

Bee **AWARE**

Department of Entomology
Apiculture Northeast

Notes and News on Bees and Beekeeping



Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania Cooperating

No. 78

DELAWARE HONEY MARKETING SURVEY

by

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University of Delaware

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Roadside markets in Delaware were surveyed for honey sales and prices in October 1937 by then extension apiculturist John Amos. At five year intervals from 1982 to 1997 honey process and availability were again sampled at a wide variety of sales stands alongside the principle roadways in Delaware. The number of roadside markets selling honey for the 5 different survey years is shown for each of the 3 Delaware counties (Figure 1). Fewer roadside markets today sell honey - there has been an 18% decrease in the number of roadside markets statewide from 1937 to 1997.

Over the survey years, the amount of honey sold in the comb at roadside markets has decreased significantly (48%); the amount of cut comb honey products has increased the past 15 years (Figure 2). Generally, comb honey availability has decreased in abundance throughout the US and has been replaced by cut comb honey, which is easier to produce. Chunk honey sales have remained relatively the same level.

PRICE OF HONEY

The price of honey in roadside markets has steadily increased over the years. In the 1937 survey the price of a 1 pound jar of extracted honey was 19-25 cents. In the 4 different survey years between 1982 to 1997, the average median price of honey sold in roadside markets statewide increased from \$1.61 to \$3.00.

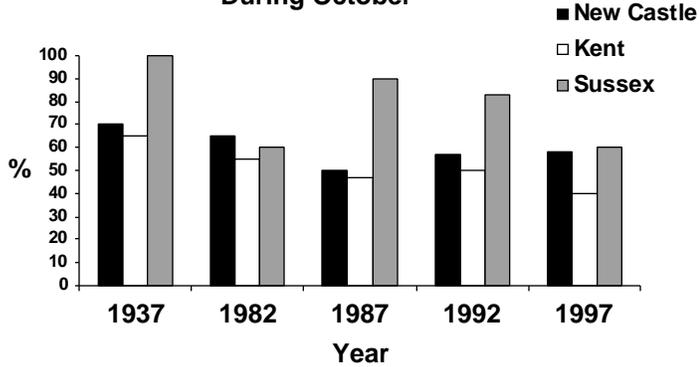
The price of local brands of honey have remained the most expensive when compared to regional brands sold at the same market. What is remarkable about roadside markets is the range in honey price. In 1997, a 1 pound jar of extracted honey sold as low as \$1.95 to as high as \$3.95. Even honey from the same packer exhibited a significant range - for one brand 12 oz. honey bears ranged from \$1.19 to \$2.89.

(Con't. on Page 2)

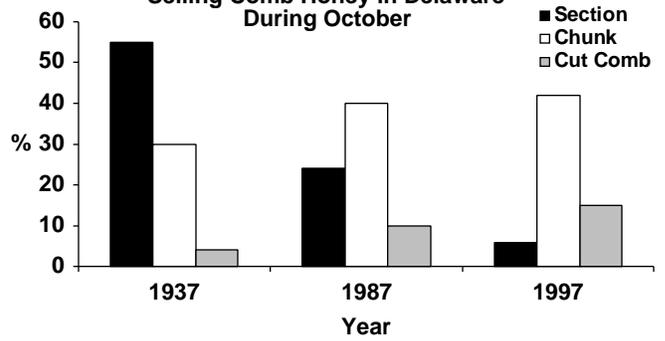
(DE Honey Marketing Survey Con't.)

The steady increase of honey prices in roadside markets over the past 15 years (nearly a doubling) predicts an increase in the coming years. One advantage of selling honey at roadside market outlets is that it can be sold rapidly after harvest, it generally sells at a higher price and it can be a product of local beekeepers. Types of honey containers decline or increase inversely to each other because small roadside markets often can only handle a small number of jars of honey. It was surprising that given such favorable advantages, the number of markets handling honey has decreased in Delaware.

