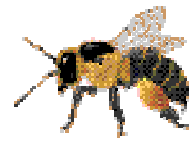


SPRING 2009

CYMDEITHAS GWENYNWYR SIR GAERFYRDDIN



Newsletter 27



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 1

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CBKA WEBSITE

DISCLAIMER



THE NEXT MEETING IS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY JANUARY 5th at 7.30 p.m. at the New Stags Head, Red Street, Carmarthen.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at The New Stags Head. Carmarthen.

7.30.p.m. Monday January 5th 2009

AGENDA

Nominations for officers as soon as possible to the secretary

1. Apologies for absence.

3. Matters arising.

5. Treasurer Report.

2. Minutes of last AGM.

4. Chairman Report.

6. Secretary Report.

7. Election of Officers:

Vice President,

Treasurer;

Committee members,

Press officer;

Swarm liaison officer;

President,

Chairman,

Secretary,

Apiary Manager;

Librarian,

Welsh Beekeepers Association representative

8. Any Other Business: To include

Membership Fees.

New members introductory packs.

Bee Disease Insurance

Beginners Classes & Examinations.

New CBKA Apiary : Proposed expenditure and grants.

Programme suggestions for 2009 and Venues.

Officials for 2008 were

President Gwyn Davies (Deceased)

Chairman Keith Thomas

Treasurer Marie Gardiner

Committee members Bill Bradley

Apiary manager Steven Medland

Librarian. Riki Christie

Welsh Beekeepers Association representative John Burgess

Vice President Maureen Maceod (Acting President)

Vice Chairman Geof Bazin

Secretary Brian Jones

Press officer None

Swarm liason officer Maureen Maceod

Recommendations for the Oxalic Acid Trickle Treatment

By Jean-Daniel Charriere, Anto Imdorf and Peter Fluri.

Translated from the Schweizerische Bienen Zeitung 123(9),523-524(2000) by A.E.McArthur MI

Components of the Solution

35g Oxalic acid Dihydrate in 1 litre of sugar solution 1:1

Amounts of Solution Relative to Colony Size

- 30 ml per colony for nucleus colonies/small colonies
- 40 ml per colony for average sized colonies
- 50 ml per colony for strong colonies

The amounts quoted relate to a 5 - 6 ml quantity of solution per frame space occupied by bees for Swiss Standard or Dadant brood chambers.

Timing of Treatment

During November/ December when no brood is present.

Observations

- the treatment may cause a light weakening of the colony in spring under certain conditions
- opposed to this the spray treatment is tolerated much better by the bees
- the composition of the treatment and its application is described in Nr. 8/1998, page 503 of the magazine
- during the application of the treatment protective gloves and spectacles should be worn
- only **one** treatment to be carried out in late autumn. A second treatment is not tolerated well by the bees
- the solution is trickled directly onto the bees between the frames
- use the solution luke warm
- the ambient temperature at treatment should be above 10°C
- the solution should be freshly made up or not more than 6 months previously and stored at a temperature of 15°C maximum

The provisional solution strength for the trickle treatment of 45g per litre of sugar solution 1:1 recommended in the 10/1999 magazine issue pages 564 and 565, can also be used. In this instance the amount of solution per occupied bee space should be reduced. A 4 ml amount instead of a 5 ml is sufficient. The amount per colony will also be correspondingly less and vary between 20 - 40 ml according to colony strength.

We recommend however, in future the 35 ml oxalic acid dihydrate be used.

This page is reproduced from the website of The Moray Beekeepers Association to view the full article go to www.moraybeekeepers.co.uk

WARNING TAKE CARE WHEN HANDLING ACIDS !

Harmful... If swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through skin.

Corrosive... causes burns. Very destructive of mucous membranes.

Store ... in safe containers away from animals and children.

Feeding Honey Bees

(From Fundamentals of Beekeeping)

The natural honey bee diet consists of pollen, nectar or honey, and water. Honey is the bees' source of carbohydrates or energy supply. Proteins, vitamins, minerals, and fats are obtained from pollen. Anytime the natural food stores of a colony are low, the beekeeper must begin emergency feeding. An established colony should have at least 15 to 20 pounds of honey or the equivalent of three to four good combs of honey in reserve at all times. Most feeding is done in late winter, early spring, and possibly in the fall.

