

East Texas Beekeepers Association Newsletter



Program Director *Christina Williams*

Meeting Program for *September 2023*

*This month's speaker is Darrel Alexander
from the Smith County Tax Office.*

*He will be covering the requirements for
Ag exemption for Honeybees
and
changes to the laws for apiary registrations.*

Hope to see you there!

President—Connie Collins
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Next Meeting
September 7th

First Methodist Church
405 West Main in Whitehouse
6:30 PM
On the Web:
www.etba.info

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

by Stan Brantley



September is an important month for beekeepers. Any honey remaining in the hives can be extracted now. Honey in the frames that is not capped will probably be dry enough to be below the 18% moisture level. I am getting reports of honey that is extremely dry, in the 15% range, that will not allow air bubbles to rise to the top of the container even after the honey is heated.

I receive several bee club newsletters. I recently read that a beekeeper had ten hives and was expecting to 150 to 250 pounds of honey. There are so many variables in the world of honey production that it is hard to foresee your crop. It makes no difference if you are a first year beekeeper or have several years under the veil, do not anticipate your honey production until you have it in the jar. Then you can get a total of your hives' effort.

After your honey is extracted is a good time to do mite checks. If you need to do a mite treatment to knock down mite loads before winter, check the bee supply publications to get the latest info on applying treatments. Veto Pharma is advertising a new "quick knockdown" product called Amiflex. Veto Pharma calls this a "flash treatment" as it requires only seven days. More information is available at <https://www.veto-pharma.com/products/amiflex/>

I was recently introduced by a local beekeeper to another "new to me" beetle trap. The black plastic trap is a one piece hinged box that folds and snaps shut. Folded, it is about a 3x3 inch square. Inside it has a place to put a bait to attract the beetles. It also has one or more small entrances for the beetle to enter. My beekeeper friend baits the trap with a mixture of apple cider vinegar and diatomaceous earth. It seems to me that these traps would be very effective on the bottom board just inside the entrance. Placing one on the top bars of the top brood box may also be a good location. They are available under various names from several internet vendors. Amazon lists them as "Rural365 Hive Beetle Trap Beetle Barn Trap Set" and sells a ten pack for about \$11.

ABJ and Bee Culture magazines carry advertisements from some bee breeders who have September queens available. If you are planning to start any Nucs this month, it would probably be best to purchase a mated queen rather than taking a chance on having enough local drones to properly mate a queen raised by a newly made Nuc. In this area, a five frame Nuc started in September with a well-mated queen and two or more frames of honey should be ready to move into an eight or ten frame hive in the spring.

Failing queens, ones with shotgun brood patterns, should be replaced during September to better insure the hive will make it through the winter months. Frames of pollen and capped honey also give the colony a better chance to survive. NEVER remove frames of honey from the brood nest because you were short in the supers. This is the food the colony will use to over-winter.

September is also the month to start feeding hives to grow the "fat bees" that will carry the hive through winter and bring it out alive next spring. This may be particularly important this year because we are in drought conditions in much of the state. The fall Golderod bloom we usually see may be adversely effected by the prolonged heat and dry conditions. Each beekeeper must make a decision about the feed mix you give your bees. I recommend a 2:1 sugar/water mix as the bees will tend to store this mixture better than a thinner one. If you are near a bee supply store you may want to purchase the liquid syrup mix they offer for sale. It is typically sold in bulk to commercial beekeepers but they will also sell the liquid feed in smaller amounts. Some suppliers offer a discount if you provide your own container.



Got Questions?

*Question & answer group will meet from 6:00-6:30 before the meeting.
Join us if you are a new beekeeper or just have beekeeping questions?
We'll try to get you some answers!*





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