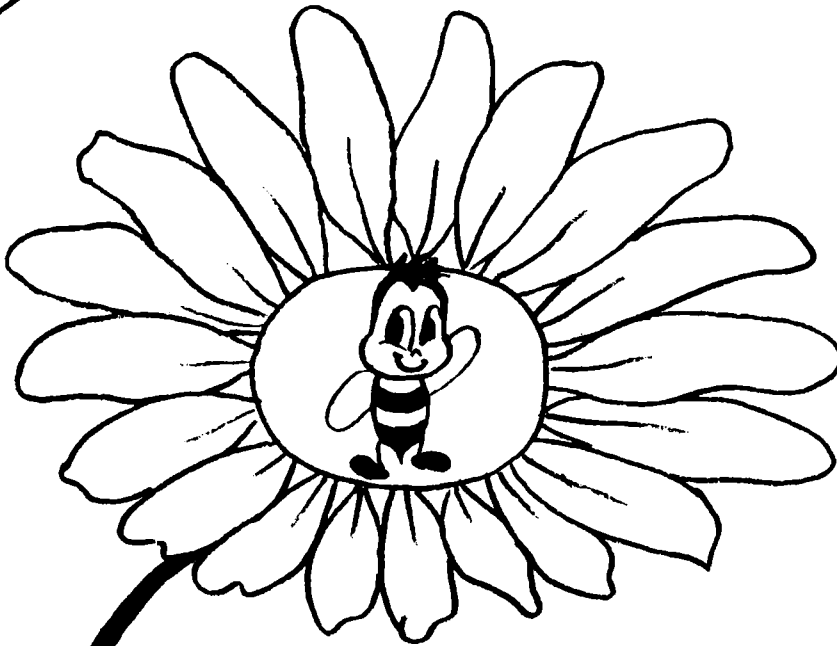


Apicultural Advisory Office
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fisheries
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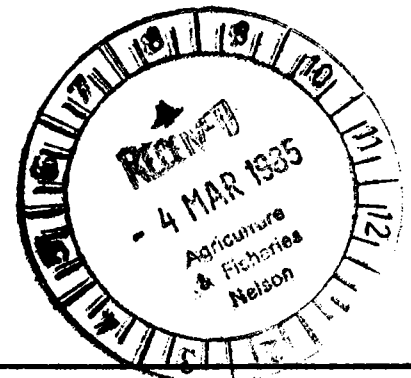
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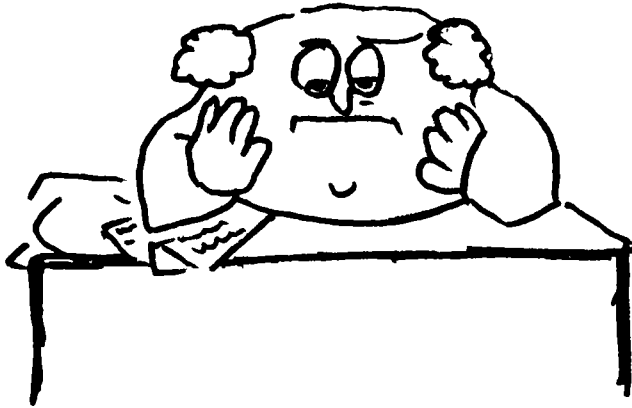
waikato bee notes

- * Summer re-queening - some suggestions
- * K F pollination association
- * Trade table
- * American Brood Disease Statistics
- * Translations - Japanese and Spanish
- * 1984 Budget briefs
- * Temporary hot rooms
- * Stolen hives
- * Budget figures for dairy, apiary and sheep
- * Electric steam boiler
- * Certificate in beekeeping BOP Community College
- * Mice in apiaries
- * Coming events



Ministry of
Agriculture
& Fisheries





Well, is this the year we make the magical 10,000 tonne crop? It's too early to tell yet, but there's a lot of honey around. A rough questimate for the Waikato could see us break 4 T/100 hives over all.

How much more I don't know. In our last big record year (1977/78) commercial producers averaged just over 5 T/100 with a district crop of 1,646 tonnes. That year New Zealand produced an estimated 8,279 tonnes.

