

HEARTLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION of SE KANSAS

GENERAL MEETING NOTES

JULY 5, 2018

Ron called meeting to order at 6:30pm. Seventeen in attendance. Wayne gave treasurer's report - \$2607.20 less \$146.70 just spent on our website. Motion to approve by Pat and seconded by Martha. Pat read notes from the June 7 meeting and Lyn motioned to approve, seconded by Joyce.

New Business:

Last year we had a fantastic honey flow with continuous blooms. This year the weather turned hot early and has stayed that way. Blooms mostly happened all at once. The honey flow is done for many of us this year. The bees are getting conservative because of the lack of nectar flow.

New hives this year that have not yet drawn out all the comb in the top brood box can be fed a 1:1 sugar syrup. During a dearth like we've been having, nothing much gets done in the hive but feeding should help. However, bees can overwinter in one hive box.

After the honey flow and your honey supers are off and you are sure the hive is queen-right, you won't need to get in your hive every week.

Ron talked about the three kinds of queen cells: Swarm, Supersedure and Emergency.

- **Swarm** queen cells are the best for making new queens. These cells are generally made by a healthy hive that has grown to the point of being overcrowded. The bees often make several of these cells and often on multiple frames. They are vertical cells, larger than regular cells, with the opening at the bottom and are generally on the lower portion of the frame. The queen will lay an egg in the swarm cell and the workers will provide royal jelly for feed. Ron will destroy all of the swarm except for the two best ones.
- The **supersedure** cell is generally made when the queen is failing. Look at the egg pattern. If erratic with old and new eggs together, the colony may decide to supersede their queen. Supersedure queen cells are generally only on a couple of frames, 5 to 7 cells total, and are located higher on the frame than swarm queen cells. The queen will lay eggs in the supersedure cells.
- **Emergency** queen cells are made when the queen is gone. Bees select an already laid egg/larvae and start feeding royal jelly. The cell is curved downward.

When a colony swarms, mostly nurse bees go with the swarm. Nurse bees are the ones that draw out the wax.

Conditions are the most important factor in determining how well the swarm hive will fare. Good stock with less than ideal conditions is not as good as mediocre stock with ideal conditions.

About 70% of the time a swarm hive will supercede the old queen in about a month after swarming.

Ron went on to explain a **swarm split** - a split that you facilitate before the hive swarms on its own.

- Look for queen cells, then look for eggs and/or larvae in the cells. An egg is not a sure thing, but if you see larvae the hive will continue to feed it.
- Destroy all but two of the best queen cells.
- Destroy the old queen.
- Take two frames of brood, one frame of honey and pollen making sure to include the one or two frames you have with the best queen cells and put into a nuc box. Check on it in three days to a week.
- Go into your *old hive* and shake bees off to get a good look at remaining queen cells. Keep only two queen cells. Check the hive in three weeks.

One cause of swarms is crowding - not only because of population of bees, but also because of no place for the queen to lay. If you **feed** too much in the spring, the frames may get filled with stores leaving no place for eggs.

Ron has been **rearing** a lot of **queens** this year and is finding it to be very rewarding. He has sold all of his queens until just recently - finally getting to requeen some of his own hives. Come see his operation if you would like to. Just give him a call to arrange a time. He expects to be done with his queen operation in August or September. He will also be having a **class** soon on an upcoming Saturday on managing hives. Call Ron if you would like to attend.

Lyn and Kelly provided snacks (brownies and cherries) for our **break**. Yum!

1. Wayne Bockelman gave a very nice presentation on **Pests and Pest Management**. He covered Varroa mites and treatments, small hive beetles and traps, wax moths, tracheal mites, American & European Foul Brood, Chalk Brood (fungal disease) and Nosema (parasite) as well as Colony Collapse Disorder.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.