

Cowichan Beekeepers Society

March 17, 2021 Meeting

Start: Conversation @ 6:20 pm

6:55-19 members, 7:17-21 members, 7:35-22 members

Update on Hornet – now a joint initiative between BC/Washington

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-increasing-efforts-wipe-out-asian-giant-hornets-1.5952556>

Concerns about Round-Up being sprayed at this time of the year. There don't seem to be bylaws connected to spraying this product. However, Larry L suggested that if it should be sprayed doing it in the evening (dusk) would be the reduce the risk. This gives the product time to dry so that the bees don't pick it up as they are foraging.

A letter to North Cowichan, City of Duncan and the CVRD outlining this, as well as, a bylaw request was suggested.

Speaker: Heather Higo, President of the BCPA

Queen Rearing: Reduces reliance on imports
Select bees adapted for our climate
Control over selection criteria (eg – gentleness, hygienic traits, honey production)
In BC we have early spring and longer season
Added bonus – IT'S FUN!



Queen Rearing Overview – Select Breeder Colonies

Set up and prepare builders

Graft ((-10 days)

Transfer finished cells to individual QL mating nucs (2+ weeks)

Check for laying and harvest new queens. Put in next round of cels.

*** See AB TTP queen rearing wheel for timing.

WILD ANTHO Criteria:

>2 years old

Good Honey Production

Solid brood pattern year round

Good pollen stores

Top 10% size in spring/fall
Low varroa numbers
Strong hygienic behavior
No disease
Low honey consumption of winter
Not overly aggressive

HONEST GOODNESS FARM CO. Goals:

Grow from 300-3000 queens over 5 years
2020 accelerated this goal
Produced 1000 queen cells/wk for all of June 2020

Heather Higo work on the **COLLABORATIVE QUEEN REARING PROJECT**

What is needed for a small-scale collaborative queen breeding program?

Someone to organize,
Common selection goals/traits,
Common selection techniques,
Isolated mating site. Drone parent source colonies also need to be selected,
Ample drones available,
Communal mating nucs,

What traits could a collaborative group select for?

Hygienic behavior,
Honey production,
Low mite levels,
Gentleness,
Good overwintering,
Early spring build-up

Mated queen must be carefully tracked

Queens marked and clipped
Queens assigned a unique number
Cages marked with queen numbers
Colony numbers recorded where queens were placed

Business Meeting:

CCVRD Pamphlet revealed - a few changes to be made prior to presentation to the CCVRD.

Cowichan Valley Mite Treatment Plan (Larry Lindahl, Ted Leischner and Ian Low) will be made available on the Cowichan Beekeepers' website.

Wintering Survey are also available on the Cowichan Beekeepers' website

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z5LK36C>

Meeting ended at 7:58