We could do better this time because :

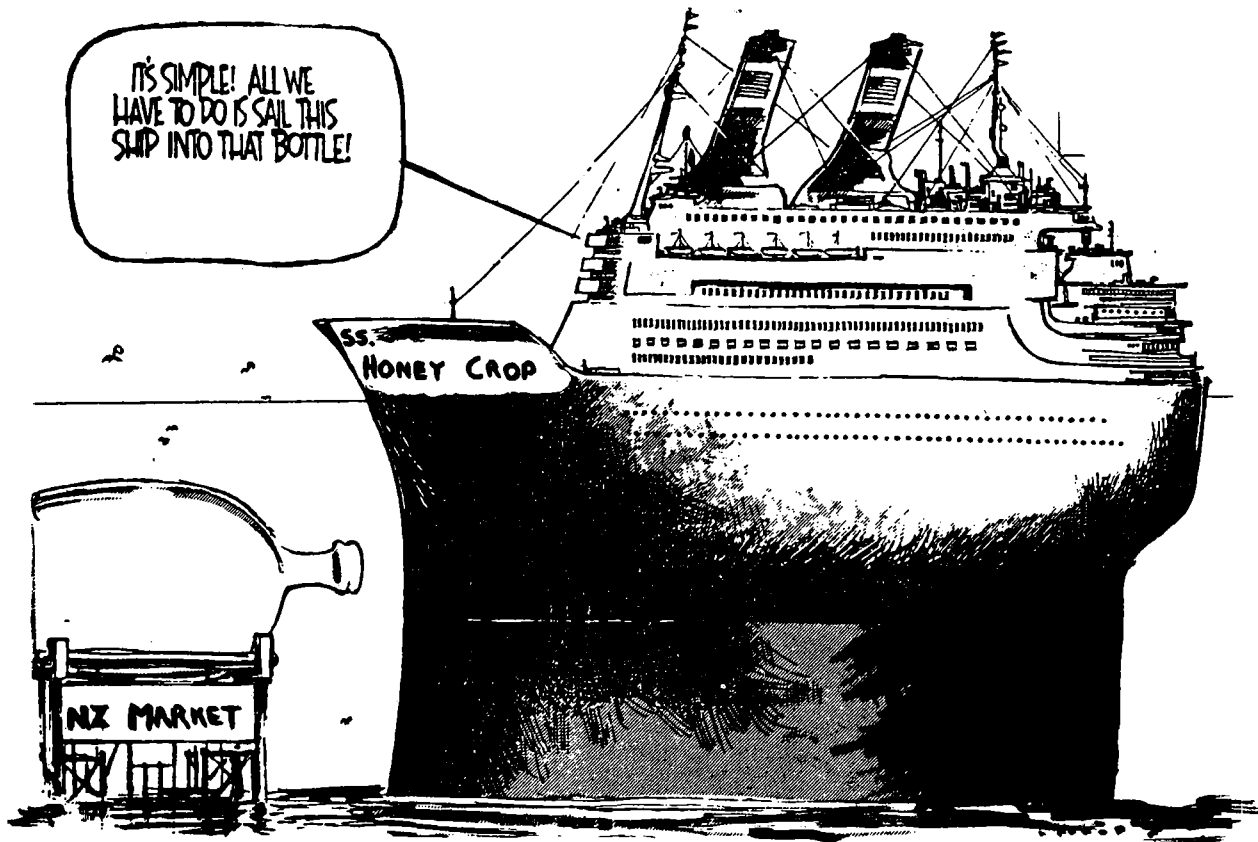
- * There are thousands more hives in the country.
- * The South Island looks set to produce a better than average crop.
- * There is less comb honey to reduce the overall volume.

Unfortunately, all coins have two sides and the other side of our coin is showing up already. I'm talking about beekeepers who have made no forward provision for extracting, storing or selling their crop.

Hobbyist and semi-commercial beekeepers have produced a lot of honey this year that will take a while to clear off the market. Some aggressive selling by beekeepers and continuing hot weather could mean local packers may find it difficult to move a lot of honey through the supermarkets for a few months. This will affect their ability to purchase honey, along with the high interest rates on overdraft finance.

It is good to see companies like Taupo Honey Centre, Convita and Ceracell developing new packaging and honey spreads.

I'd like to remind you that under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974 it is illegal to process or pack a food substance for sale (to another processor or for the retain trade) in premises that do not hold a current licence. If you plan on exporting honey and require a certificate from MAF then your honey must have been processed in licensed premises.