Percentage of Markets Selling Honey During October



Percentage of Roadside Markets Selling Comb Honey in Delaware During October



IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL BEEKEEPERS

***** *Importation of honey bees is illegal!* *****

It is illegal to import honey bees (queens, workers and/or drones) from anywhere outside of the United States. This law was enacted in 1921 to protect our honey bees from tracheal mites which were discovered in Europe in the early 1900's. While we currently have tracheal and Varroa mites present in the US, there are at least two other parasitic mites and potentially many other pathogens that are extremely harmful to European honey bees. There is also the potential danger of accidentally importing African bees into the Northern US.

***** *Check with your Department of Agriculture concerning the registration of bees in your state.* *****

In most states beekeepers are required to register their honey bees with the Department of Agriculture. Registration of honey bees is done to maximize the efforts of state apiary inspectors. The apiary inspection service provides a valuable service to beekeepers by identifying deadly diseases and parasites in colonies. In addition, by working with beekeepers one-on-one in their own apiaries, inspectors often giving beekeepers the individual attention they need to improve their beekeeping practices, especially in the area of disease and mite control.

NEW JERSEY APIARY INSPECTION REPORT

Grant Stiles - New Jersey Apiary Inspector

Beekeepers around the state have their bees in good shape. Varroa mite levels are low and in most cases are non-detectable. The bees are making honey and there has been some early swarming. Unfortunately, rain has kept the colonies from taking full advantage of the locust bloom. Some colonies have already produced 1-2 supers.

Approximately 8,000 colonies of bees have been moved into NJ for the pollination of blueberries. These colonies will soon be moved on to cranberries. There are no signs of Varroa mites in the migratory colonies moved up from the south.

We are looking forward to a productive season.

1997 PENNSYLVANIA APIARY INSPECTION REPORT

Jim Steinhauer, Pennsylvania Apiary Inspector

Nine seasonal bee inspectors worked a total of 4,948 hours from May 12 through September 12. Total hours worked are equivalent to 2.4 full time employees.

Seasonal inspectors examined 8,923 colonies in 1,521 apiaries and found 168 colonies (1.9%) in 89 apiaries (6.5%) infected with American Foulbrood. In addition to summer inspections, 7,800 colonies owned by 18 beekeepers were certified for shipment to Florida for the winter. At least 20% of those certified colonies were actually opened for inspection.

Seasonal inspectors found Varroa mites in 644 apiaries (60%) out of 1075 sampled. Varroa mites are probably present in all apiaries but in some, the levels were undetectable by our survey methods. Over the past few years we have seen extreme fluctuation of Varroa mites. In 1995, inspectors found mites in 78% of apiaries sampled. After the severe winter of 95/96 when almost all feral colonies died (and nearly 60% of managed colonies), the Varroa population crashed. In 1996 mites were found in only 46% of the apiaries sampled. This low incidence of Varroa carried over into early 1997 when inspectors sampled many apiaries where no mites were found. However, by mid to late summer Varroa infestations had greatly increased. This prompted a letter from the Chief Apiary Inspector to all registered beekeepers alerting them to the increase in mites and the probable need to treat for them.

During fall inspections, a few apiaries were found which had been treated with Apistan yet still had high populations of Varroa. After considerable testing and with the help of USDA scientists from the Beltsville Bee Lab, it was determined that these mites were resistant to Apistan. Currently there is no reason to suspect widespread occurrence of resistant mites but beekeepers should be alert to the possibility that Apistan may not provide adequate control of Varroa mites in their colonies.

Tracheal mite infestations in 1997 fell in the same range as those for the past 5 years. Of 88 samples submitted by beekeepers, 53 (60%) had tracheal mites present. Over the past 5 years the percentage of samples containing mite infested bees ranged from 56 to 67%. Tracheal mite infestations fluctuate drastically depending on weather conditions, honey flow and other factors. In some years tracheal mites are a significant factor in winter mortality. Since beekeepers cannot monitor tracheal mites in their bees, preventive treatment is probably the best policy. Menthol is still an effective treatment where it can be applied early enough. Grease patties used continuously appear to provide some control for tracheal mites. So far there is no conclusive evidence that mint oils provide significant control of mites. The illegal product "Mite Solution" has proven to be ineffective in controlling tracheal or Varroa mites.

