

# INLAND BEE MAIL

Volume 8, Issue 4

April 2003

## Presidents' Corner

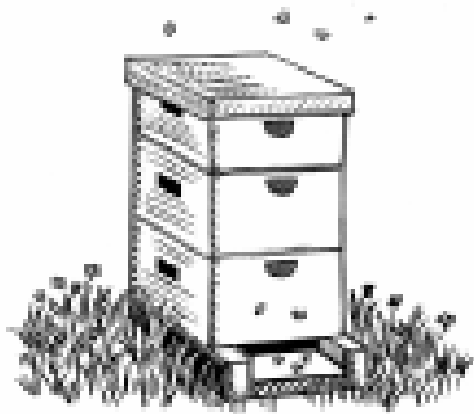
The big weekend is upon us and all the new members will be getting their packages this weekend. They will all worry about if they did everything right. See Jim they should of listen better in class. Having talked to many of you this seems to be a very well trained group. You sure do ask good questions. It has been fun to watch all the activity. Lets hope for real nice weather.

I used pollen supplement my bees this year and found out that a strong hive will clean the patties up real fast. I was impressed. I think it help because they seem to be getting stronger as the spring moves along.

I will have a list at the meeting to have people sign up for swarms this summer and will furnish the list to the extension office. So if you want to chase swarms be sure and sign up.

I have been burning the late night oil trying to get everything done. Just not enough hours in the day and night anymore. Sure do have a lot of painting to do. You never seem to be able to paint enough. Now I know some of you can't find that paint brush in the shop.

Lets not forget that your bees will need water this spring and if you are giving your bees a source for them be sure and have it functional before you move bees to the location or install your package. I found that a chicken water was great to keep my hive in water and not going to the wife's hose. Don't know what is worse a hostile queen or wife.



We are working real hard to create a new web site

The *Inland Bee Mail* is a bi-monthly publication of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association (IEBA). The goal of the newsletter is to inform and educate beekeepers and those interested in the art and science of beekeeping.

Submissions for publication, suggestions and comments may be sent to:

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## Spring Feeding of Bees

The old adage of its best to do your spring feeding in the fall still is the best plan. Feeding in the fall provides your bees with sufficient stores for the winter and gives the bees a final boost before the winter sets in. Fall feeding is best done early as soon as the final honey has been gathered and removed from the hive. In our area this can be started as early as late August or the first few weeks of September. This gives the bees sufficient time to process the feed and properly store it. The best feed is pure sucrose beet or cane sugar. Fall feed is normally given as a 2:1 ie 2 parts by weight of sugar to 1 part by weight water. The bees will raise some brood but not a lot. This brood, if the bees are fed early, will have the advantage of good pollen sources, which will provide the cluster with young "fat" bees ideal for wintering and the first brood rearing in the spring.

Feed can be easily prepared by heating on the stove in a large container. For spring feeding hot water from the tap is placed in a large pan and heated while you add the sugar. Water weighs approximately 8 lbs per gallon. To make a 1:1 mixture measure out a gallon of water and 8 lbs of sugar. Add the sugar and stir. This will give you more than a gallon so with some experience you can adjust the amounts to meet your feeding requirements. With a little heat in 10 to 20 minutes the solution will clear up and be ready to feed to the bees. For the fall mixture you must heat longer but the method is the same.

Well so now it is April and you may not have fed like you could have the previous fall. All is not lost! Spring feeding may be required if you have light hives. Your bees should always should have an equivalent of 3 to 4 frames of honey that is accessible by the bees in case we have a cold spell. The bees will cluster during a cold spell and must have sufficient stores to provide feed for themselves and for the brood rearing that has started. If your bees have gotten low on stores you must feed them immediately.

Spring feeding should also be used to provide the bees with some Fumidil to provide ongoing protection for Nosema. During the spring a gallon of 1:1 sugar syrup with the required amount of Fumidil B is fed each hive. This will provide good protection for Nosema for the spring rearing of brood and will help keep the hive spore count low during the spring and summer months.

Spring feeding can also be used to stimulate brood rearing. Feeding the bees a 1:1 mixture will simulate nectar and will stimulate brood rearing. However, the bees must have pollen (stored or fresh) or a pollen supplement if brood is to be reared. It is best to feed a pollen supplement when feeding syrup to stimulate brood rearing as the bees may start rearing brood only to not complete the brood that was started due to lack of pollen or pollen supplement. Spring feeding to stimulate brood rearing can be very useful especially if you need to get the bees a bit ahead from where they normally are for use in pollination or if you desire to expand your bees. It is best to provide the stores for the bees and let them raise the brood as the season progresses.