SUMMER QUEEN REARING

I hope you haven't been too busy extracting honey to do some summer queen rearing. It's always risky to leave it all until the spring. Anyway, here's a few random thoughts on the subject for next year!

- * In every yard there are always some colonies that are poor performers. Take what honey they have got and place it on another hive. (You would do a foulbrood check as a matter of course, wouldn't you)? Then, attack the brood next and split it into 4 or 5, 4 frame nuc boxes. You can take the nucs away, which is the ideal, or leave them in a circle, on the old hive stand with the entrances facing inwards. Some bees will migrate into other full-depth hives but enough bees should stay in the nuc boxes. This is best done while there's a flow on - say last week in January to mid and possibly late February. If you have plenty of room in your apiary you could use full-depth equipment instead of nuc boxes.
- * Don't expect such a good acceptance of cells in the starter hives in the late summer as you got in the spring.
- * Have a think about re-queening with queen cells. I talked about this in the NZ Beekeeper Sept 1979 where I outlined the results of 4 year's work John Smith and I did on using queen cells in the spring. Don Peer in Canada has done a lot of experimenting with introducing ripe queen cells into the honey boxes during the honey flow. Re-read this article in the Apiarist No. 40, November 1984.

Colin Rope (MAF, Auckland) says that the success rate of this technique is greater in good honey seasons than in poor ones.

- * What about the idea of leaving the extracting for a period in January and February and replacing some of your queens then. Beekeepers in Canterbury used to do that (and probably still do). The need to lift honey boxes off the brood next to find and replace the queen led to the development of the Pearson hive lifter. I wrote about this lifter in the NZ Beekeeper, December 1976, page 9. They also use the lifter to insert escape boards.

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Our colourful English language ...

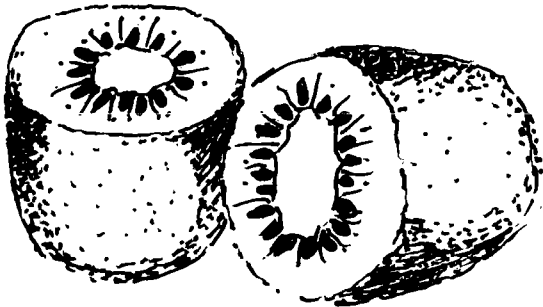
Policeman to group of teenagers,

*If you want to stand there,
you'll have to move along"!*

Football coach discussing new member

"What's his greatest weakness"?

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KIWIFRUIT POLLINATION ASSOCIATION

This group was formed late last year to foster co-operation amongst beekeepers providing a pollination service and to give guidance and assistance to its members and kiwifruit growers. A set of association rules has been drawn up and a committee elected. All beekeepers supplying hives for pollination in the South Auckland, Waikato

or Bay of Plenty areas are strongly advised to join the Association. The joining fee is \$20 payable to the Treasurer, Mr Jim Courtney, 10 Robert Street, Waihi.

The current chairman is Mr Russell Berry, Waiotapu, R D 3, Rotorua. The secretary is Mr Nick Wallingford, Box 340, Tauranga. Our Waikato representative and vice chairman on the committee is Norm Finlay, 32 Matai Street, Hamilton, phone 79 739.



TRADE TABLE

- * Brian Mitchell, phone 434-121, Hamilton still has some bits and pieces of beekeeping equipment for sale, such as a wax press, split boards, drip trays, lids and bases, paraffin wax etc.
- * "Practical Beekeeping in NZ" by Andrew Matheson. Tony Lorimer, phone 69625 has two copies left at the cheaper rate negotiated by the NBA.
- * 200 1 drums. Honey drums must be lined with a protective laquer coating (approved for food) to prevent honey acids reacting with the steel of the drums
 - (1) Auckland Drum Reconditioners have the cheapest source of laquer lined drums. They are located at 591 Rosebank Road, Avondale, Auckland. The laquer lining is usually a two pot epoxy resin coating made by Taubmans. The drums will cost about \$22.50 each which compares most favourably with new drums at nearly \$34.00 ea.

Warning :

The reconditioned drums will be slightly smaller than new drums and therefore hold less honey. They will also weigh less, about 20.75 kg empty compared with 21.50 kg. The drums are available as open mouth or with bungs.

