

# Apiary & Equipment Hygiene



Aim:

to reduce risk of pathogen transfer between colonies ( and apiaries )



Prevention is the better option

# First Step In Hygiene = Nitrile Gloves

- Wear two pairs – easier to remove and replace
- Quick rinse in washing soda between hives/apideas
- Any suspicions – remove & bag the outer pair and put on another pair
- Wear gloves when handling any beekeeping equipment
- Nitrile gloves are stronger & less sweaty than latex ones
- Leather gloves should never be used for beekeeping

# Other items & equipment

- Clean Boots ( rubber not leather ) and clean them between apiaries
- Clean beekeeping suit / overalls
- Clean Hive tools & Smoker
- Different kit for each Apiary ?



# Queen Rearing Hives & Support Hives

- Look for health/disease problems on every visit **& MAKE NOTES**
- Record all transfers – frames, boxes, bees – record for source & destination
- Number your Queen Rearing Frames that move between hives
  - Pollen Frames,
  - Cupkit / Jenter frames,
  - Cell bar frames,
  - Feeder frames

and record in notes of each hive they're used in

## Wooden Hives/Mating Nucs:

- Scrape thoroughly
- Attention to corners & around frame runners
- Blow lamp until coffee brown - boiling any propolis & wax left on timber
- Scrape again afterwards
- Acetic Acid 80% - fumigate for one week, air for a minimum of one week before reusing

**Always wear long sleeves, long cuff gloves and the appropriate PPE when working with chemicals**

## Poly Nucs/Apideas:

- Scrape and thoroughly clean
- Immerse in a 0.5% sodium hypochlorite solution for 20 minutes
- Rinse thoroughly afterwards
- Milton is 2% Sodium Hypochlorite

1 part Milton to 4 parts water = 0.5% solution

(adjust ratio for other products and concentrations)

**Always wear long sleeves, long cuff gloves and the appropriate PPE when working with chemicals**

## Incubator:

**UNPLUG BEFORE CLEANING - ELECTROCUTED BEEKEEPERS CAN'T RAISE QUEENS**

- Clean before first use
- Damp cloth with 0.5% sodium hypochlorite solution for 20 minutes
- Dry out afterwards, check temp & humidity levels before queens go in
- Clean water for humidity
- Number/Label curlers in incubator  
Record which Starter/Finisher they came from ( traceability )

**Always wear long sleeves, long cuff gloves and the appropriate PPE when working with chemicals**



## Other Queen Rearing Bits & Pieces:

Same as for Poly Nucs/Apideas

Grafting tools, magnifiers

Cell holders, cell anchors, curlers

Travelling cages, introduction cages

Queen catching clips, wing clipping scissors etc.

# Queen Candy

- Use your own honey – from healthy stocks
- Mix with pure icing sugar (no anti-caking agent)
- Mix to a firm consistency
- Store in air tight container – squat honey jar is ideal
- Use a clean knife to cut out candy and to pack into travelling cage not your hive tool or your fingers

# NIHBS Queen Rearing Groups Scheme 2020

Thank you for your attention



Native Irish Honey Bee Society



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