The apiary registration program continues to be very helpful to the inspection program. Currently there are 1,511 beekeepers with 2,730 apiaries and 25,967 colonies registered. These numbers are very similar to those registered in the first year of mandatory registration (1995). In that time, several hundred beekeepers have gone out of business but an equal number of new beekeepers have registered. Being able to keep accurate records of beekeepers has greatly improved the efficiency of the inspection program.

PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL BEE INSPECTORS - 1998

Reg. I	Dale Allshouse 11 Hawthorne St. Brookville, PA 15825-1357 814-849-5094	Erie, Crawford, Warren, McKean Venango, Forest, Elk, Clarion Jefferson
Reg. II	Glenn Crimbring RR 1, Box 315 Canton, PA 17724 717-673-8201	Potter, Tioga, Cameron, Clinton Lycoming, Union, Montour, Snyder Northumberland, Bradford, Columbia
Reg. III	Henry Street PO Box 237 Laporte, PA 18626 717-946-5906	Monroe, Luzerne, Pike, Sullivan, Lackawanna, Wyoming, Wayne Susquehanna
Reg. IV	Duane Hall RR 1 Box 292A Smithton, PA 15479 412-872-9143	Indiana, Greene, Beaver, Butler, Mercer, Lawrence, Allegheny, Armstrong, Westmoreland, Washington, Fayette
Reg. V	Jerry Shue RR 1 Box 188 Spring Mills, PA 16875 814-422-7603	Clearfield, Centre, Cambria, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Blair, Bedford, Somerset, Fulton
Reg. VI	Paul Schnaithmann (East)	Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster
Reg. VI	Tracy Helton 268 Hilltop Road Delta, PA 17516 717-456-7011	York, Adams, Perry, Franklin Cumberland
Reg. VII	Paul Krepicz 8618 Rextown Road Slatington, PA 18080 610-767-8681	Carbon, Berks, Schuylkill, Lehigh Northampton
Reg. VII	Kyle Levengood 2685 Strasburg Road Coatesville, PA 19320 610-382-5910	Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks, Philadelphia



COLONIES NEEDED FOR ESSENTIAL OIL STUDY

Diana Sammataro

The Penn State Bee Lab is looking for some cooperators to help study the efficacy of some essential oils. If you are interested, and meet the requirements below, please contact us with your name, address and phone numbers or Email address.

Requirements:

1. At least 20 colonies in one or two locations
2. Half of the colonies will get a control strip, half will get an oil treatment. All will be treated with Apistan at the end of the experiment, but you may lose a colony or two.
3. You must be willing to return the sticky boards in a timely fashion. We will provide the boards, but in some instances, you will need to have the mesh covers to keep the bees off the sticky boards.
4. We will be ready to start the experiment in late August and it will need to run at least three weeks; honey supers should be removed. You will need to put in sticky boards before the experiment starts for 3-4 days, then at least two times during the experiment, and once after the experiment is over, using the same colonies throughout.

MAKING FAIR BOOTHS BETTER

Diana Sammataro

I have had the chance to look at some fair booths over the years, and thought I would pass on some of the booths that worked really well.

One booth, in Medina Co., OH, had a small dark corner of the Grange building and since all the Grange exhibits were static (not manned by people), few visitors came. To brighten up the corner, they re-did the entire area, painting the walls white, and making a back-lit shelf to display their honey. They separated the sales area from the education area, putting a video on a high shelf that ran constantly for those who didn't want to venture close, and had several observation hives with people to answer questions, inside.

The sales area included honey, but they also manned the table with people who urged you to taste the different kinds of honey, had a map showing where in the state the honey came from and a picture of the flower.

To liven up the outside, they had some bee equipment (extractors, hives, etc.) on display and beekeepers handing out honey stix. All of this worked so well, they doubled their annual income that year, and were able to purchase more books and videos for their library.