(1) See Waikato Bee Notes No. 12, August 1981 for a list of other drum manufacturers and reconditioners.

- * Norm Dean, Ohauti Road, R D 3, Tauranga has a good source of ex-orange concentrate drums. Give Norm a call if you want cheap drums for storing wax or sugar syrup in. They wouldn't really be suitable for honey.
- * Chris Lawrence, who makes bee hive woodware has moved, again! Chris is now at 52 Ellis Street (Killarney Road end). Look for a "Murray Kennedy Panel Works" sign on the roof of Chris' factory.
- * Timber prices have gone up with a real bang lately, so the days of cheap boxes are well and truly gone.
- * Bryan Evans has pollen traps for sale at \$10 each, ph Hamilton 66 523.

- * Bozi Plastic Queen Cell Cups. You can buy these direct from the manufacturer ie Steve and save a few cents on each cell. Steve's price is 10c each. I used some this year and didn't notice any difference from the other brand on the market. However, being made of polypropylene instead of high density polystyrene you can clean them by boiling. Steve recommends you put them in hot water with a little wax in it (once the cells are cleaned) to give them a thin coating of wax.

Steve's address is 11 River Road, Rangiora, Canterbury, ph 8121, Rangiora.

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Heard during a conversation on golf in the office the other day,

"My wife has just bought 3 metal woods"!

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BL AND ALL THAT

I'll summarise our district foulbrood situation for you, so you can see what's going on. I must add at this point, I'm quite pleased with the situation and I would like to thank all those who undertook to do some inspection work for me, with or without pay. I'd also like to recognise the efforts of one of our members who sells honey at the door. Anytime a customer asks a bunch of questions about bees, like "when should I put the second box on?", or talks about his cousin who has a hive etc, our colleague finds a way to diplomatically quiz such customers about hive registration. This led to locating an unregistered hive in Hamilton just last week that proved to be riddled with AFB.

I'd like all of you to be just as conscientious as this. It is in your best interests after all. Anyway, here's the disease and inspection situation from January 31, 1984 to January 31, 1985. You'll note that we inspected well over 10% of the apiaries which is a reasonable target accepted by MAF and the NBA Executive.

Apiary inspection cost the MAF over \$10,000 last year for wages and vehicle running alone. We also spent another \$7,700 on clerical workers to keep the register up to date. I haven't costed a part time computer operator, stationery, stamps, toll calls or kilometres clocked by other MAF staff. Overall we spent at least \$18,000 to look after approximately 40,000 colonies of bees, and probably nearer \$20,000.

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Fig I. Number of apiaries and hives inspected by MAF in Hamilton district year ending January 31, 1985.

	No. Apiaries	% District Total	No. Hives	% District Total
MAF Staff	203	8.2	1,474	3.9
Beekeepers	232	9.3	1,067	2.8
Total	435	17.5	2,541	6.7

Fig II. Number of apiaries and hives with American Brood Disease in the Hamilton district year ending January 31, 1985.

	No. Apiaries	% District Total	No. Hives	% District Total
Found by MAF	37* (28)	1.5	70 (57)	01.18
Reported by Beekeepers	82 (58)	3.3	99 (83)	4.0
Total	119 (86)	4.8 (3.3)	169 (140)	0.45 (0.3)
National Average	79	2.8	181	0.5

*figures in bracket represent 1983/84 year

Fig III. MAF expenditure on apiary inspection Hamilton district year ending 31 January 1985.

	No. Used	Km	Km Cost	Man days (8 hr day)	Wages
MAF Staff	8	*3,469	\$1,110	65	\$6,240
Beekeepers (paid)	6	2,600	\$1,040	31	\$1,800
Beekeepers (unpaid)	6			5	
Total	20	6,069	\$2,150	101	**\$8,040

* For apicultural advisory officer only.

**A senior clerical officer spent 37% (estimated) of her time on apiary work (\$5,250) plus a wage worker is engaged for 70 days to update the apiary register (\$2,450); total \$7,700.



"The countries broke but "by tagging on the word "budget" we have transformed that indecent word 'deficit'. It now becomes a respectable, economic concept which implies professionalism and skill".

J Kneebone, NZJA Sept '82



THIS & THAT

- * The NZ Sugar Company was quoted as saying the retail price of sugar was unlikely to fall despite a drop in world prices. Huge surpluses in producer countries have led to the reduced prices.

