



Warren County Beekeepers Association

'Beez'ette

2011 WCBA MENTOR LIST

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Announcements

Bee Dues are due: \$20 ind. \$25 family
If you paid for the bee school your dues are included.

Next Warren County Bee School: February 19

Wooster Bee School: March 4 & 5

Next Warren County Beekeeping meeting: March 6

SWOBA school Oasis Club: March 26

FEBRUARY AND THE BEES: The days are becoming slightly longer and more slightly warmer days triggers the queen to start laying a few more eggs. Their cluster has worked its way upward into the top deep brood chamber. They are basically behaving the same as in January.

FEBRUARY AND THE BEEKEEPER: On a warm day, 40 degrees or more, you can open the top briefly and look in on the hive. Upon inspection you can assess if the colony still has enough stored honey for food. If not, you may want to consider emergency feeding options.

Emergency feeding is just that...an emergency. So do whatever it takes to get some sugar in the hive. Dry sugar will work but only if the bees have warm enough days to fly out for water. There may not be many days warm enough in northern states for dry sugar feedings or hard candy feedings. You can also place a plastic zip-lock bag full of sugar water directly over the cluster and poke a few holes on the top of the bag or make a slit in the bag. Do anything you can think of...after all it is better than letting the hive starve to death.

You might also consider placing a pollen patty on top of the upper deep box. This will really work well if the end of winter is extremely mild. Pollen patties stimulate the laying of more eggs. However, if the weather turns cold again, then the bees may not be able to keep this early brood warm and fed. So it is a gamble this early for northern states.

Finally, order your bee packages. And, if you did not order your new equipment, hurry! You want all of your hive equipment ready by March or early April.

This information is taken from:
Central Illinois Beekeepers Association

www.ceiba.us/calendar.html