If you are feeding Fumidil, mix it in warm water thoroughly before adding it to the syrup. Be sure and adjust the mixture for the water used to dissolve the Fumidil. Once the syrup is made and clear mix the Fumidil and water into the syrup. In the past it has been difficult to mix the Fumidil directly into the 2:1 fall syrup. I have always mixed it in water after having problems getting it to mix directly into the syrup. Now it seems the Fumidil mixes much better than it used to but I have not tried mixing directly into the syrup.

Feeding bees is messy but can be done efficiently after you have tried a few ways and found what suits you best. The standard frame feeder works quite well and can be used for spring or fall feeding quite well. A strong hive will take feed out of the feeder almost anytime they can process it. A weak hive will often have much trouble with this feeder as it is too far from the warm area of the bees. A weak hive is best fed with a inverted jar or can that is placed directly above the center of the cluster within an empty hive body. If the cluster is in contact with the holes in the lid of the jar or can they will readily take the syrup even in cold weather 35 to 40 degrees.

## Spring Feeding of Bees continued

Large amounts of feed can be fed with a hive top feeder. These type feeders work well for fall feeding where 3 to 5 gallons at a time can be fed. They can also be used for spring feeding. Hive top feeders must be kept tight or they will create serious robbing both for honey bees and yellow jackets.

So what if you have a hive that is empty of honey and you must feed now or they die? You can simply dump granulated sugar on them. Sugar can be poured between the outside frame and the hive wall by covering the lower area with aluminum foil. This will get them by for a short time until you get some feed on them. A better way is to make a candy board which is placed above the cluster. The candy board is made by boiling sugar syrup until it gets to the 300 to 310 degrees F stage and pouring it on the inner cover with the bee escape plugged. This is placed over the cluster in direct contact with the bees. These can be made and saved in a dry place for emergencies.

Feeding is another practice which needs to be mastered. It will allow you to take better care of your bees and provide the optimum conditions that are necessary if good honey crops are to be achieved.

**Article Furnished by Bob Arnold**

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Dr. Sheppard at WSU has updated the web site and we have additional information on recent research.

Web address is the following-<http://apis.wsu.edu/apinotes.html>.

You don't want to miss out on the information that he is sharing. WSU has been working very hard to be a part of the beekeeping operations in Washington and is working on many things that are important to large and small beekeepers. The Cornell/WSU project on queens could have a lasting impact on beekeeping in the Northwest. It would be nice to have queen stock that is been raised for our climate and honey flows to take advantage of our situations.

**We have an additional Web site being built to replace our current site. John Pierce a new beekeeper and Web Master volunteered to give us some server space and has started on a new web site.**

**<http://inlandbeemail.com>**

**John has been able to convert the Inland beemail unto the web site so hopefully by mid summer we won't have all these mailings just an email reminding you to read the beemail at least for all of you email and web users.**

## Package Bee's Arrive April 12, 2003

With the arrival of spring the beekeeper starts thinking about replacing winter losses, expanding or purchasing your first colony. To ensure a successful venture you need to take in consideration certain aspects of beekeeping that will ensure a great ending to your season.

Preparation, good colony management and disease prevention are the foundation of a good season for any beekeeper. What you do each season depends on whether you have a package or wintered over bees. There will be another article on wintered over bee's later on.

The first step is to have your equipment ready for your package. This includes good comb, or new foundation, a feeder or drawn comb with honey and pollen. A good sturdy hive body with bottom and top painted and ready for your package. You will need a feeder, either an internal division board feeder or an entrance feeder. Sugar for your syrup and a bag of TM-10.

After you receive your package you need to install it right away into your hive as the longer the delay the more stressful it is for the queen and your bees aren't producing anything. Make sure you have syrup prepared prior to installation so you can put the syrup into the feeder right away. You should put Terramycin (TM-10) in your syrup and treat for American Foul Brood right away. Mix 1 teaspoon soluble TM-10 into each gallon of syrup. Use hot water to mix the TM-10 and sugar.

Our package bee breeder started building his bee's in December. He started by using medicated syrup and a pollen supplement like "Broad Builder". The package breeder uses Coumphous strips to treat for Varroa Mites. The breeder has been using Coumphous for the last 3-4 years and so your package should be able to be treated with Apistan strips for the next few years.