Sugar company spokesman, Richard Dodds said, "prices of raw sugar on the world market were only one factor in determining the cost to consumers". Waikato Times, 16 January 1985, I don't suppose a trading monopoly in NZ has anything to do with it ...?

- * Spanish Translations. Ramon Maria Tenreiro, 1012 Outram Road, Hastings is offering bilingual translations of advertising material, legal documents, toll calls, contracts or certificates.
- * Japanese typesetting and translations can be done by Douglas Hamilton, CPO 3643, 1 Great South Road, Auckland 5, ph (09) 504-649, telex NZ 21968.
- * Queensland labelling. Despite the fuss made by the Queensland Premier over incorrect labelling, the situation was outlined for you in my last newsletter No, 22, page 8. New Zealand products must show the usual name and location of the manufacturer or packer, but must also have the full street address of the importer as well.
- * "Trees for the NZ Countryside - A Planter's Guide" by J & B Mortimer. This is a lavishly illustrated book with descriptions of over 300 species including a section on trees for bees. It has chapters on planting design, shelter, handling and planting, wood properties and tree selection plus much more. You can obtain this book from Taitua Books, Proctor Road, R D 9, Frankton; price \$35 each.

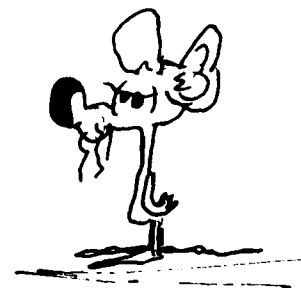
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Quote of the weak ...

"I can resist anything - except temptation!"

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Waikato Bee Notes are sent to all beekeepers who registered 50 or more hives in the Hamilton District.



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1984 BUDGET NEWS

You should have all digested the good and bad news from the last budget. In summary the main points to effect beekeepers are as follows :

- * The price of fuel went up and will go up again shortly.
- * Road user charges went up.
- * Rural Bank interest rates will be adjusted gradually up to an indicator rate presently set at 15%.
- * The 20% agricultural investment allowance will expire on March 31 1985.
- * MAF inspection fees for export honey will be charged from 1 October 1985. In the 1985 - 86 season, one third of the costs will be recovered rising to two thirds by 1986 - 87. The details of this are being worked out now.
- * Payments under the noxious plants control scheme will end on February 28, 1985, This may or may not help our honey production. Thistle honey I like, ragwort honey I don't!
- * Devaluation is a mixed blessing.
- * The price for state exotic wood will be brought up to market levels within five years (and seems to have begun already).
- * Export incentives are to be phased out.
- * Family care: your level of income, as defined by the Social Welfare people, may not be the same as the Inland Revenue Department takes into account for taxation purposes. In general terms your income as a self employed farmer, for social security purposes is your gross turnover less only the items of business expenditure which were incurred in earning that gross turnover.

If personal drawings exceed this figure then your drawings would be the figure taken into account. Drawings would include the value of any goods or services received. This last point is likely to become somewhat tricky and if in doubt use the services of your accountant or taxation advisor.

"What's the difference between cutting your losses and taking full advantage of your profits?"

A good accountant".

Anon.

TEMPORARY HOT ROOMS

It's extracting time again and with the approach of cooler evenings the value of a hot room is increased. Most of you have permanent hot rooms but here are some suggestions for building a temporary or relocatable hot room on the truck deck or in the honey house or wherever.

- * Sheets of polystyrene either taped together or glued ("No more nails" is ok but never use solvent glues such as Ados). Polystyrene can be bought from Skellerup, 112a Greenwood Street, Frankton, 77-126. If you have enough ceiling height you could raise and lower the structure over a stack of boxes. In this case it would pay to make the hot room semi-permanent by strengthening the polystyrene with sheets of hardboard or plywood or gluing aluminium "angle iron" to the edges.
- * Similar structures could be made out of more expensive, but still relocatable, materials such as ABS panels. These are sheets of polystyrene bonded on one side with ABS plastic (the same material as is used in fridge linings) and with sisilation on the other surface. ABS panels are available from Rudnev (NZ) Ltd. Zelmanian Due, Box 58-027, E Tamaki, Auckland, 27-45636. "Factoryliner" from AHI would also be suitable. This board is made of 50 mm fibreglass bonded with a resin and covered on the surface with aluminium foil. Further information is available from NZ Fibre Glass Company, P O Box 12-069, Penrose, ph 592-139, Auckland.
- * Another suggestion is to use modular cool room material as used extensively by the horticultural industry. These are generally sheets of insulating material bonded on each side with aluminium. A number of firms make these units eg Industrial Cool Rooms Ltd, 65 Tidal Road, Mangere, Auckland and Commercial Equipment Division, General Foods Corporation, P O Box 435, Hamilton, phone 493 889.

