

Bee Keeping May Be Developed As Profitable Industry

Bees On Every Farm Can Be Source Of Income and Delicacy For Table

Experienced Bee Keeper Tells Of Successful Practices With Bees

By B. L. JOHNSON

Fortunately Wilkes County is located right in the very heart of the sourwood honey belt where the world's famous honey is produced in large quantities. Enough honey is washed away by rains each season to pay every farmer's taxes in our county, then some, on account of not enough bees to gather it. We plant cane and toll to produce molasses and let honey, the health food and nature's own sweet, go to waste. There is not a farm in our county where bees can not be kept profitably. Many of our bee-keepers report cash sales of thirty to fifty-eight dollars from a single colony of bees.

Bees pollinate our orchards and crops and without them our crops would be greatly reduced.

Bees when properly kept are a source of pleasure and profit, and will put honey on our table each day in the year.

The following are a few help suggestions for the bee-keeper:

Keep your bees in a standard ten frame hive of the following dimensions: 16 1/4 x 20 x 9 9/16 inches deep, outside measurement, using 13-16 inch lumber.

By all means use the standard frame with full sheets of comb foundation and see that it is wired securely by hand.

Bees when left to themselves will draw one half worker cells and one half drone cells. Drones are a consumer and not a producer. Where full sheets of comb foundation is used the work is laid out for the bees and they cannot draw drone cells. The use of full sheets of comb foundation means success. No founda-

tion means failure.

It takes one cell of honey to rear a drone bee or a worker bee. A standard brood frame will hold eight pounds of honey. When you have reared a frame of bees or drones it has cost the bee-keeper eight pounds of honey. If these are half drones it has cost you four pounds of honey to rear them, and after being reared they are a privilege character and will go from hive to hive consuming great quantities of honey and never producing a single drop.

Should disease appear in your bees you are helpless unless you have used comb foundation as you can not take the frames out to examine the brood. In the spring of the year you will find some of your colonies came through the winter strong and others weak.

Equalize your bees by taking honey and brood from the strong and give to the weak, then if they do not build up you may know it is the fault of the queen.

The honey crop depends on the queen. Our best bee-keepers use a young queen every year, as an old queen will not keep the population up.

A colony of bees to produce a surplus honey crop should contain one hundred and twenty-five to thirty-five thousand bees. A young queen will lay from twenty to thirty-five hundred eggs in a day and night. The life of a worker bee during the working season is forty days. We must have a good queen to keep the population up.

One of the bee-keepers' greatest problems is swarm control. You certainly can not expect to have swarms and make increase and produce a crop of honey. There are not enough bees left to carry on house work and produce

a surplus crop.

A queen bee will hatch in sixteen days after the egg is laid, a worker bee in twenty-one days, a drone or male bee in twenty-eight days.

It is thirty-five days from the time the worker bee egg is laid until the bee goes into the field. The young bee stays in the colony and cleans house, draws combs, feeds young larva, stores and refines nectar, etc., until she is old enough to go into the field.

There are only one queen tolerated in a hive. When five to seven days old she takes to the air for her honey-moon, when mated, which is only one time in her life, she returns to her hive and never leaves it only in case she decides to swarm. The old queen and worker bees leave home after making provisions for a new queen. One of the best swarm control methods is room and ventilation. Keep plenty of supers on your bees during the honey flow, add another super before the bees fill the one they have.

One of our greatest mistakes is not to put on supers in time, and cause the bees to spread honey in brood nest and block the queen so she will have no room to lay.

The hive body or lower portion of the hive is for brood rearing and a good queen will cover the entire ten frames.

When frost comes see that your bees have forty pounds of honey to carry them through the winter: If stores are short make a syrup of granulated sugar, one part water two parts sugar. One of the best means is to save the red honey and leave a full super of it on the bees for winter use.