With the arrival of spring the beekeeper starts thinking about replacing winter losses, WSU did research the last two years on whether we need to treat twice a year or once and the determination is that once in the fall or spring is fine. I recommend that a new package get treated in the fall. Don't wait until real late in the fall but you should try to get the strips on in late August or September. We take a bee sample and send it to the bee lab for Trachael Mite's. I normally take this sample on Sunday and mail on Monday so we get an early idea of the Trachael Mite load prior to need applying medication. You will need to treat with Menthol for Trachael Mites.

Install your package on April 12 or Sunday the 13th. Set the single brood chamber at your location and fill your feeder. If you have an internal feeder put it against the left or right side of the box with drawn comb next to it. I remove 5 frames from the middle of the box creating a space to shake the bees from the package into. I now pop the package on the ground hard enough to shake all the bees onto the bottom. I remove the syrup can and the queen and put the can back in the hole or place a small piece of wood over the hole so I can prepare my queen. Carefully remove the cork on the end of the queen cage and put your miniature marshmallow in the hole. Your now ready to install the bee's. Again pop the package on the ground and see the bee's drop to the bottom, quickly remove the board or can and shake the bees into the hole we created by removing the frames. Now carefully set the frames in and let the bee's climb up the side of the frames and the frames will settle down into the box. Get your queen cage and move in between the 2nd and 3rd frames from the feeder and pinch the queen cage between the top bars. You want the screen side to be facing the front of the hive with the marshmallow facing the bottom board. Put your inner cover and top on and let them alone until the following Saturday April 21.

April 21 is the big day. Your first opportunity to see what is happening in that hive is your queen ok. Prepare your syrup again before you open the hive. Remove the cover and inner cover and gently smoke your bees. Remove the outside frame or feeder whichever doesn't have bees on it. Now gently slide the frames over working toward the cluster of bee's and the queen cage. As you get to the 2nd and 3rd frames very gently pry them apart and remove the queen cage. Now take out the 3rd frame and check for queen or eggs. If you have eggs check the pattern and how big the pattern is. Put 3rd frame back in the hive and remove 2nd frame also and do the same check. Put the frames back in fill you feeder and close the hive up until next Saturday. As your package continues to expand you should see a 3-pound package provide about 3-4 frames of brood during the first 21 days as the brood develops and your first hatch comes off. You now have the bee's covering 5-6 frames after the first three weeks. Couple of things to watch for is that the queen lays a nice round pattern and that you don't over feed the bee's and have them start to crowd the brood nest with syrup. Feeding every Saturday is usually about right. The bee's are doing it right and so are you if they start putting a circle of honey around the brood nest filling in from the outside about 1 inch and filling the corners. If they start putting the honey in the middle of a brood frame they have too much syrup or something is wrong. We don't want them to cap any

## Package Bees continued

syrup. Continue feeding until the honey flow starts. Remember don't move any frames with syrup up into your honey supers as the syrup will contaminate your honey.

After week #3 we can expect the brood to hatch and the queen to relay where the brood hatched. After about 6 weeks the bees have had two full brood hatches and are expanding fast. You should now put your 2nd brood box on the hive and let them work there way up into the second box.

As the bees get brood in the second box you can add your extender patty.

## Wintered over Hive

If you have a wintered over hive on the first warm days of spring check your hive for food stores and activity. When our daytime temperatures reach 45 or better and the nighttime temperatures reach high twenties and low thirties the queen should start laying brood. As soon as this happens the hives honey consumption becomes a problem. If the hive seems to be light start feeding it syrup and if you are in an area with no pollen flow you might want to give them a pollen additive to accelerate brood rearing. On a warm day I normally clean my bottom board and move all the bee's into the bottom brood chamber or switch brood chambers. Remember several things influence the hive to get moving. Warmer temperatures, pollen flow and nectar flow. We can give them pollen supplement and syrup to get them moving early. If when you first check your hive see how many frames the bee's are covering and now fit that to what we are doing with our package. If the bee's are covering 3-5 frames it like a package, but if it is covering 6-8 frames it is a 5-6 weeks old package and if it is more than 8 you need to be concerned with early swarming and the hive running out of food. If in early spring your hive is covering 10 or more frames you might have a good one to split. Remember to do it after queens are available. Raising your own queens in the spring is not something a beginning beekeeper should try. Remember if you split you are trying at minimum to create two hives stronger than a package just before its first brood hatch. I really prefer one at the second brood cycle and one at the first brood cycle. I know I will get a good honey crop from one and the other at a minimum will be a good hive going into winter.