With all rooms you must have a good heat supply and complete air circulation.

To achieve this you will need :-

- * Tunnels between rows of boxes or direct the heat underneath the runners of the drip trays.
- * A fan heater at or near ground level.
- * A ceiling fan blowing the hot air down to the floor.
- * Boxes will need to be in the warm room at least overnight. Remember honey is a very poor conductor of heat and there is a lot of wood in a box of honey to heat up.

Reference: Paul Marshall described a hot room that was lowered over the honey boxes in NZ Journal of Agriculture Feb 1969.

Honey house fires. A number of fires can be traced to "hot" rooms. Have you :

- * Checked the wiring lately?
- * Checked the heaters. Do they have individual cut-out switches?
- * Checked the thermostats? Don't settle for a cheap inaccurate thermostat.
- * Checked your fire extinguishers?

Our MAF phone operators do get some "interesting" callers at times. They had one the other day from a lady beekeeper whose surname contained a double "b".

Trying to get the correct spelling our intrepid operator asked, "is that one b or two, madam"? Back came the reply, "no, there's only one hive"!

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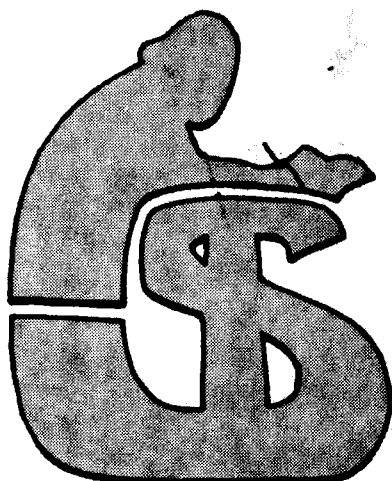
STOLEN HIVES



Six hives were taken from three different commercial sites near Taupo before Christmas. They could be aluminium or yellow boxes and may have the number C82 on them. Another case concerns 8 hives and one nucleus hive stolen from Titirangi on 14 January 1985. Apparently the vehicle was a blue and white JI Bedford licence number EV 6613. The boxes and lids were mostly painted white with simplicity frames marked with the Scout symbol.

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A sage once said "Success is the ability to convert ideas to things". Somehow I don't think he was talking about hives.



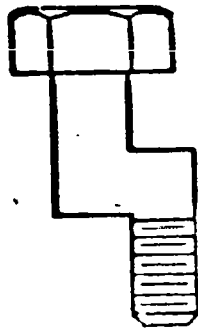
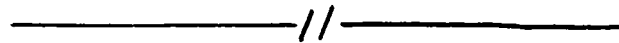
HOW ARE YOU DOING ...

You may be interested in some of these figures from the November 1984 farm monitoring reports. I've extracted some of the budgeted expenses which might compare roughly with beekeeping. The beekeeping budget may appear high compared to your budget but a lot of income (and expenditure) is generated by kiwifruit pollination.

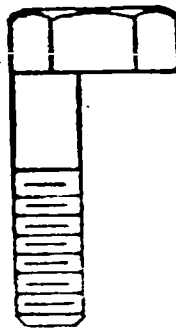
All the data was collected prior to the 1984 budget, although an allowance has been made for budget measures in the dairy and sheep models.