Honey when first gathered is seventy per cent water and the bees must have room to spread it so it may be refined. Bees refine honey by fanning it with their wings. When refined the bees seal the honey in cells. Do not take off unsealed honey or it will sour. To help control swarming locate your yard so the sun

will shine on bees until 3 or 9 a. m. and after this so they will be in the shade.

If placed so they will be in sun all day you may depend on plenty of trouble trying to prevent swarms. Many colonies melt down from the heat of the sun.

Our best strain of bees are the three band or leather colored Italian. The black bee is attacked more by European foul brood and the bee moth.

In a colony we have the male, female and worker. The egg that produces a worker bee also produces the queen bee. The bees feed the worker egg royal jelly which develops the sex and produces the queen.

Both queen and workers are produced from a fertile egg. The male bee is produced from an infertile egg and has no father, but has a grandfather. A queen can lay a fertile or an infertile egg at will.

Very often a colony of bees lose their queen and if they do not have worker eggs under two days old they cannot raise another queen, in this case the old bees die off and the colony is lost. In most cases after bees have been queenless for some time worker bees will start laying, but their eggs are infertile and will produce drones or male bees. Worker bee eggs being infertile they cannot produce a queen or worker. Look out for queenless colonies and as soon as discovered go to another colony taking out a frame with fresh eggs and put in the queenless colony and they will rear a new queen.

The bee hive is an emblem of industry. Within it we have organization and co-operation. At the front we have fifty to five hundred guards on duty to see that none pass or repass except those that have a load of nectar or pollen.

Inside we have nurse bees, comb builders, house cleaners, propolis carriers, nectar carriers, water carriers and food mixers.

Each morning scout bees are sent out in search of pastures. She will only partake of that which she is sent for. If pasture is found she gathers a load and returns home with it. She reports her discovery, turns her load over to a young bee that can not fly and makes for the entrance to return to her discovery. Each bee is equipped with perfume glands and as she returns to her find she opens the perfume glands and sprays the air. Other bees track her to the discovery by the odor she sprays in the air.

Each colony seems to have its individual odor. In attempting to work a colony of bees smoke the entrance. This will knock the guards off duty. Don't try to work with your bees on a cool rainy or windy day. Always work slowly, do not make a quick move or jar the colony as this will make them angry.

Bee-keepers, do not become discouraged because your bees did not get a crop of sourwood honey this season. It is no fault of the bees for if there had been honey and favorable weather they would have harvested the crop.

Remember that it rained four weeks, day and night, during the sourwood flow, and that bees certainly could not gather honey under such conditions.

Bees are extremely short on winter stores and those that do not examine their bees this fall and feed will lose them. Queens stop laying when there is no honey coming in. Brood rearing can be stimulated by feeding, thereby a force of bees can be had ahead of the honey flow.

Presley Brown Lumber Dealer

Lumber Dealer

Manufacturing Large Volume of Lumber and Wood Materials In Plant Here

During the course of twelve months the organization known as Presley E. Brown, dealer in lumber, distributes many thousands of dollars through the medium of the payroll and money paid out for lumber on which saw mills cut and furnish the product that finds its way to the retail trade. This is an important item in the trade at North Wilkesboro, as all these dollars find their way to the avenues of trade.

Mr. Brown employs a minimum of seventy people with approximately four to five million feet of lumber in stock continually. The plant is equipped most modernly, with a dry kiln of the progressive type, which has many advantages over the other style equipment. Every bit of the machinery is the best kind of mechanical devices. The organization disposes of large amounts of material to outlet points in northern markets, Virginia and North Carolina. This goes out in carload lots. The mill does surface and also resaws white pine lumber. The mill cuts furniture and casket dimensions, and building material of all kinds. He also manufactures bee supplies. The writer has been interested in the study of bees and knows this work wherein there is created homes for the bees to be most interesting.