In Lorain Co., OH, the local bee association had the entire half of their building lined with rows and rows of equipment, honey, candles, and educational information that was displayed, sold or handed out. In addition, they included a little fenced in question box, where a person, usually a child, was invited to enter and be quizzed on how much they knew about bees, and rewarded with honey stix for each right answer. It was a great crowd pleaser.

The best of all, however, has to be the Topsfield Fair in Essex Co., MA. If you ever make it up there in late fall, stop by. They have an ENTIRE brand new building, complete with static and dynamic displays that incorporated all the ideas I saw in OH. In addition, they had a candle rolling table, which was their biggest money generator. The beekeepers spent an evening before the fair cutting up deep foundation, both natural and colored, into four triangles, which they put into shoe boxes with a strip of wick to match. The boxes had the color of the foundation on the outside, and all the boxes were displayed behind a table. When the fair started, usually after Labor Day, kids came in school bus loads. They charged \$.50 for each candle, showed them how to roll it, and spent about 3 min. with each kid talking about bees. It was great.

If you have good ideas to share about your favorite fair booth, we'd love to hear about it. Hope these gave you some ideas.

1998 EAS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday

Today's Theme - Apitherapy and Other Subjects

1:30 - 1:45	Welcome <i>Jennifer Finley, EAS '98 President</i>
1:45 - 2:30	Imaginative Solutions <i>Steve Taber</i>
2:30 - 3:00	The World of Apitherapy <i>Dr. Theo Cherbuliez</i>
3:00 - 3:30	Break in Exhibit Room
3:30 - 4:00	Apitherapy Products <i>Jean Francoise Lariviere</i>
4:00 - 4:30	Asian Cousins of Apis mellifera <i>Dr. Michael Burgett</i>
4:30 - 5:00	Hambleton Award Winner TBA
5:00 - 6:30	Supper On Your own
6:30 - 9:00	Ice Cream Social

Thursday

Today's Theme - Pollination

8:15 - 8:45	Pollination Basics <i>Dr. Clarence Collison</i>
8:45 - 9:15	A Beekeeper's Perspective <i>David Hackenberg</i>
9:15 - 9:45	Wild Blueberry Pollination <i>Tony Jadczyk</i>
9:45 - 10:15	Break in Exhibit Room

10:15 - 10:45	Cucurbit Pollination <i>Dr. John Skinner</i>
10:45 - 11:15	Pollination and African Honey Bees <i>Dr. Robert Danka</i>
11:15 - 11:45	Watermelon Pollination Efficiency <i>M.S. Stanghellini - EAS Student Award</i>
11:45 - 12:15	Fruit Pollination <i>Dr. Roger Hoopingarner</i>
12:15 - 1:00	Free Lunch, Sponsored by EAS
1:30 - 5:00	Workshops (See Schedule)
6:30 - 10:00	Barbeque - Ski Lodge

Friday

Today's Theme - Protecting Bees and Beekeepers

8:15 - 8:45	Tracheal Mites and Honey Bees <i>Dr. Scott Camazine</i>
8:45 - 9:15	Mites and Mite Control <i>Dr. H. Shimanuki</i>
9:15 - 9:45	Using Terramycin Correctly <i>Jack Thomas</i>
9:45 - 10:15	Break in Exhibit Room
10:15 - 10:45	Northern Queens <i>David Eyre</i>
10:45 - 11:15	National Honey Board & You
11:15 - 11:45	EAS Annual Business Meeting
11:45 - 1:00	Free Lunch, Sponsored by EAS
1:30 - 5:00	Workshops
6:30 - 10:00	Banquet - Auditorium <i>John Root, MC</i>

1998 EAS WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

MANAGEMENT

1:00 - 1:45	Swarm Management - Auditorium <i>George Imirie, Barry Thompson</i>
2:00 - 2:45	Alternative Pollinators - Directors <i>Nancy Troup</i>
3:00 - 3:45	Pollination Management - Auditorium <i>Bob Cole</i>
4:00 - 4:45	Dr. Beekeeper, Healthy Bees - Sunburst <i>Bill Troup</i>

