

INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

NF5E2NEACH

Swarming

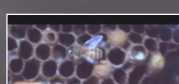
Reasons for swarming

- Natural means of reproduction
- Colony too crowded
- Unbalanced colony
- Queen getting old
- *Abscending*



Preparation for Swarming

- A week before actual event
- Eggs in Queen cells
- Queen cells sealed
- Old Queen ready to fly off
- Prime Swarm



Prime Swarm & Casts

- ▣ Prime Swarm – half the workers
- ▣ Casts – Virgin Queen plus progressively less workers
- ▣ Viability of Casts ?
- ▣ Viability of parent colony ?



Swarm Prevention

- ▣ Regular Inspections - weekly
- ▣ Young Queens < 2 years old
- ▣ Room in brood space for Queen to lay
- ▣ Room in super space for nectar to be stored
- ▣ Know what to do when Queen cells are seen with eggs or larvae
- ▣ Mark & clip Queens



Marking and clipping a Queen



- ▣ Practice on drones and workers
- ▣ Never touch her abdomen
- ▣ Colour code
 - W,Y,R,G,B
- ▣ Only mark the thorax
- ▣ Ensure paint is dry

Effect on Swarm of Clipped Queen

- ▣ Swarm is not lost
- ▣ Workers return to hive
- ▣ Queen may return to hive
- ▣ Beekeeper must still take action



Swarm Control

- ▣ The Artificial Swarm
 - ▣ Pagden
 - ▣ Demaree
 - ▣ Snelgrove
 - ▣ Taranov
 - ▣ Many more



Fanning Pheromone Nasonov Gland



Swarm Control Basic Principles

- ▣ Colony made up of 3 parts:
 - Queen
 - Brood
 - Flying bees



Swarm collection

- ▣ Rest nearby
 - Trees, hedges, posts etc.
- ▣ Scout bees look for home
- ▣ Collective agreement
- ▣ Fly off
- ▣ Popular sites
 - Chimneys
 - Roof spaces
 - Compost buckets etc.



Some are impossible or need some thought



Swarm Collection

- Obtain permission from the landowner
- Ensure the public are kept away from the swarm
- Retrieve the queen and the rest will follow
- Move the bees into a box
- Invert the box near the swarm
- Wait for all the bees to join the queen
- Take away and re-hive the swarm



Hiving a swarm

- In front of hive
- Directly into a box



The Future

Beekeeping
is
Confidence
and
Knowledge
