SPRING IS ON THE WAY!

Time to get our bees ready…what to look for…Feed? Medicate? Swarm prevention? Combine/Re-Queen?

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association
TIME TO LOOK IN YOUR HIVE...WHAT DO YOU SEE?

You SHOULD see:

- Brood
- Food (Honey & Pollen)
- Queen
FEED YOUR BEES
WHEN AND WHAT:

- Low Food supply, feed
- Low Brood count, feed
  - Dry pollen
  - Pollen patties-caution
  - Sugar syrup
- Add Medication – Fumagilin-B (Nucs, package bees, Nosema prevention)
- 1:1 syrup recipe by weight…8.3 lbs. sugar to 1 gallon of water
- Use HOT water
- Let cool before feeding
- Only feed what they will eat
- Use clean feeders
- Be neat…don’t spill it
MEDICATION

- Now is the time to start thinking about medicating your hives.
- Read your labels so you know when it is safe to add honey supers.
- The EPA approved the use of Oxalic Acid for Varroa Mite control in Honey Bee colonies back in March 2015.
VARROA TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Integrated Pest Management
  - Remove Drone Cells
    - Freeze for 48 hours
  - Screen bottom board
    - Mites fall out of hive

- Chemical Pest Management
  - Apiguard
    - (thymol)
  - Mite Away Strips
    - (formic acid)
  - Oxalic Acid
  - Never treat with honey supers on hive
NO Queen Bee?

Signs that there is no Queen:
• Low hive population
• No eggs or Larvae
• No capped brood

If you find that your hive is Queen-less; what should you do?
YOU HAVE OPTIONS

Raise some Queens
- Take a frame of brood from a stronger hive
- Larvae less than 36 hours old
- Notch bottom 1/3rd of cells
- Workers will raise a new queen

Combine Hives
- Place Queen-less hive on top of Queen right hive
- One sheet of newspaper between
- Within a week bees will eat through paper
Raising a new Queen is easy!

- The bees do all the work
- You can help by notching cells

Notch the bottom 1/3 of the cells
Combining hives is easy too!
Place the hive with no queen on top of the hive with a queen. Put a piece of newspaper between the two hives, wait 1 week.
SWARM PREVENTION
SWARM PREVENTION (CONT.)

Is the hive full and/or do you see Swarm Cells?

• Add Supers
• Provide fresh frames
• Perform a split
  • This process varies-as your mentor for advice
SPLITTING HIVE OPTIONS

- Buy a new Queen
- Put half of your frames into a new brood box
- Make sure your current Queen is in one of the boxes
- Install new Queen in other box

- Let the workers create a new Queen
- Put half of your frames into a new brood box
- Make sure your current Queen is in one of the boxes
- Notch some cells
Look what’s blooming in March!
Can you identify these?
Dogwood
Iris
Dandelion
Mock Orange
Oleander
(poisonous to most animals)
Texas Holly
ANY QUESTIONS?