Colonies found short of food stores before late March are difficult to manage. Feeding heavy sugar syrup at this time is not normally recommended, since it places an additional stress on the clustered bees. Inversion of the sucrose and handling excess water causes problems for honey bees. Too much moisture in the bee's diet causes dysentery. Three food sources that the beekeeper may consider at this time of year are combs of honey, dry sugar, or sugar candy.

Some beekeepers save combs of honey in the fall for spring feeding. Place two or three combs of honey as near the cluster as possible without disrupting or breaking it. If you do not have combs of honey in storage, you may have to take combs from colonies with a surplus. Occasionally, such feeding practices are necessary to save a colony from starvation. In these circumstances, break the cappings on the comb to give the bees quicker access to the honey. Never feed combs of honey unless you are absolutely sure they are free of disease, particularly American foulbrood. Honey never should be purchased from other sources to feed bees. A definite advantage of feeding combs of honey is that it will not initiate robbing in the bee yard.

Dry granulated sugar may be poured around the hole of the inner cover or spread on a piece of paper above the frames. specially constructed sugar holders (rim feeders) that replace the inner cover beneath the top cover also can be used. To take full advantage of the dry sugar, colonies must be strong, temperatures warm enough so the cluster can be broken, and adequate moisture must be available. In some instances, bees will carry dry sugar out of the hive and discard it. This approach is not well suited to colonies that need food immediately to survive.

Probably the best approach to emergency feeding is to feed sugar candy made from the following recipe:

SUGAR CANDY

15 pounds sugar

3 pounds glucose or white corn syrup

4 cups water

1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar

Dissolve the sugar in the water by stirring and boiling the mixture until the temperature of the syrup rises to 242°F. You must use a candy thermometer while bringing the syrup to 242°F. Let the syrup cool to 180° F, then beat until thick. Pour the candy into moulds lined with wax paper. Place a cake of sugar on two small, 1/2 inch square strips of wood in an empty super above the cluster of bees. (See Figure 30.) Cover the candy and the space around it with cloth or newspaper to keep it warm. Remove any remaining candy and feed syrup when the weather gets warm in March or April.

Sugar syrup is the most common feed for bees when the weather permits easy movement of the cluster, occasional flights, or when the outside temperature is above 40°F. This syrup is made by dissolving either cane or beet sugar (sucrose) in water. Brown sugar, molasses, corn syrup, and other similar materials containing sugar should not be used as feed. High-fructose corn syrup (HFCS or isomerised syrups) and disease-free honey from your apiary, diluted one-fourth to one-half with warm water, can be fed safely. Before April 1, feed a heavy sugar syrup made up of two parts sugar to one part hot water by volume. To make sure all the sugar dissolves, you may have to heat the water. Be careful not to burn the sugar; caramelised sugar can be harmful to bees. Some beekeepers add 1 1/2 tablespoons of cider-vinegar to each gallon of syrup to invert the sucrose and retard crystallization. Such a mixture will not freeze at temperatures as low as -10°F. During the foraging season, cider vinegar is not normally added, and the syrup is composed of one and a half parts sugar to one part water by volume.

There are several methods and types of equipment used to feed sugar syrup to honey bee colonies. Under almost all conditions, feeding should be done inside the hive. Syrup feeding excites and stimulates the colonies being fed. When weather allows foraging, this feeding stimulus may set off robbing in the apiary, particularly in those colonies receiving the food. Spilled syrup in the bee yard also may initiate robbing.

Boardman (entrance) feeders do not work well in cool weather. The syrup gets too cold, and the bees do not come down to get it unless the weather is very warm. Colonies that need to be fed usually require larger volumes of syrup than this type of feeder can provide. The threat of robbing is also a serious problem.

An inverted pail or jar placed on the top bars of frames of the upper hive body or over the hole in the inner cover is an excellent method of feeding syrup in the spring. This is the warmest part of the hive and it is where the bees are usually clustered. Leave part of the inner cover hole exposed so that bees can get out. Make sure the holes in the feeder are not too large; you are interested only in keeping the bees alive, not in storing large quantities of sugar syrup. Usually about six holes with the tip of a 4d nail are sufficient. To test each feeder before placing it on the hive, invert the full feeder. A small amount of syrup will run out until a vacuum forms in the container. Do not use the feeder if the syrup leaks out after the vacuum has had time to form. Protect the feeder with an empty super, cover it with several layers of burlap or newspaper, and put the hive cover on top.

