

Nosema: counts preformed by U.S.D.A.

Four colonies from Wooten's were infected with nosema spores at a rate of 0.55, 0.15, 0.35, and 3.20 million per bee producing an average of 1.06.

Seven colonies from Pendell's were infected with nosema spores at a rate of 0.25, 0.35, 0.40, 0.25, 1.20, 0.15, and 0.45 million per bee producing an average of 0.47.

30 bees were examined form each 100 bee samples. Nosema average spore counts of one million or more per bee are considered high.

7. Condition: some areas had near normal rainfall and others were declared a drought disaster area by the governor. Over all, it was a hot dry year.

8. Economics: If a beekeeper could produce his own queens at twenty dollars per queen and increase production by 30% thru culling the bottom third that don't produce any honey and get his winter losses down to 10% he could increase his bottom line from a minus to a plus number where we used to be before the mite problem.

9. Assessment: I had hoped to see a larger difference in the results between the two suppliers so I could say – "Wow! Look what we proved" but I didn't. However the purpose wasn't to prove one supplier better or worse but to prove what five beekeepers working together can do.

10. Adoption: This was a rather simple monitoring process that any beekeeping group could perform by simply following what five local beekeepers have done. The process can be modified to other areas of importance as problems come about or leave. I think it has a lot of potential and needs to be worked on by a larger group and with local queens.

11. Out reach: I have already set up an information stand at our annual state meeting this fall and I have been scheduled to be a speaker in Feb. at the P.S.U. campus in Beaver County, for their annual two day workshop. I have also written an article for the American Bee Journal to be published later this winter.

12. Report summary: I wanted to set up a procedure where local beekeepers could measure their own bees and select the best. Five beekeepers in five different micro environments were able to compare individual hives against one another and two different queen suppliers against one another. We were able to see differences between each hive, (some were significant) and able to see if there was a difference between the two queen suppliers bees. All in all I feel it was a very worth while project and hope more people will join in the future to help solve our bee problems.

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