

1. In 1895 we had an average on one swarm from 20 colonies, the majority of colonies not gathering enough for winter.

2. Our own never wintered better, but most of the bee-keepers in our locality lost heavily. In some cases all losses were due principally to lack of stores and neglect to properly fit them for winter last fall.

3. Never better; in fact the honey flow has never ceased from Spring until now.

4. Moderate

5. The same may be said of basswood; not as heavy as some years.

6. The thistle flow came early; worked on them about as soon as on basswood, and they gathered some after it was done.

7. Good at present, August 17, as they are beginning to store some. We grow our buckwheat by ploughing up a meadow as soon as the hay crop is off, and thus manage to get three crops in a year—a crop of hay, a crop of buckwheat for pig and chicken feed and a crop of honey, when it yields.

8. Early and excessive where means were not taken to check it. We are now having a second batch of swarms. The hives are as full of brood as they usually are in June.

E. M. HUSBAND

Fairgorn, Middlesex Co., Ont.

Very few swarms last year. Bees wintered very well last winter and dwindled down bad in the spring. Not many worker bees when the clover blossomed, and received about half a crop of clover honey. Very little basswood honey, as the basswoods are very scarce. Not much thistle honey. Prospects for buckwheat not very good, weather too dry and hot. A good deal of swarms this year. Commenced the season with about 140 colonies; extracted 6,600 of white honey from clover and basswood; increased them to 200 colonies; have not extracted any buckwheat honey yet; don't expect to get much, as the bees are about quit working the buckwheat on account of dry weather.

T J WEBSTER.

Oakwood, Victoria Co., Aug 11, 1896.

In regards to questions asked on slip:

1. Swarming in 1895 was very light, having only two colonies out of ten swarm each.

2. In wintering they did fairly well, but only died, but two others were robbed early in spring. My process was long chaff each holding eight hives side by side.

3. After taking them out in spring they came along nicely and swarmed early.

4. The clover honey being rather short in season rather disabled the old hives for that season.

5. The basswood has been comparatively good, but season short.

7. There appears to be any amount of buckwheat sown around the vicinity, and prospects for lots of honey from that source.

8. Swarming this year in these parts, with very few exceptions, has been very free. Having a few old colonies myself which I could not draw, have swarmed four or five times, but these were old stock. When I got them the combs were built crosswise.

Honey sells here from five to eight cents.

J. A. RODMAN.

Port Perry, Ontario Co., Aug. 18, 1896.

In answer to the questions which you have sent out, I would say:

1. The honey season of 1895 was a complete failure in this section of the province. I had only one colony which cast a swarm.

2. The majority of colonies in this vicinity wintered very poorly. Want of stores was the principal cause. A good many of the smaller bee-keepers have given up the business as a bad job.

3. Any colonies which were wintered outside built up much faster in the spring than those wintered in the bee-house or cellar. Those wintered in the bee-house spring-dwindled badly, and some heavy losses are reported. I never experienced such a fine spring for brood rearing, colonies which were in good shape built up very rapidly, and swarming commenced early.

4. The flow from clover has been very good and the quality is extra fine.

5. Basswood did remarkably well, the bloom lasted for about three weeks. My flow of honey from clover and basswood averaged 70 pounds per colony, spring count.

6. Owing to dry weather during thistle bloom and the good farmers keeping them down, the flow did not amount to very much. Farmers do not like to see a good crop of thistles like bee-keepers.

7. Very little buckwheat grown in this vicinity, consequently we have no honey from that source.

8. Swarming has been good and commenced early. I have increased my stock 100 per cent.

ALBERT FYFE

Wellington Apiary, Harriston, Ont.