This page is reproduced from the excellent website of the Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium (Pennsylvania State University) To view the full website go to <http://maarec.cas.psu.edu> This information is also applicable to climatic conditions in Wales.

HONEY SHOW RESULTS 2008



CLASS 1. THE BRIAN DAVIES CUP FOR LIQUID HONEY DARK MEDIUM OR LIGHT.

1st Marie Gardiner.
2nd (Joint) Geof Bazin, Brian Jones.

CLASS 2. THE WAVERLEY CUP FOR GRANULATED HONEY.

1st Keith Thomas.
2nd Brian Jones.



CLASS 3. THE MOSELEY CUP FOR THE HONEY CAKE.

1st Shirley Masters.
2nd Maureen Macleod.

CLASS 4. ROUND CUP FOR BEESWAX.

1st Marie Gardiner.
2nd Brian Jones



CLASS 5. LARGEROSE BOWL FOR WINES AND MEAD

1st Brian Jones
2nd Will Davies

CLASS 6 COLMAN PORTER CUP FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Maureen Macleod
2nd Brian Jones

CLASS 7. SMALL ROSE BOWL FOR CRAFT ITEM

1st Maureen Macleod
2nd Marie Gardiner



Well done all those who competed and did the judging. Thanks to Maureen for taking the entries and working out the results. Even though it was a terrible year for the bees, there was some excellent honey on display. Perhaps we need to work a bit harder on the presentation of entries. But as many were novices it was a good effort by all. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new relaxed judging.

Brian.

Honey Crinkle Cookies (<http://fooddownunder.com>)

2/3	cup	vegetable oil
1	cup	sugar
1	x	egg
1/2	tsp	vanilla extract
1/4	cup	honey
2	cup	flour
2	tsp	baking soda
3/4	tsp	mace
1/2	tsp	salt
		additional granulated sugar for coating

Method :

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Combine vegetable oil & sugar & beat well. Beat in egg vanilla and honey. Sift together flour and baking soda, mace & salt. Stir flour mixture into liquid ingredients & mix well to blend. Drop by teaspoonfuls into granulated sugar & roll into balls. Place 2 inches apart on an un-greased cookie sheet. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes. Let stand for a minute or so before removing from pan. Cool on wire racks.

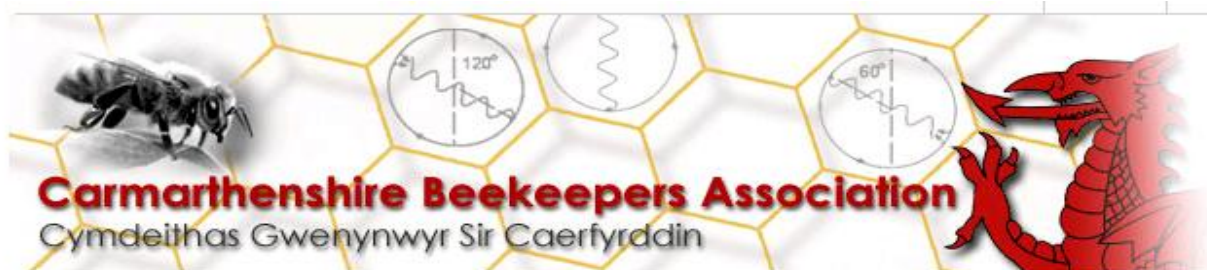
Should make: 30 cookies.

SEASONS GREETINGS TO C.B.K.A. MEMBERS.



A painted front board on a Slovenian Kranjec beehive. 1797

Depicting the homage of the three wise men paid to Jesus. Pictures from the Apicultural Museum in Radovljica Slovenia. <http://web.bf.uni-lj.si/jbozic/muzej/muzej.html>



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS WEBSITE ADDRESS IS

www.carmarthenshirebeekeepers.org.uk

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association's committee. Whilst every effort is taken in compiling the contents to ensure they are correct and accurate the club assumes no responsibility for any effect from errors or omissions. Editor / Hon. Sec. Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association BRIAN JONES. CWMBURRY HONEY FARM , FERRYSIDE, CARMARTHENSHIRE TEL: 01267 267318 Email: beegeejay2003@yahoo.co.uk