



STEVENS BEE CO. 

5 STEPS

To Successfully Introduce VSH Virgin Queens

The
Stevens
Method



1.

Prepare a Queenless Nuc



Move **capped brood frames** into a nuc or mating box containing as little open brood as possible.

Shake in **young bees** and leave the colony to establish queenlessness.

2.

Ensure Colony is Hopelessly Queenless



Return to the colony **after 8-9 days** to verify queenlessness and eliminate any **queen cells** the colony may have started.

Carefully inspect brood frames, brushing away bees as needed to ensure **no hidden cells** are missed.

3.

Introduce Virgin to Queenless Colony



Install the virgin queen in a **candy cage** in the queenless colony by positioning the cage **between brood frames**.

Leave the colony to release the queen. If the colony has not been queenless, tape over the candy can extend timing.

4.

Check Virgin Release & Acceptance

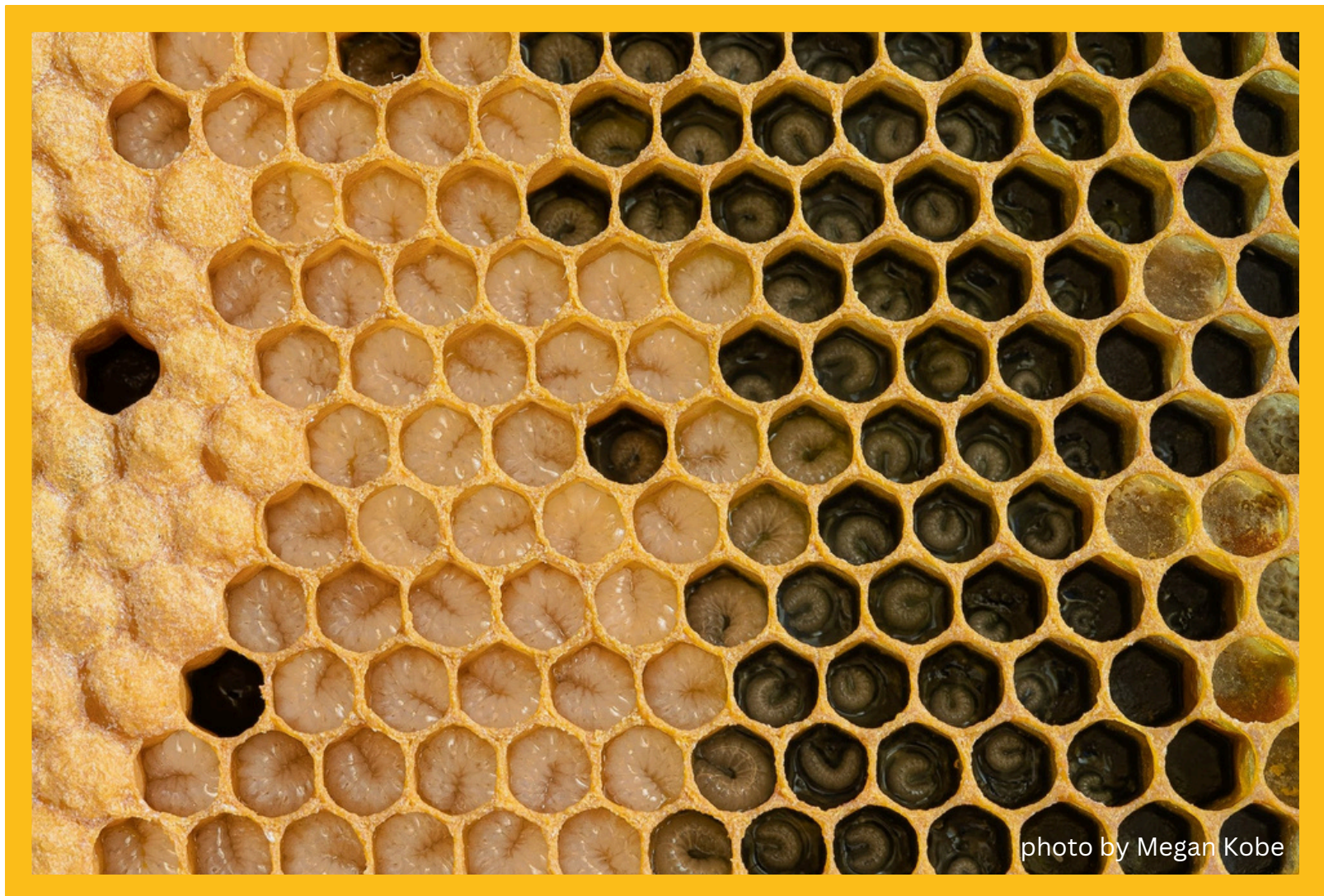


Check the candy cage **3-5 days after** introducing the virgin queen to inspect she's been released. If tape is used, remove the tape, replace the cage. **Refrain from manual release, she may fly off.**

Avoid disturbing the colony until the mating process is complete—inspecting too early may cause rejection or death of the queen.

5.

Confirm Queenright Status



Return **after 2-3 weeks** to inspect colony for eggs and/or young brood to confirm mated and laying queen.

