

Questions

My bees did not build up well in the fall; others wintered poorly. The hives are full of honey, but weak in bees. What can I do to get my bees strong for the early honey flow?

Double them up. JAS. ARMSTRONG,
Cheapside Ont.

Unite two colonies, if not strong enough put three together, and save the combs you will have left for the swarms.

JOHN PIRIE, Drumquin, Ont.

Keep them warm by keeping on the winter packing and contracting the entrance. If very weak unite. You may have them in condition for the late honey flow.

A. D. ALLEN, Tamworth, Ont.

Tuck your bees up warm as possible, if very weak in numbers contract the brood chamber to correspond with size of cluster. When settled warm weather comes stimulate them by feeding.

Wooler. WARRINGTON SCOTT.

See that they have a good laying queen, remove all combs not covered by bees and contract hive with division boards. If wintered in the cellar protect after placing on summer stands by packing and cushions. If wintered outside leave packed till settled warm weather.

St. Thomas.

R. H. SMITH.

First contract the brood nest—with a wooden division board—to the size of the cluster (colony), giving them at least, one good sealed comb on each side, replace combs as they increase in strength, and when the clover comes into bloom, unite all weak colonies, selecting the best queens.

R. A. MORRISON,

Inverary Ont.

Take the colonies that have the best queens and build them up strong by drawing from other colonies. It is better to have one strong colony out of the lot than to attempt to work along with several weak ones. After making all possible colonies strong, utilize the balance by bringing up to strength as early as possible; but without a knowledge of general principles, this will be found a difficult undertaking. It would take several pages to fully des-

cribe what should be done, but it is safe to make as many strong colonies as possible out of what you have. J. E. POND.

North Attleboro, Mass.

In brief, give plenty of food and keep the brood nest warm. If on summer stands, protect with chaff hives or with some device that will allow of thorough protection on all sides, top and bottom, the brood nest may be contracted, but an abundance of stores should be given. Consult standard works on bee culture for details.

DR. A. B. MASON,

Auburndale, Ohio.

I doubt if you can get them real strong. However at once contract your hive to the number of combs your colony will cover, leaving abundance of stores; thoroughly protect them with packing, leaving no upward ventilation so as to conserve all the heat of the colony and be unaffected by outside temperature. Leave severely alone until they are crowding the hive, then expand it from time to time as required.

Beamsville.

A. E. HOSHAL.

If the hives are full of honey I suspect you will find them all right by the time of white clover blossoms, provided of course they live through the winter. I have often noticed the colonies which went into winter quarters heavy in honey and light in bees proved the best ones the next year. I do not think a great lot of bees in the fall necessary either to successful wintering or best results the following summer. If stores of natural food are plenty I should not advise stimulating by feeding.

EUGENE SECOR.

Forest City, Iowa, U. S.

If the spring turns out favorable to your bees, that is if the spring is forward and the weather is warm, having plenty of honey in the hives, your bees will surprise you in the way they will build up to good colonies. If you have no strong colonies in your yard that can spare combs of brood