

SUDBURY AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

BUZZWORD

September 2020

A word from our President, Richard Conrad

We still do not have permission from the school board or from the province to hold meetings. We don't know when we will meet next or if we will have a different venue.

If there are beekeepers that are at ease with using ZOOM please show your executive how to use it and maybe we could meet via this media.

Our **esteemed president** has declared himself the winner of the Covid19 “Honey Contest”. Some members are beginning gorilla tactics to organize a proper 2020 Honey Contest.

The lack of meetings and not knowing when we are going to meet again is causing the executive of SDBA to lose track of new beekeepers or the people who want to become beekeepers. If you know a newbie or one who wants to become a member or join the group, let me know his/her email and I will be glad to send the Buzzword to them or answer any question he/she may have.

STATUS QUO: June came and went – with no executive election. September is nearly gone and we have had no membership renewal campaign. For the time being, we must leave everything as is and hope that we can meet again soon.

FEEDING AND MEDICATING

VARROA MITE

It's the end of September, your honey supers should be off, you should be feeding sugar water (2:1) and it is also time to do a varroa test. Different methods are available and it is easier to lose 300 bees doing an alcohol test than to lose your whole hive to viruses and diseases due to a high varroa count.

Remember you can test for varroa any time. We know they are underneath the belly of the bee and feed on a honey bee organ called fat body and not the blood as previously thought. If you can see the varroa/mites walking around, you have real and serious problems.

N.B.: During the bee season, the varroa population in a hive can double every four weeks.

1. Powdered Sugar (icing sugar)

<https://backyardbeekeeping.iamcountryside.com/beekeeping-101/>

search – Catch and Release Powdered Sugar Roll Varroa Mite Test

2. Alcohol Wash

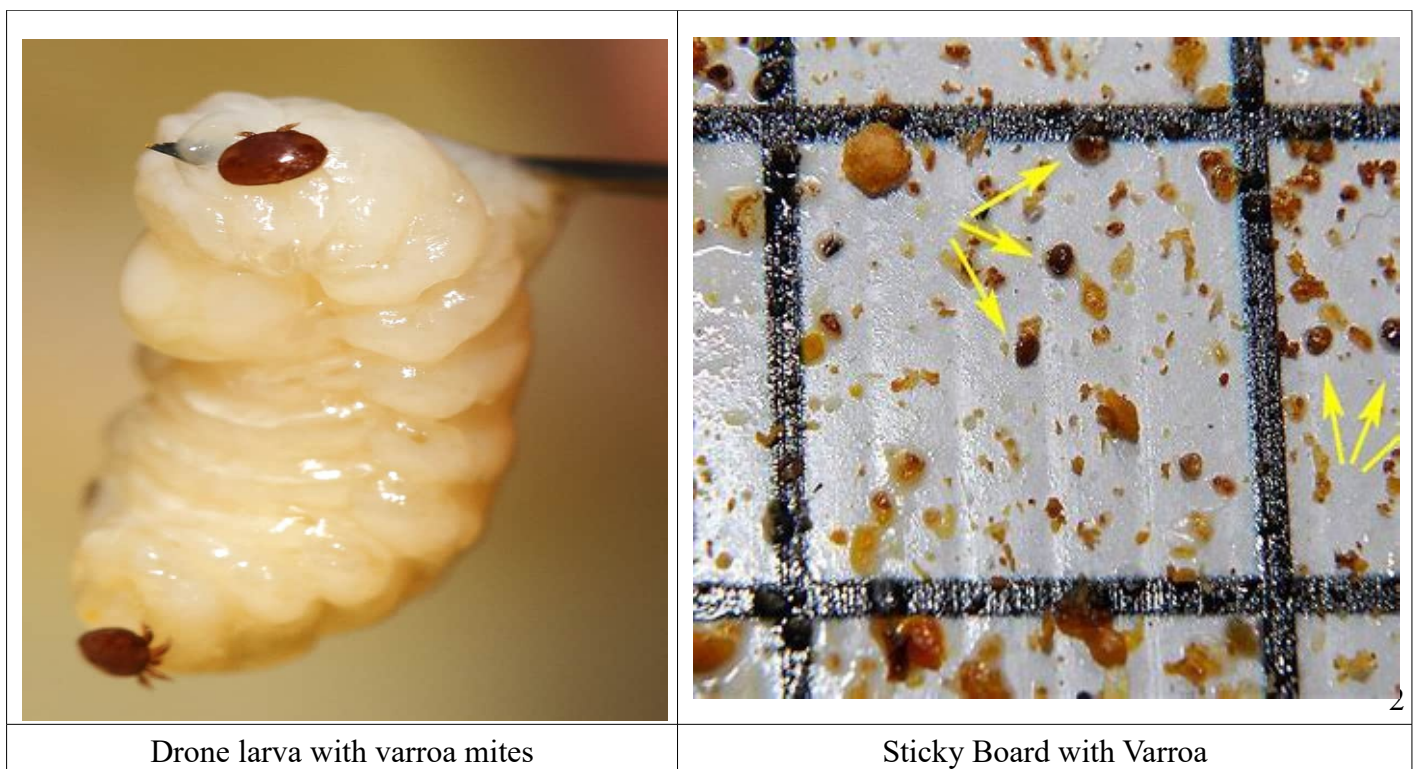
<https://backyardbeekeeping.iamcountryside.com/beekeeping-101/>

