

Beekeeping Tips for July

1. Honey extraction should be in full swing provided the honey flow was good. (Little surplus honey will be produced this month unless your bees have access to cotton.) After extracting, put the supers back on the hives for the bees to clean any remaining honey.
2. Freeze empty frames of comb for several days to kill wax moth larvae before storing. Store empty surplus supers and frames with empty comb in a plastic garbage bag. After placing the supers with the frames in them into the garbage bag, pour six tablespoons of paradichlorobenzene (PDB) onto a paper plate and place on top of the frames. Or, empty the crystals into a stocking and suspend the stocking between the frames. Seal the plastic bag tightly. The moth crystals will evaporate over time so check at least monthly to see if they need to be replenished. If the crystals are gone, so is the protection from the moths.

Caution! Be sure to only use paradichlorobenzene crystals and not moth balls, which are made from naphthalene. Naphthalene will contaminate the wax and kill your bees when the supers are put back into the hive.

3. Maintain a good water source. Bees need water to cool hives during hot weather. Check hives to be sure that bees have plenty of honey. If needed, start feeding sugar water (simple syrup) or high fructose corn syrup.
4. Consider shading hives from direct full sun. Ventilate the hive by propping open the telescoping lid. Place a rock or block of wood no bigger than your fist on the inner cover to allow airflow.
5. Treat for fire ants around the hives, so the ants do not become a problem in beehives. Examine hives for varroa mites.
6. Obtain one pound glass Queen Line jars at the July meeting and prepare your honey for the honey contest to be held at the August meeting. It is suggested that you buy two (2) jars.
7. Be sure to take bee pictures to enter in the Calendar and Photo Contests. Photo entries for the Calendar are due at the general meeting in August. Photo entries for the Photo Contest are due at the general meeting in October.