

# IEBA Apiary Management

- Early Inspections March 1, March 29
  - Inspect for adequate stores
  - Move honey as required
  - Add emergency feed if required (ie candy board or dry sugar)
- Start Packages April 5
  - Start new hives at Extension office
  - Feed 1:1 sugar syrup with Fumagilin
  - Keep hives at Tates until April 12
- First inspection and feeding April 12
  - First inspections for strength, feed and queen function
  - Check queen quality and determine which queens to replace
  - Strengthen weak hives with brood from strong hives
  - Combine weak/queenless hives with strong hives
  - Feed 1:1 syrup with Fumagilin and 1# pollen substitute patty
  - Continue feeding through April
  - Inspect package bee queens or new queens 1/week until mid June

- **Hive inspections May 3**
  - Place varroa drop test count sheets on 5 strong hives or hives showing greatest infestation
  - Inspect queen quality and replace poor queens
  - Equalize colonies
  - Count varroa on drop boards after at least one day and mark drop count on hive
  - Feed 1:1 sugar syrup feed pollen substitute patty if required
- **Swarm control measures May 17**
  - Check queen introductions
  - Equalize brood by moving brood from strong hives to weak hives
  - Make splits where required and double queen colonies with swarm cells
  - Apply formic acid pads
  - Feed as required both 1:1 syrup and pollen substitute patties
  - Continue feeding each week pollen substitute and syrup
- **Super colonies June 7**
  - Check for swarm cells and perform double queen on those with cells
  - Equalize brood
  - Check queens and replace poor queens
  - Remove formic acid pads
  - Super colonies
  - Weak colonies leave in two boxes
  - Remove feeders, exception weak colonies are to be fed

- Queen cell preparations start June 14
  - Prepare cell builder colony June 14 and June 21
  - Have demo grafting cells June 14
  - Feed cell builder colony pure pollen patty and syrup
  - Graft queen cells June 19 & June 26, feed cell builder next 4 days
- Make up mating nucs June 21 using bees and honey from weak hives, move nucs to another yard
- **Queen cells ready June 28 & July 5 for intro into nucs**
  - Add supers to colonies needing them
  - Bring mating nucs to yard and intro queen cells June 28 & July 5
  - Nucs ready to remove July 19 and July 26
- Honey removal August 2
  - Remove honey using several methods
    - Estimate quantity of honey removed from each hive
  - Inspect brood nest for queen performance
  - Set up for formic acid
  - Set up to check mite drops on at least 5 hives
    - Pick 3 hives with greatest bee populations for checks
    - Pick 2 hives with lowest bee populations for checks
  - Count mite drops during week and mark result on hives
- Requeen colonies August 9
  - Introduce nucs into colonies needing new queens
  - Feed colonies 1:1 syrup and pollen patty

- Formic acid August 23
  - Put on feeders and feed 2:1 syrup with Fumagilin
    - Mark on each hive approximate amount of feed each time it is fed
  - Feed syrup until top box is full or a minimum of 2 gallons of feed
  - Put pollen substitute patties between boxes and feed at least 2#
  - Put on formic acid pads with temperatures of 80°F or above record # days removed
  - Place pads back on when temperatures are going to be below 80°F
  - Remove formic acid pads after 21 full days on hive
  - Check mite drop on same hives as at beginning of Formic acid application mark result on hives
- Feeding
  - Feed bees until mid-October
  - Remove feeders when feeding is complete
  - Make final checks on hives
    - Check that we have at least 5 frames of bees
    - Queen is laying properly
    - Honey fills at least one box or 9 frames
    - Determine weight on each hive and mark on hive