EDUCATION

1:00 - 1:45	Newsletters, Ass'ns Propolis - Laural <i>Kim Flottum, Dick Chapin</i>
2:00 - 2:45	Beekeeping History - Sunburst <i>Wyatt Mangum</i>
3:00 - 3:45	Beekeeping Photography - Snowflake <i>Steve McDaniels</i>
4:00 - 4:45	Observation Hives - Laural <i>Dr. Dewey Caron</i>

MAKING MONEY

1:00 - 1:45	Making Mead - Snowflake <i>Dr. Bob Berthold</i>
2:00 - 2:45	Designing Your labels - 5 Seasons <i>Albert Roza</i>
3:00 - 3:45	TBA
4:00 - 4:45	Honey in all it's Forms - 5 Seasons <i>Darl Stoller, Tom Ross, John Hogg</i> <i>(Thurs. Only)</i> Putting It All Together <i>Steve & Ellie Conlon (Friday)</i>

ALL DAY THURSDAY - APIARY OPEN HOUSE

A Special Workshop designed to give "want to be" beekeepers a chance to work individually or in small groups with an experienced EAS Master Beekeeper. A truly unique opportunity for anyone interested in watching, learning or handling honey bees.

1998 EAS SHORT COURSE OUTLINE

Level 1 - Start Right Management For 5 or Fewer, Years or Colonies

Monday, July 13 - 5 Seasons Rooms

9:00 - 5:00 Classroom Lectures, Demos
7:00 - 10:00 Classroom Demos, both groups

Tuesday, July 14 - 5 Seasons Rooms

9:00 - 12:00 Classroom Lectures, Demos
1:00 - 5:00 Breakout and Beeyard Sessions
7:00 - 10:00 Both Groups Social - Alpine

Wednesday, July 15 - Auditorium

8:00 - 12:00 Both Groups Session

Level 2 - Making Money With Bees For Intermediate, Advanced

Monday, July 13 - 5 Seasons Rooms

9:00 - 5:00 Classroom Lectures, Demos
7:00 - 10:00 Classroom Demos, both groups

Tuesday, July 14 - 5 Seasons Rooms

9:00 - 12:00 Classroom Lectures, demos
1:00 - 5:00 Breakout and Beeyard Sessions
7:00 - 10:00 Both Groups Social - Alpine

Wednesday, July 15 - Auditorium

8:00 - 12:00 Both Groups Session

EAS 1998 Short Course Speakers Include:

Steve Taber, Dr. Roger Hoopgarner, Dr. Michael Burgett, Dr. Robert Danka, Dr. Clarence Collison, Maryann Frazier, Jennifer Finley, Dr. Dewey Caron, EAS Master Beekeepers and others.

Some room changes may occur, and workshop times may be fine tuned before July. Please check your EAS Program when you arrive for up-to-the-minute scheduling and locations.



APIMONDIA '99 PROGRAM IS TAKING SHAPE

Apimondia'99 is developing into a beekeeping event you do not want to miss!

Held every two years, congresses of Apimondia (the International Federation of Beekeeping Associations) are a source of new ideas about all aspects of bees and beekeeping from around the world. The next Apimondia congress will be held in Canada, from 12-18 September 1999, at the spectacular Trade and Convention Centre on the Vancouver waterfront.

The theme of Apimondia'99 is "Beekeeping in the New Millennium". Mark Winston, a well-known researcher from the Vancouver area and Chair of the Program Committee, is excited about what he believes will be "quite simply, the best beekeeping meeting ever held". More than 150 speakers have been invited to participate in large plenary sessions and smaller symposia on dozens of aspects of beekeeping and bee research topics. Hundreds of other speakers will be presenting submitted papers and posters.

The confirmed speaker list reads like an international Who's Who of Beekeeping: Adee (USA), Anderson (Australia), Beetsma (Netherlands), Crewe (S. Africa), De Jong (Brazil), Delaplane (USA), Fries (Sweden), Guzman (Mexico), Goodwin (UK), Koeniger (Germany), LeConte (France), Matheson (New Zealand), McKenna (Canada), Milani (Italy), Spivak (USA), van Eaton (New Zealand), and many, many others. It will be a long time before you will have the opportunity again to hear such a diverse group of high quality speakers at one meeting.