### American Foulbrood

Mix 1 teaspoon TM-10 in one gallon of syrup. Treat at least 2 times in the spring and 2 times in the fall.

### Varroa Mite

Treat with Apistan strips 2 per hive installed in the bottom brood chamber. Install when the bees are working in both brood chambers. Leave the strips in for 45 days or until you install the honey supers. This should be done in the spring or fall and the strips cannot be used again.

### Tracheal Mite

Use Menthol bag 1 per hive, install after the temperature reaches 70 degrees and put it on top of the 2nd box and to the rear of hive.

### American Foulbrood during summer

Use extender patty and install it when you put the first honey super on. Install between the 1st and 2nd brood chambers laying on top of the frames. 2 patties required each season. 2/3 pound of granulated sugar and 2 table-spoons of TM 10, mix and then blend in 1/3 pound of Crisco shortening, roll out on a 7 in. by 7 in. piece of newspaper into 1/4" to 3/8" patty.

### Nosema

Mix one teaspoon of Fumidil B in a cup of hot water and add to the sugar before adding the balance of the water. (Fumidil B does not dissolve well in syrup) Feed one gallon in the spring for old colonies and 2 gallons in the fall for all colonies.

**Truck driver dies, bees flee in I-95 crash**  
**From Sentinel staff reports**  
**Posted April 8, 2003**

TITUSVILLE -- An 82-year-old Brevard County man was killed Monday afternoon when his truck overturned

on Interstate 95 and released millions of swarming honey bees, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

Conrad W. Cramer died about 12:12 p.m. when the left front tire on his 1981 six-wheel Mac truck blew out and caused the truck to hit the highway's median guardrail about three miles south of Titusville, flip onto its roof and crush the cargo of beehives, according to a report from FHP Trooper Cindy Williams. After rescuers determined Cramer had been killed in the crash, firefighters called to the scene tried to contain the swarm while others attempted to retrieve Cramer's body, a fire spokesman said.

"We contacted several beekeepers, and when they arrived there wasn't much they could do because most of the hives were already broken," said Orlando Dominguez of Brevard County Fire-Rescue. Dominguez said about a half-dozen firefighters donned protective suits and taped openings shut to work the accident scene. They also covered the cargo area of the truck with foam to try to contain the bees. Despite their efforts, he said, three firefighters were stung several times by the swarm, which later flew off. "We had to end up separating the cab from the cargo area to get to the victim," Dominguez said. "It's very unfortunate that he didn't make it."

The northbound lanes of Interstate 95 were closed for several hours and the traffic, which was backed up for miles, created a second accident a short distance away nearly an hour later, Williams said. In that accident, an Atlas moving van ran into the back of a motor home and sparked a fire in the van. That crash created a chain reaction of front-to-rear accidents with three other drivers, but no serious injuries were reported.

**For Sale:**

- Looking for board ends in pine or cedar contact Leo Berchtold at 208-687-1300.
- Telescoping cover \$6, Inner cover \$3, Wood Bound QE \$3, Frame Feeder \$1, Hive body w/unused fr \$5, 7 5/8 Super w/unused fr \$4, Hive scale \$120, Honey Pump w 1 HP motor \$300, SS Extractor 20 fr Maxant Series 500 \$1000, 15 Gal SS Water Jacket Uncapping Tank \$275, 2ea 60 Gal ss Tank w valve \$130 and 2 baffle 30 Gal Sump \$105-For Sale by Bob Arnold

**New Liquid Honey Bee Diet Near**

A new, improved honey bee diet developed by Agricultural Research Service scientists could provide bees with an early spring jump start as they prepare to pollinate the annual \$1-billion California almond crop. Each year, California almond growers rely on tens of thousands of out-of-state bee colonies that are trucked into the state to pollinate almonds. But during winter in many parts of the United States, honey bees are in a near-hibernating state, because of the cold temperatures and the lack of pollen and nectar, their main sources of food. To stimulate colonies and prepare them for almond pollination, beekeepers now use patties made of corn syrup, soy flour and brewer's yeast. But placement of the patties is labor intensive and costly, and bees consuming them eventually stop producing worker jelly, a substance vital for feeding the developing bees, called brood. Entomologist Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman, a specialist in honey bee research, and Allen C. Cohen, a pioneer in developing artificial diets for insects, worked with California orchardists last year to develop an improved honey bee diet. DeGrandi-Hoffman leads research at ARS' Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in Tucson, Ariz., while Cohen recently retired from ARS' Biological Control and Mass-Rearing Research Unit in Mississippi State, Miss. The two scientists developed a recipe for an artificial diet that would give honey bees the whole package of nutrients that they need in an easy-to-feed liquid. The recipe took five months to complete and went through nearly 80 formulations before the right mix was found. It combines the sweetness of nectar and the nutritional punch of pollen in a formula that the domesticated honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, readily digests and enjoys. Nectar is rich in carbohydrates, and pollen is packed with protein, vitamins, minerals and fats--all essential for bees' development and survival. A machine already used by beekeepers could easily pump the bee food into the hives.

