

'After the Flow' Inspection – General Management

When: September 15 - 31
Conditions: > 60 °F, sunny, little wind

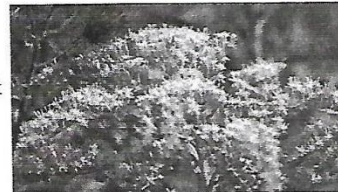
General management

- Remove summer crop
- Reduce colony to two deeps
- Estimate colony strength
- Inspect weak colonies
 - Requeen
 - Combine
- Arrange combs if needed

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First steps

- Remove honey supers one week before end of fall flow*
 - Earlier treatment for varroa
 - Warmer temperatures if using fumigant
 - Less need for supplemental feeding
 - Bees less inclined to rob
- Colonies are now reduced to 2 deeps, the top being mostly honey, the bottom mostly brood
- Remove queen excluder if present



* judged by % goldenrod still in bloom

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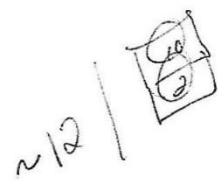
Strong worker population

- Did you achieve pre-flow goal of developing a strong population of young workers?
 - Target
 - Bees just boiling out of a 2-story colony at > 60 °F
 - 8 combs of bees when clustered at 32 °F
 - Inspect weak colonies – determine cause
 - Combine disease-free, weak colonies with stronger ones
- Don't
 - Combine a lot of weak colonies
 - Combine colonies with high mite loads or disease
 - Combine laying worker colonies

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Honey Stores

- If you got it just right
 - Remove everything above the second story
 - Remaining honey should be adequate for winter
- If you over-supered
 - Pull out 10 combs of capped honey and place in the second story, OR
 - Remove everything above the queen excluder, check weight, and feed as needed



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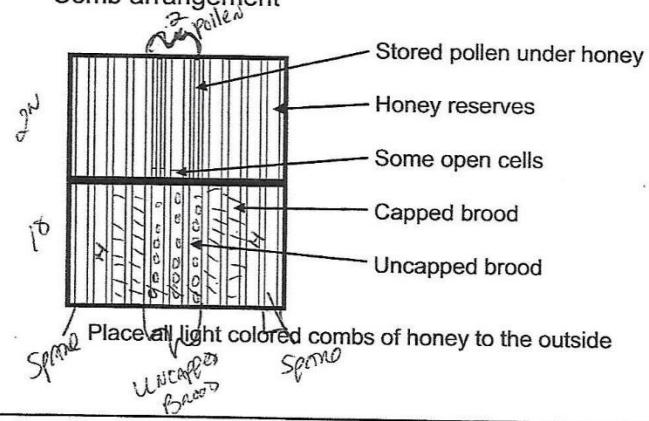
Pollen Stores

- Place two combs of pollen covered with honey in center of main food chamber, OR
- Place two combs of fresh pollen near center of main food chamber
- Feed 2 - 3 gal. sugar syrup
 - 2s:1w, by weight
 - Granulated cane sugar preferred