	Waikato Dairy (small herd)	Beekeeping (BOP)	NI Hill Country (Class 4)
PHYSICAL			
Area (ha)	51		312
Cows milked	135		
Sheep			3,000
Cattle	30		194
Hives		860	
CASH FARM INCOME			
Milk fat	73,079		
Cattle	10,841		42,351
Wool			48,658
Sheep sales			36,269
Honey		39,500	
Poll		61,750	
Wax		2,250	
Gross farm income	<u>83,818</u>	<u>103,500</u>	<u>111,843</u>
(Less stock purchases)			
CASH FARM EXPENSES (selected items only)			
Wages	2,700	14,200	3,858
Electricity	1,560	640	1,126
Freight	556	280	3,771
Vehicle expenses	5,684	10,100	7,230
R/M	5,172	4,000	6,245
Administration	4,960	3,769	6,235

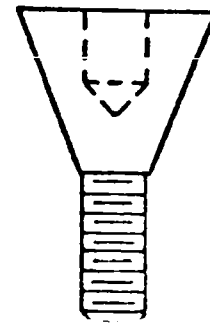
	Waikato Dairy (small herd)	Beekeeping (BOP)	NI Hill Country (Class 4)
CASH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)			
Cash farm expenditure	<u>39,156</u>	<u>47,829</u>	<u>58,998</u>
Cash farm surplus	<u>44,662</u>	<u>55,671</u>	<u>52,845</u>
LESS			
Personal drawings	11,736	10,500	13,554
Tax	5,672	1,500	5,035
Total personal	<u>17,408</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>18,589</u>
Principal repayments	4,740	2,800	5,221
Interest	12,095	10,352	13,685
Total financial charges	<u>16,835</u>	<u>13,152</u>	<u>18,906</u>
SURPLUS FOR PLOUGHBACK	<u>10,419</u>	<u>30,519</u>	<u>15,350</u>
LESS			
Development	2,290	15,560	3,102
Capital purchases	5,460		4,425
PLUS			
New borrowing	320		
CASH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>2,989</u>	<u>14,959</u>	<u>7,823</u>



FOR MISMATCHED HOLES.



FOR HOLES TOO NEAR THE EDGES.



FOR HOLES COUNTERSUNK TOO DEEP.

ELECTRIC STEAM BOILER

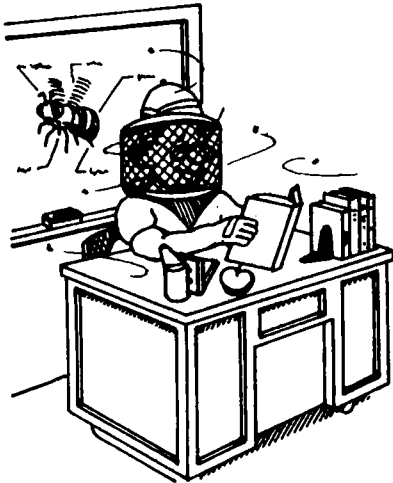
J Mercer & Sons, 35 Lunns Road, Box 6020, Christchurch are manufacturing a 12 kw electric boiler. It's made from stainless steel and aluminium and only stands 600 mm high. It can reach full pressure in just 10 minutes.

The unit was listed ex Christchurch at \$3,800. Cliff van Eaton from Southland reports that several of his beekeepers are using the units and are pleased with them. However, as is usual with beekeepers the truism "if it works modify it", has been applied! In this case the output was boosted to 18 kw by changing the 2 kw elements to 3 kws.

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*If you don't know where you're going
any road will get you there"*

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**CERTIFICATE IN BEEKEEPING:
BOP COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

This course is a two year programme based on self-study of written material and attendance at short courses. It is intended to provide a structure of study in beekeeping primarily for those with commercial intentions.

Self-employed beekeepers just starting out, sideline beekeepers and employees of beekeepers will all find the course of value.

The course consists of ten written modules and two short courses, as follows:

INTRODUCTORY MODULE - This initial module has been prepared to give the student an overview of the work to come, including a discussion about the best ways to study, list of books, information about access to libraries and a questionnaire to assist the tutor in ensuring that the student gets out of the course what is intended.

MODULE ONE - Hive Management - History of Beekeeping. Beekeeping in New Zealand. Regulations affecting beekeeping. Basic management for honey production. Bee stings and allergies.

MODULE TWO - Entomolgy - Classification of insects. Social behaviour in insects. The three castes of the honey bee. Sensory perception.

MODULE THREE - Hive Equipment - The concept of the bee space. Basic hive equipment. Preserving bee hive equipment. Ancillary equipment.

MODULE FOUR - Apicultural Botany - Plant Biology. Nectar, pollen and honeydew producing plants. Honey and honeydew poisonous to bees and to people.