**2002 Honey Stats...**

United States Honey Production Down 8 Percent Honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001. There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8 percent from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Honey Prices Record High Honey prices increased to a record high during 2002 to 128.6 cents, up 83 percent from 70.4 cents in 2001. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2002 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2001 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2002, which caused some revisions to the 2001 crop prices.

**Cut this out and add to your calendar for all IEBA events.**

<b>January 10, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-Organizational Meeting	<b>August 2003</b>	IEBA Summer Picnic
<b>February 14, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-Wintering Nuc's and single broad boxes	<b>August 20-24, 2003</b>	North Idaho State in Coeur D'Alene
<b>March 1, 2003</b>	WSBA Meeting in Ellensburg, 10:00 AM at the Cattle-men's Club	<b>September 4, 2003</b>	Meeting will be at the Fair Ground on Thursday night
<b>March 14, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-Jan Dormaier-Honey Bee Diseases	<b>September 5-14, 2003</b>	Spokane Interstate Fair
<b>April 11, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-Package Bee's , feeders and Nuc's	<b>October 10, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-Packing hives for winter
<b>May 9, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-2 queen hives	<b>November 6-8, 2003</b>	WSBA State Convention Joint Meeting with Oregon
<b>June 6-7, 2003</b>	WSBA Meeting Program-Visit of WSU program and facilities	<b>November 14, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-Thanksgiving Potluck
<b>June 13, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-Comb Honey and Old Combs and foundation	<b>December 12, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-Catered Christmas dinner and Election of Officers
<b>July 11, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-Fall requeening-watching for bad queens	<b>January 9, 2003</b>	IEBA Meeting Program-

## **Come One Come All**

**ALL DAY SATURDAY, WITH YOUR FAMILY, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND  
A FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FRIDAY EVENING AND LEARNING ABOUT HONEY BEES FROM THE  
PRO'S AT WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY IN PULLMAN?**

**ALL FOR \$20.00 PER FAMILY!**

**THIS INCLUDES ABOUT EIGHT HOURS OF HANDS ON LAB TIME, WITH PROFESSORS, AND  
PEOPLE WORKING ON THEIR MASTER DEGREE!!**

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON A BARBEQUE**

**WHEN: JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> AND 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2003**

**WHERE: WSU BEE LAB**

**WHY: TO LEARN ABOUT HONEY BEES!!!**

**SEND YOUR \$20 TO:**

**Lisa Knox**

**7346 NE Crawford Dr.**

**Kingston, WA 98346**

**Washington State Beekeepers Association welcomes YOU**



## Hive Care Calendar



### Hive Care Calendar

*For the month of April*

- Inspect colonies twice this month for congestion, queen right, stores, diseases, mites, brood pattern and queen cells.
- Discontinue feeding pollen supplement when you notice natural pollen being gathered by the bees.
- Feed liquid antibiotics (TM 1 tsp./gal) in the syrup at this time.
- Install a terramycin patty.
- Ascertain level of varroa infestation and decide whether or not to treat at this time.
- If treating with Apistan strips, use 1 strip for each 5 combs of bees. The strips must be in contact with the brood nest bees at all times. Strips must be in the hive at least 42 days and no more than 56 days.
- Do not place honey supers on the colony until strips are removed.
- Prepare for swarming. Split strong hives that might swarm.
- Prepare supers for honey flow.
- Install new packages during April.

### Hive Care Calendar

**May**

- Check for new brood in various stages of development.
- Put entrance reducer to largest opening if you haven't already.
- Medicate hives. Be sure to use proper doses and remove medication when it's time.
- If you have new hives this spring, add second brood box when the bees are using 5 or six frames of the first one.
- Check for food stores. Existing hives may need supplemental feeding to get them through the month. New hives may need additional syrup

# Inland BeeMail

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All members are encouraged to attend  
the **IEBA** meetings on the 2nd Friday of each month!

*Come for the education, stay for the fun!*

6:30 p.m. Officers and Committees meet

7:00 p.m. Social time (with refreshments)

