

Dunn County Beekeepers Association

Menomonie Alliance Church Room 116

502 21st St. N, Menomonie, WI 54751

September 9, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. Roll call: 17

Secretary Report: August minutes correction: Megan Milbreth is with Michigan University. Motion made to accept minutes by Dave P. Second by Dennis M.

Treasurer Report: Mary B. updated the DCBK checkbook, savings, and petty cash amounts. Motion made to accept report by Dennis M. second by Dave P.

New Business:

Club has two honey extractors. Mary and Dave Phillips have theirs, missing the other one. We rent out to club members only, if you have the extractor, please let the club know.

Mite-a- thon: Jenny G. sent out a link to track mites in your hives. You can go online and enter your information and it helps keep track of hives and mite issues. While the weather is still warm, it is very important to check hives for mites and do treatments ASAP.

Hive reports:

This summer was an odd honey year. Some hives did extremely well and provided several honey supers each. Other hives, with no signs of issues, didn't provide any honey. Much of this was due to if the hive had frames already built with comb, or if they were starting from fresh empty frames. Some of the new NUK's purchased this spring from Black River Apiaries did really well, filling out their hives, and also providing honey in their first year. Several people mentioned that the queens purchased this year weren't good quality queens and had to re-queen several times. Conversation around re-queening options were to purchase queens, grow your own queens or let hives re-queen with fresh eggs from strong hive genetics. Quite a few of our members struggled with their hives swarming one or more times this summer. This weakens the hives and it takes a long time to get bee numbers and honey stores back up.

Mite treatments: Mite Away strips are very popular, as well as Formic Pro. There are several options to treat depending on mite count and time frame, and when you can get back to your hives to retreat. Oxalic acid is also a good mite treatment either besides your mite strips, or along with strips method. The benefit of vaporizing with oxalic acid is that it does a very good job killing the mites, and you can treat later, in the year one last time, without opening the

hive up. Several of our more experienced beekeepers use oxalic acid as part of their mite treatment program.

September/October to do list:

Feed up your hives ASAP. Get them enough food put away quickly so they have time to dry it down and cap it before cold weather.

Check for mites and treat hives.

Depending on hive strength, put entrance reducers on to prevent robbing.

Get mouse guards ready to install soon. Check area around hives and get rodent proofing done/weed control.

Storing bee equipment over winter. Place in a secure area protected from critters, use moth crystals to prevent moth infestation. Scrape, clean, scrub, before putting things away. Makes for a much nicer start to the new beekeeping season.

Coming up:

October meeting is the annual meeting and elections.

ABF Conference is Jan 8-11 2020.

Wisconsin Honey Producers meeting is the first weekend of November.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:11 p.m. by Dennis M, and Mary P.