ApiExpo'99, the apicultural trade show, also will take place inside the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre. It will feature more than 150 displays of beekeeping equipment, honey and other bee products, miticides and other chemicals used in beekeeping, alcoholic beverages containing honey, beekeeping journals, ancient smokers, and everything else associated with beekeeping!

The Second Circular with full details about the meeting is scheduled for mailing in October, 1998. To receive more information, contact: Apimondia'99, c/o Venue West Conference Services, #645-375 Water Street, Vancouver, BC, B6B 5C6, Canada; Fax: (+604) 681-2503; E-mail: <congress@venuewest.com>. Please indicate clearly if you are interested in renting space for a commercial display. Check the website regularly for more complete, up-to-date information:
<http://www.apimondia99.ca>

THE CHANGING FUNDAMENTALS OF BEEKEEPING

August 28-30, 1998

Days Inn Penn State
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

Sponsored by:
Northeast Regional Honey Bee Project

Friday, August 28

8:30 a.m. *Registration - Lobby, Days Inn*

9:00 *Welcome & Course Instruction*
Maryann Frazier

9:30 *Biology - The Basis of Management*
Maryann Frazier

10:30 Break

11:00 *Overview of Seasonal Management*
Techniques
Dewey Caron

12:00 p.m. Lunch - On your own

1:30 - 4:00 Apiary/Lab Workshops

Mite and disease diagnosis in the lab
Diana Sammataro
108 Headhouse III (Lab)

Making splits and hiving packages
Maryann Frazier
University Apiary

Mite and disease diagnosis in the field
Jim Steinhauer
Circleville Farm Apiary

Queen Rearing Techniques
TBA
University Apiary

5:00-7:30 Reception - **Days Inn Penn State**

Saturday, August 29 - Days Inn

8:30 a.m. *Marketing Hive Products*
Dewey Caron

9:15 **Brood Diseases**
Jim Steinhauer

10:00 Break

Saturday, August 29(Con't.)

10:30 **Tracheal Mites**
Diana Sammataro

11:15 **Varroa Mites**
Jennifer Finley

12:00 Lunch - On your own

1:30-4:00 Apiary/Lab Workshops
Mite and disease diagnosis in the lab
Diana Sammataro
108 Headhouse III (Lab)

Mite and disease diagnosis in the field
Jim Steinhauer
Circleville Farm Apiary

 •*Bee aware* •*Beekeeping CD ROM*
•*Making the World Wide Web work for you*
•*Record keeping - Computer Lab*
Albert Rozo

Queen Rearing Techniques
TBA
University Apiary

5:00 p.m. *Adjourn*

Sunday, August 30 - Days Inn

9:00 *PSU Research*
Scott Camazine

10:45 *Honey, Plants, and Crops*
Diana Sammataro

10:50 Break

11:00 a.m. *Honey Bee Behavior (decisions, decisions)*
Scott Camazine

12:00 p.m. Program concludes

For registration information please call the Penn State Short Course Office at 81-865-8301

AN OPEN LETTER TO BEEKEEPERS FROM ZOËCON

Apistan® strips have been successfully used by beekeepers to control *Varroa* mites for the last nine years. Apistan is the only federally registered product for use in beehives for the control of *Varroa jacobsoni*. During the past six months, however, rumors have circulated throughout the industry concerning problems with the strips.

We would like to provide you with the most up-to-date information on this situation. The concern is a lack of efficacy associated with the strips in limited areas of Florida, South Dakota and Pennsylvania. In some cases, the strips failed to provide the control that beekeepers have been familiar with and come to expect from Apistan.

Zoëcon personnel began investigating following several reports of control failures. Once the lot numbers and strips were provided, a list was compiled to determine if a common lot number or batch was involved. Strips provided were chemically tested to determine levels of fluvalinate and inert ingredients. Batch records of each reported lot were reviewed for inconsistencies.