Search – Conduct an Alcohol Wash for Varroa Mite Monitoring

3. Toothpick method: Claude Dupuis, our past bee inspector, used a toothpick. When visiting my bee yard, he opened a few drone cells with the toothpick and proceeded to remove the drone larva. It didn't take long to find varroa mites in the drone cells. The only problem at this time of the season, there are very few drone cells

4. Sticky board

A sticky board is white plastic board that you coat with either cooking oil or Vaseline and insert at the bottom of your hive. The bees walk above the sticky board and the varroa fall and get caught in the sticky material. After 24 hours, remove board and count the number of varroa on it. These show up as little black spots.



TREATMENTS AVAILABLE

1. Apivar- hang 2 rigid strips between frames, the active substance is only released when bees come in contact with the strips. Spring or fall application
2. Apistan – six-weeks of treatment period,
3. Formic Pro – formic acid treatment, shelf life 24 months, no temperature requirement for storage, safe to use during honey flow, strip laid across brood frames. Treatment options: Option one: 2 strips for 14 days, Option two: 1st strip 10 days, remove and replace with 2nd strip for 10 days.

4. Oxalic Acid -Do not use when brood is present! Mix with sugar water if spritzing.
5. CheckMite +42-45 day treatment, product also approved for Small Hive Beetle
6. Thymovar – for low to medium number of mites, long term application
7. Oxalic Acid crystals – use with vaporizer, three treatments, 5-7 days apart

N.B.: It is good to use different treatments in the spring and in the fall. This way, the mites have less chance of becoming resistant to the method of treatment. Ask ten beekeepers and you will get ten different answers on what is the best way to treat your bees.

NOSEMA

The only known reliable treatment for Nosema in honey bees is the antibiotic Fumagilin-B. Fumagilin-B was off the market for a few years but checking the web I found ads

- 1- Fumagilin-B 454gr bottle – New Product made in 2020
- 2- Hive Alive - Fumagilin-B alternatives – How to treat Nosema

I do not think anyone has been using Fumagilin-B for the last few years in the SDBA but many of us have been adding Hive Alive to our sugar water. Nosema is a spore that targets the honey bee digestive tract. It can only be verified under microscopic examination.

According to backyardbeekeeping.iamcountry.com /health-pests, ...dysentery is not caused by a pathogen, instead it is the result of excess amount of fecal matter in the honey bee's gut. It is not a disease, but simply a condition.”

According to the ontariobee.com/document/Nosema pamphlet pdf
The best defense against Nosema ceranae infection is to replace 2-3 old brood frames per year.

If someone can comment or write a few words on this I'll add it to the October Buzzword.

AMERICAN or EUROPEEN FOULBROOD

Oxysol-62.5 or Oxytet are available for bees with a prescription. It is a preventive or prophylactic antibiotic treatment against foulbrood.

The Sturgeon Falls Springer Animal Hospital (www.springeranimalhospital.ca) will again this year sell Oxysol-62.5, with a prescription, to beekeepers for 15-20\$ Everything you need to know is on their website.

705.573.0324 248 Levesque St. Sturgeon Falls, ON P2B 1M8

You will need to fill the VCPR form. This can all be done by email. Call a few days ahead to order before you want to pick up the Oxysol 62.5.

FEEDING

As with everything else in beekeeping, the methods of feeding the bees can be done in many different ways. Yards with many hives use barrel feeding or if there are only a few hives they can be individually fed by using a top feeder, top chimney feeder, deep frame feeder, peanut butter jar, front entrance 1-litre or feeding pails.

Why two sugars one water in the fall as carbohydrate supplement. Thicker syrup mimics the consistency of honey and helps bees to collect enough stores. To the sugar water a tsp of Honey-Bee-Healthy per litre, ascorbic acid (antioxidant) instead of vinegar, and Himalayan pink salt

Once the temperature is too low, the bees are unable to dehydrate the syrup. This is the time to remove the feeders. Leaving the feeders there may cause excessive moisture in the hive.

The best time to feed the bees is in late August, beginning of September or as soon as you know they will need feeding for the winter. Feeding them is better than letting them starve. A double brood hive should weigh between 75-100 lbs or more for the winter.

See: omafra.gov.on.ca Best Management Practices (BMP) for Ontario Beekeepers' in Advance of Winter

Another method of feeding the bees, in the fall, is giving them the job to clean the super frames after extraction or giving them frames with honey and pollen from either dead or absconded hives, or the replaced portion of brood frames.

While looking up some other things, I found this little fact that I just had to share...

CAN BEES FART

Honey bees eat pollen, which is passed in to their honey-stomachs and mid guts for digestion. Since the honey bee is a multi cellular being (and not a vacuum chamber), pockets of air can and do establish themselves in the fecal matter. When excreted these would manifest as farts...

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