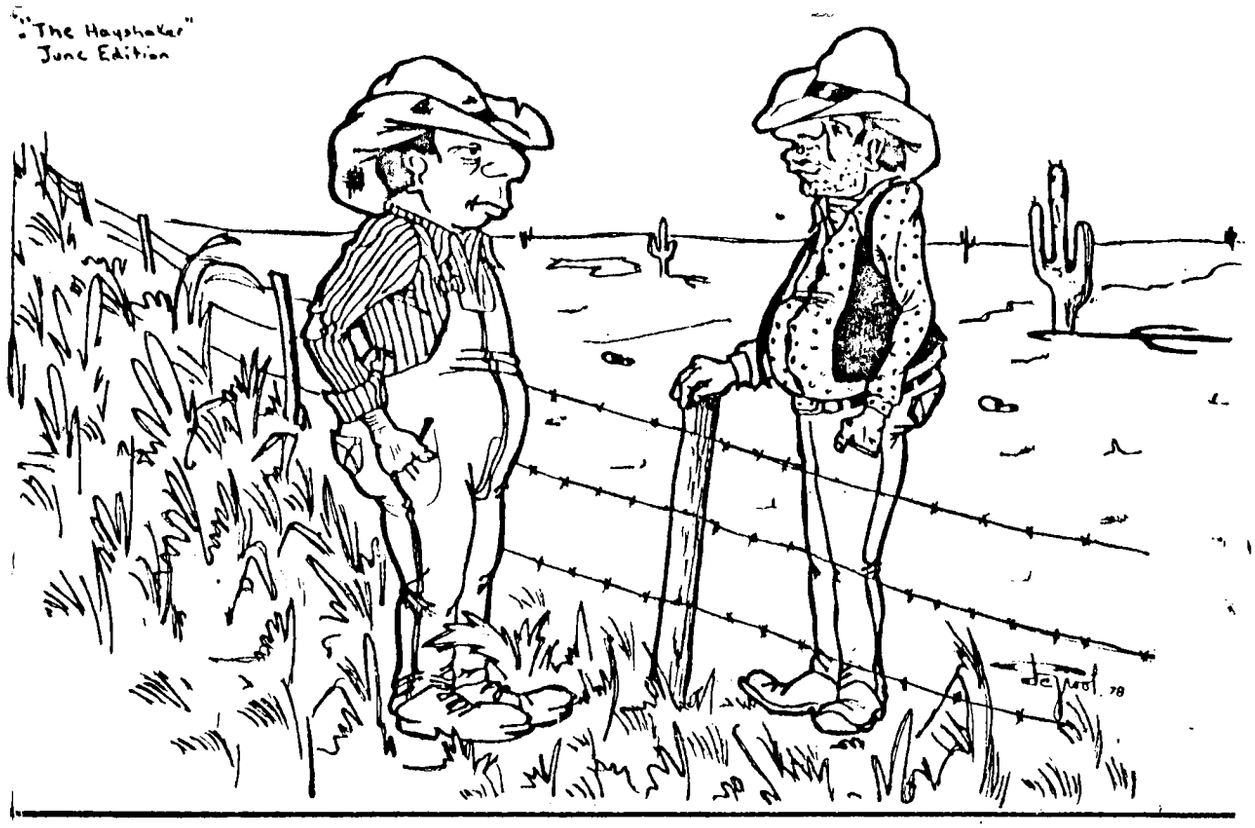
X = Weight of source proteins need to make (WT) gms of diet.
%P = % protein desired in final diet.
WT = Total weight of diet desired.
%S = % protein in source.

Supplements

Soy/pollen - (3-1 w/w) - 1
Sucrose/water - (2-1 w/w) - 2
Wheat or yeast/pollen - (3-1 w/1) - 1
Sucrose/water - (6-1 w/w) -- 2

Substitutes

	Dry Patty	Moist Patty
Brewers yeast	2 parts	3 parts
Sucrose	3 parts	3 parts
Water		2-1/2 parts
OR:		
Soybean flour	2 parts	3 parts
Sucrose	3 parts	3 parts
Water		2-1/2 parts



"Quit preaching to me about fertilizer, Jake. I don't believe it works."

N.B. Jake could well be the beekeeper

Who - requeens regularly
- feeds regularly (or leaves sufficient on)
- keeps disease under control
- accumulates, sifts, utilises, knowledge and new techniques to his advantage and benefit.

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T G Bryant
Apicultural Advisory Officer