

Hive Preparation for Queen Rearing



NIHBS Queen Rearing Groups Scheme 2020

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Native Irish Honey Bee Society



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Hive Resources Needed For Queen Rearing

- Source of Larvae to turn into Queens
- Drones to flood mating area DCAs
- Queen Cell Starter/Finisher Colonies
- Colonies to supply young bees for Apideas



Source of Larvae to turn into Queens

- Year 1 – NIHBS providing Nuc headed by quality Amm queen
- Year 2 – NIHBS providing quality unrelated Amm queen
- Existing local quality Amm queens can also be used refer to last few years records to identify these

Aim in Year 1 is to flood local area with Drone Mothers for Year 2



Drones to flood mating area DCAs (1 of 2)

- Year 1 – Existing best stocks will suffice
- Year 2 – Colonies header by last years Amm queens
- Year 1 - Abundant drones within 3Km radius of mating sites
- Year 2 – Only **Amm drones** within 3Km radius of mating sites



Drones to flood mating area DCAs (2 of 2)

- Stimulative feed to have drones before queen rearing starts
- Insert frames with Drone foundation in selected hives
- Harvest frames when drones sealed and move to other hives
- Year 1 queens for Apiaries within 3Km radius of mating site
- Insert new frames with Drone foundation in selected hives



Queen Cell Starter/Finisher Colonies

- Double brood chambered colony
(you can use Ben Hardin Method or full brood box of frames)
- Add ready to emerge brood from other colonies
- Abundance of newly hatched workers at cell introduction time
- Wire Queen Excluder, Cloake Board, Dual Entrance Floor
(more on these on a later presentation)



Colonies to supply young bees for Apideas

- Stimulative feed before queen rearing starts
- Double Brood box with QE between
Move sealed brood up, drawn comb down
- Maintain feeding to maintain brood production

**Filling Apideas is hard on hives & honey production
Assign hives for production of these bees**



Planning / QR Calendar

- Know the Queen/Drone/Worker life cycles & age related roles
- Prepare in advance – work backwards from QR start dates
- Multiple Queen Rearing cycles will require continuous access to these resources
- Use the group
 - use resources from different group members as needed
 - each group member must participate



QR Records

- Record everything you do
 - What was done & when it was done
 - What worked / What didn't
 - Track the queens and their destination/location
- Every year's queen rearing relies on the records from the previous year(s)
- Calendar/Timing will vary with the location and the year but a pattern can usually be seen and worked from



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Thank you for your attention



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