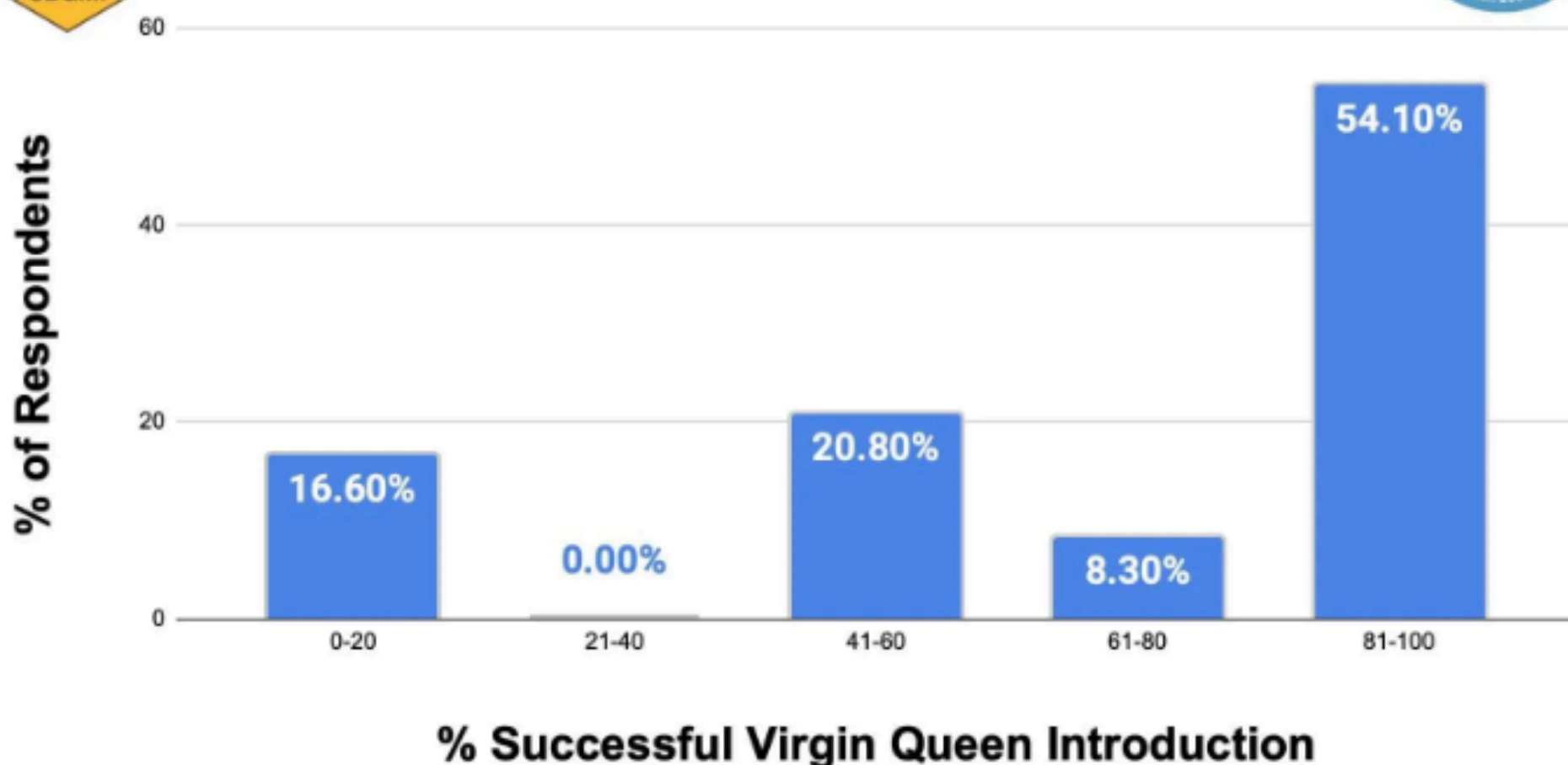
Resume regular inspection schedule and manage colony as necessary to ensure optimal growth and productivity.

Why the Stevens Method works:



Virgin Queen Introduction Success

...using Stevens Bee Company procedure



More than half of SBGMI queen customers reported successful virgin queen acceptance using the Stevens Method in 2023.

Ensuring colonies are hopelessly queenless and undisturbed post-intro you can maximize your chances of virgin queen acceptance.

Why use NQI virgin queens?

Our **highly trained** members select virgin queens produced from top performing **resistant stock** and **ship them** straight to your apiary for value you can see:

✓ Improved Queen Quality & Genetic Diversity

NQI virgin queens mated with your local drone stock maximize **colony resilience** by balancing resistance and locally adapted traits.

✓ Higher Success Rate & Faster Turnover to Queenrightness

NQI virgin queens have higher acceptance rates and become queenright at least **one week earlier** compared to colony-reared queen cells.

✓ Cost-Effective & Time-Efficient

NQI virgin queens are **less expensive** than mated queens and eliminate wasted time and resources on culled colony-reared queen cells.



Learn more through the NQI at
www.sbgmi.org/queenportal





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The Northern Queen Initiative: Improving Value, Availability, and Production of Mite-Resistant Honey Bee Queens in Northern Climates

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Acknowledgments to the methods mentioned in this document to Cory Stevens of www.stevensbeeco.com. For a full discussion on using the VSH Virgin Introduction methods prescribed herein, please visit [YouTube, Cory Stevens on Using VSH Virgin Queens](#).

To download this document you may do so [HERE](#).

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