After reviewing all the lot numbers, batch records, release rates and chemical analysis, there were no production problems with any of the strips from the reported lot numbers. There was no correlation to lot number in any of the reported failures. Lot numbers reported came from production as far back as 1995 and as recently at March of 1997.

During the course of investigation, independent of Zoëcon, the USDA (Weslaco, Texas) began investigations of reported failures in South Dakota. Apistan strips failed to provide satisfactory control in their studies. Further studies in certain areas of Florida had similar findings. In still other investigations, the USDA has taken strips that failed to work in Florida to parts of Texas, Mexico and Guatemala. In the studies, the exact same strips provided control of mite populations.

There does appear to be a common link between the failures in South Dakota and Pennsylvania. It appears these hives have spent some time in Florida either over-wintering or as pollinators shipped out of Florida. This commonality indicates the possibility that there is a low-level tolerance to fluvalinate associated with these limited areas of Florida. We do not know what the level of tolerance is at this time.

For the majority of beekeepers, Apistan is and will continue to be an effective product for the control of *Varroa* mites. Zoëcon is working intensively in conjunction with the USDA to devise alternate strategies and alternate control measures to assure *Varroa*-free colonies and prevent the spread of tolerant mites. In an effort to reduce the incidence of fluvalinate-tolerant mites, we urge beekeepers to use only EPA-registered products and follow label directions.

The use of **any unregistered** product threatens a beekeeper's livelihood. For instance, a pattern of illegal use of Mavrik® in Italy caused a resistance problem and resulted in the ceasing of Apistan sales in that country which deprived them of an important tool. The use of **any unregistered** product also exposes the beekeeper to unnecessary liability.

Until we know more about this situation, we urge beekeepers to monitor their hives closely for the presence of *Varroa*. Again, we are working to find alternatives to Apistan that can be used in rotational practices. Rotational practices will not only prolong the life of Apistan, but provide beekeepers the confidence and control they have grown to expect from Zoëcon Apiary products.

Best regards,

Greg Braithwaite
National Sales Manager

Oscar Coindreau
National Sales Representative

Doug VanGundy
Specialty Product
Support Manager

Upcoming Events



Beekeeping Short Course at Delaware Valley College

June 26, 27 and 28, 1998. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 pm. Additional information can be obtained by writing "Bees", Delaware Valley College, 700 E. Butler Ave., Doylestown, PA 18901 or calling Bob Berthold at 215-489-2285.

Tri-County Meeting.

June 30, 1998. 6:30 p.m. Location: Keeney & Ziegler Apiaries, Bethel, PA (Exit 3, I-78)
For more information call 717-933-8565

Allegheny County Beekeepers Association Meeting

July 6, 1998. 7:15. Call Jerry Knutson at 412-481-9986 for details and directions.

Eastern Apicultural Society Short Course & Conference

July 13 - 15, 1998. Short Course
July 15 - 17, 1998. Conference
Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, PA. For more information call Loretta Surprenant at 518-963-7593.



The Changing Fundamentals of Beekeeping Regional Short Course.

August 28-30, 1998. Days Inn & Penn State Campus., State College, PA. For more information call Penn State Department of Entomology at 814-865-1896.

Allegheny County Beekeepers Association Meeting

September 14, 1998. 7:15. Call Jerry Knutson at 412-481-9986 for details and directions.

Capital Area Beekeepers Association Banquet

September 26, 1998. 6:00 p.m. Summerdale Fire Hall. For more information call Dave Calderone at 717-737-6331.

Capital Area Beekeepers Regular Meeting

November 20, 1998. 7:30 pm. For more information call Dave Calderone at 717-737-6331.

Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Assoc. Annual Fall Meeting

November 13 & 14, 1998. Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, PA. For more information call Yvonne Crimbring at 717-673-8201.

Pennsylvania State Farm Show

January 8 - 14, 1999. For more information call Maryann Frazier at 814-865-4621.

Please complete the attached colony losses survey and return to

Jennifer Finley

Department of Entomology

501 Ag Sciences & Industries Building

University Park, PA 16802.