MODULE FIVE - Colony Behaviour - Division of labour in the colony. Activities of the worker bee. Communication among bees. Pheromones. Queen rearing impulses.

MODULE SIX - Hive Manipulations - A two day short course covering topics related to practical beekeeping. Swarm prevention, feeding, requeening, shifting bees, wintering hives.

MODULE SEVEN - Pollination and Agricultural Chemicals - Importance of bees as pollinating agents. Crops needing or benefitting from insect visitation. Mechanics of pollination. Management of hives for pollination. Agricultural chemicals.

MODULE EIGHT - Diseases and Pests - Diseases and pests affecting bees in New Zealand. Diseases and pests of bees that are not present in New Zealand. Importations of bees and equipment. Other pests that attack the colony or combs.

MODULE NINE - Honey Harvesting and Handling - Vehicles for beekeepers. Taking honey off the hives. Extraction plant and process. Food hygiene regulations.

MODULE TEN - Packaging and Marketing of Hive Products - Honey marketing. Quality control. Packaging. Other hive products.

MODULE ELEVEN - Business Administration - Beekeeping organisations and advisors. Budgets and cash flow forecasts. Loan procedures. Taxation.

MODULE TWELVE - Queen Rearing - A two day short course dealing with queen rearing theory and practice.

The written modules include required reading from The Hive and the Honey Bee and it is suggested that each student obtain a copy of this book.

The two short courses will be held in a number of venues around the country, generally in conjunction with a Community College, Polytechnic or Technical Institute. These will generally be held in the spring months of each year.

In order to complete the written modules before attendance at the short courses, students are advised to enrol early in the school year.

Students will also be required to visit with selected beekeepers who are members of the National Beekeepers Association in order to have an oral and practical examination at the end of each year of the course.

There will be no formal written examinations at the end of the course, though there will be a written test during the two day short courses. Students will be assessed on the answers to study questions at the end of each written module.

Course fees are \$85.00 for each of the two years, a total of \$170.00. This entitles the student to all the written module material, attendance at all short courses and material provided there.

Final arrangements are being made through the Authority for Advanced Vocational Awards for the certificate to be validated by them as an ordinary national certificate. This would make the certificate recognised both in New Zealand and overseas as representing a given standard equivalent with other such certificates.

If you would like information about the certificate, please contact :

Certificate in Beekeeping
Bay of Plenty Community College
Private Bag
R D 3
TAURANGA

Mice in Apiaries: It won't be long before field mice start invading bee hives and putting entrance reducers on is a bit of a chore. One beekeeper puts some mouse baits, such as "Squeak" in a tin can under two hives, one at each end of the apiary. That seems to fix the problem.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

- * March 7th, final day for payment of terminal tax, if you don't want to incur a penalty payment.
- * March 9th. Beekeepers Field Day at Geoff Ernest's property 4 km from Tirau on the Tirau - Rotorua Highway. Look for the "Honey for Sale" signs. The field day is on wet or fine.

PROGRAMME

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 10.00 am | Cup of tea or coffee (supplied) |
| 11.00 am | MAF report: Advisory programme, staff situation, honey crop, disease levels, etc. |
| 12 noon | Gadet shield competition: Bring along your latest invention, large or small |
| 12.15 pm | Lunch - bring your own |
| 1.30 pm | Kiwifruit pollination: MAF's report on the condition of colonies supplied to kiwifruit growers last season, plus a demonstration of hives supplied - the good, average and ?*!- |
| 2.00 pm | A speaker from the Ministry of Energy or the Alternate Fuels Association |

Rest of the day your choice :

- tour honey house
- visit large museum
- look at trade displays and demonstrations of lifting equipment
- bring your bar-be-que and something for your evening meal, plus refreshments.

COVER CHARGE : An entry fee of \$1.00 per adult (15 years and over) will be charged to cover costs and entry to the museum.

* February 23 - 24. Northland Beekeepers Field Day at the Lily Pond Motor Camp, Haruru Falls (5 km from Paihia).

* March 12 - 14. Executive of the NBA meet in Auckland.

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

I don't know if you believe in such things or not, but here's a thought for you -

"Don't Confuse Motion with Action"

Benjamin Franklin 1706 - 1790

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Bye for now.

Murray.

G M Reid
Apicultural Advisory Officer
HAMILTON