Mr. Presley E. Brown was born in Wilkes county. He has lived here all his life and during those years, an active participant in its political and commercial growth. During the meeting of the North Carolina Legislature, he served two terms, commencing in 1925. From 1906 to 1914, inclusive, the



PRESLEY E. BROWN

gentleman was sheriff of Wilkes county. We might add, he made a host of friends during that tenure of office, who are still his friends. He owns considerable farm holdings in the rural districts, besides valuable real estate and buildings in the towns of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro. Being keenly interested and active in church work, he is a steward in the (Wilkesboro Methodist church.

Mr. Brown is that type of worthwhile citizen that is not only noted in this community for good deeds, and his splendid co-operation he gives to movements inaugurated for the public good.

He is affiliated with the Masons.

While Joe Wagner was working in a North Carolina factory the drive belt of a machine caught his coat and hurled him through a window. Joe was only bruised, but he had to buy a new coat.

INTERESTING TALKS ON RADIO PROGRAM

With the approach of cool November days and nights, North Carolina farmers are getting ready for their annual hog-killing.

R. E. Nance, associate professor of animal husbandry at State College, is scheduled to make two radio talks on the subject, the first on Monday, October 29, and the second on Monday, November 4.

In his first talk Professor Nance discussed the preparation which should be made for killing the hogs, and the second, he will describe the actual methods to follow in the slaughtering and meat curing.

Other timely talks which will also be heard during the week are: "How Insects and How They are Controlled" by C. H. Brannon, extension entomologist, and "Sweet Potato Diseases" by Dr. R. F. Poole, professor of botany at State College.

The full program of Carolina Farm Features for the week includes: Monday, R. E. Nance, "Preparing for Hog-Killing"; Tuesday, C. H. Brannon, "How Insects Feed and How They are Controlled"; Wednesday, Dr. R. F. Poole, "Sweet Potato Diseases"; Thursday, Miss Sallie Brooks, "What Shall We Eat"; Friday, H. C. Gauger, "Intestinal Parasites of Poultry"; and Saturday, Dr. W. D. Miller, "How A Tree Grows."

Timely programs to be heard during the week of November 4-9 include a talk on turkeys by C. J. Maupin on Friday, November 8, and a talk on "The Farm Tenant in North Carolina" by Dr. C. H. Hamilton on Wednesday, November 6.

When two men of equal intelligence quarrel and abuse each other and go to law over it, they are likely both in the wrong.

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WHOLESALE GROCERS

NORTH WILKESBORO NORTH CAROLINA

JIMMY WALKER STARTS HOME TO MAKE COMEBACK

Southampton, Eng., Oct. 29.—Jimmy Walker, his chin held high and the old fight of battle bright in his eyes, sailed for home aboard the S. S. Manhattan tonight ready and eager to face what he called one of the greatest ordeals of his stormy career.

This he started back to Broadway and the comeback trail brimming with health after his three-year "self-imposed exile" abroad, where he lived in a quaint old English cottage or visited continental spas.

A live, trim figure in a blue serge topcoat and a felt hat, New York's former mayor strode quickly through the crowded pier sheds with Mrs. Walker, the former Betty Compton, on his arm.

Walker, now crowding 55, appeared as jaunty as in the days when he took New York by storm a decade ago.

He admitted tonight was, his "most exciting night since I was a kid."

After issuing a public challenge at a Fair in Mitchem, Eng., James Walters, a professional pugilist, was knocked out by an amateur.

TIMBER

Has Been, and Is, One of Wilkes County's Greatest Resources

We are happy to have had a part in developing the timber industry in this section. The income derived from lumber has had much to do with the progress our county has made during the past 25 years.

WE SELL ALL KINDS OF

Bee Supplies

We manufacture all kinds of bee supplies and solicit the patronage of bee keepers in this section. Keep us in mind when you need supplies for next season.

We wish to call your attention to an interesting and instructive article on Bee Culture written by Mr. B. L. Johnson, well known bee specialist, which appears in this Progress Edition of The Journal-Patriot.

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PRESLEY E. BROWN

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