Prepared by:

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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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Honey Bee Colony Losses Survey 1997-98

Bee Aware 5/98

Have you answered this questionnaire already in 1998? If yes, please do not do it twice.

Where are your apiaries located (check)? PA ___ MD ___ NJ ___ DE ___ other _____

In which county or counties? _____

How many colonies did you have last summer (June or July 1997)? _____

How many died between last summer and this summer? Total dead colonies = _____

Of the colonies that died (listed above):

How many died late last summer or early fall (Aug., Sept., Oct. 1997)? _____

How many died in late last winter or early spring (Feb., Mar., Apr. 1998)? _____

How many died at other times? _____ specify month (s) _____

How many starved (dead clusters with no honey remaining)? _____

How many were killed by bears? _____ specify month (s) _____

How many colonies do you have now (1998)? _____

How many are overwintered colonies that survived the winter of 1997-98? _____

How many are new (spring 1998) splits from your own bees? _____

How many are new (spring 1998) packages or purchased nucs? _____

How many are new (spring 1998) swarms? _____

Did you apply any medications last year? Please indicate ALL treatments that you applied during 1997. (specify the month that you applied each treatment).

powdered sugar & Terramycin (for foulbrood)? If yes, when? **month(s)** _____

Apistan (for Varroa mite)? If yes, when? **month(s)** _____

Menthol (for tracheal mite)? If yes, when? **month(s)** _____

plain grease patties (for tracheal mite)? If yes, when? **month(s)** _____

grease patties with Terramycin? If yes, when? **month(s)** _____

Fumidil-B (for Nosema disease)? If yes, when? **month(s)** _____

other? _____ When? **month(s)** _____

Please include any comments here. We designed this survey to be anonymous, but you may include your name and address here if you wish. All of the information that you provide on this form will remain confidential.

Please turn form over and complete the back. => => =>

Penn State Beekeeping Extension Questionnaire 1998

We are continually working to improve, update and expand our extension information on bees and beekeeping. The information that you provide below helps us to provide helpful, useful information.

First, a little quiz.

Could you identify the following bee problems if you saw them? (circle yes or no):

<u>Brood diseases</u>	(circle)	<u>Parasitic mites</u>	(circle)
American Foulbrood (AFB)	yes no	Varroa Mites	yes no
European Foulbrood (EFB)	yes no	Tracheal mites	yes no
PMS (Parasitic Mite Syndrome)	yes no		
Chalkbrood	yes no	<u>Diseases of adult bees</u>	(circle)
Sacbrood	yes no	Dysentery	yes no

Where do you obtain information on beekeeping? (please check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) county bee association meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> 9) beekeeping magazines (ie. ABJ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2) multi-county meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> 10) Penn State Bee Aware newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3) state bee association meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> 11) other beekeepers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4) multi-state meetings (ie. EAS or ABF) | <input type="checkbox"/> 12) apiary inspector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5) county extension agent or office | <input type="checkbox"/> 13) Internet and World Wide Web |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6) university personnel (extension & research) | <input type="checkbox"/> 14) Penn State Bee Aware expert system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7) special short courses or field days | <input type="checkbox"/> 15) books on beekeeping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8) county or state assoc newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> 16) libraries |

Which information sources do you rely on most? (use list #) # _____
2nd? # _____
3rd? # _____

Do you have a computer at home? (circle): yes no
at work? yes no

What type of computer do you have? (circle): Macintosh MS-DOS other _____

Do you have access to the Internet and World Wide Web? (circle): yes no

Do you have a CD-ROM drive? (circle): yes no

If you have access to the Internet:

Have you visited our Apiculture Northeast website (extension info)? yes no
<http://www.apicultureNE.cas.psu.edu>

Have you visited our Penn State Bee Lab website (research & personnel info)? yes no
<http://www.psu.edu/dept/bee hive>

Do you have any comments about either website??

We appreciate your help! Thanks for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

PSU Bee Crew: Dr. Scott Camazine Maryann Frazier Jennifer Finley Albert Rozo + many workers!