NYBeeWellness.org

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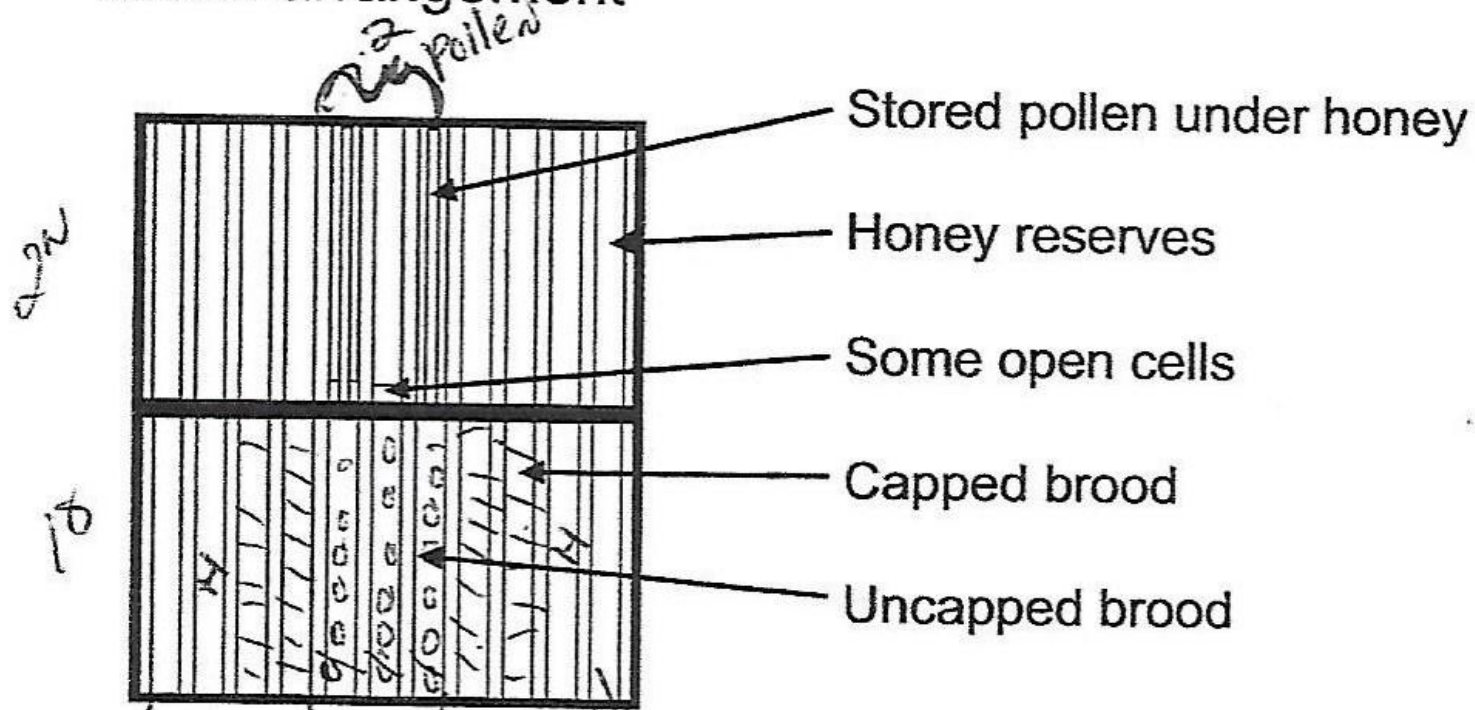
Comb arrangement



~135#
Total gross weight

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Comb arrangement



Place all light colored combs of honey to the outside

Final inspection- General Management and IPM

When: November 1-15+
Conditions: no rain

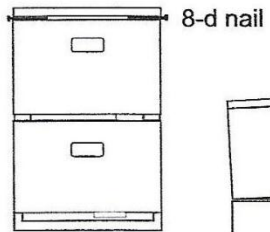
General management and IPM

- Remove mite treatments
- Install upper entrances
- Wrap/insulate and band
- Check bear fences

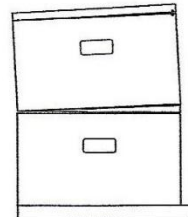
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Final inspection

Upper entrances



Front view



Allows for:

- Removal of moist air
- Air exchange even when lower entrance blocked with snow, ice or dead bees
- Entrance for bees when bottom blocked



Shingles and wood stock
cut up for wedges and inserts

Final inspection

Protection from elements

- Wrapping hives
 - Increase chance for successful wintering
 - Provides protection against wind
 - Bees do not cluster as tightly – easier to access honey
 - Brood rearing initiated earlier in spring

Final inspection

Quick wraps

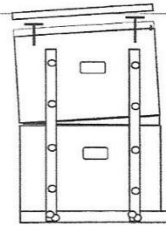
- Winter packs
 - Commercially available, treated, reusable cardboard packs
- Tar paper
 - Staple tar paper in place
- 1-2" hard Styrofoam sheet on top of inner cover
 - Need deep outer cover: 2-3" is ideal



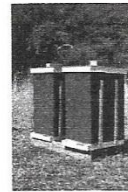
Final inspection

Cleating

- Lathe strips or high grade 2x4's cut 3/8" thick
- Secure with 3d, uncoated box nails
- Two nails per hive body and two in the bottom board
- Leave heads out about 1/4" for easy removal



Side view



- 1" styrofoam insulation between IC and OC
- 4, 6d box nails through pre-drilled inner cover

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Final inspection

More extensive wraps

- 2 layers of rFoil/Double Bubble/Foil wrap (Covertech Fabricating Inc. #2222-24-125)
- Sandwiched in 6 mil black plastic: seal plastic with iron, but leave some openings along the bottom
- 6" fiberglass insulation in a plastic bag to make a pillow for the top
- Cover with 5/16" treated plywood
- Secure with tie-down and straps
- Secure upper entrance

