

Winter Work Among Bees.

HINTS AND HELPS.

Don't disturb bees more than necessary during winter. If frightened, they at once fill themselves with honey; the less they consume, the better it is for them.

Bees reared in fall are the ones that live through winter and build up the colony in spring.

A strong colony requires about 75 to 40 lbs honey to winter until the next honey flow; a weak one requires less.

Bees are very cleanly during winter unless they get dysentery and there is nothing injures them more than putting out excrement into the hive in winter.

Most apiarists that winter bees in cellars try to maintain an average temperature of 52 degrees.

When bees winter under perfect conditions, the hives are as clean in spring as in fall, except particles of wax from cappings.

Forty-seven degrees is a good cellar temperature in which to winter bees.

Some beekeepers believe in top ventilation; others in bottom ventilation. Which do you? Why?

Hives in cellars should be raised about 2 ft from the floor on trestles.

The risk of wintering colonies out of doors in the northern states and Canada is very great.

All preparation for wintering bees should be finished this month.

WEATHER CHANGES HARMFUL.

Excessive changes in temperature in a cellar will cause a restlessness among bees detrimental to their best wintering. For instance: If the furnace fire goes out and the cellar becomes extremely cold, and the fire again made up and it makes the place warm. I do not think that, with plenty of ventilation, moisture affects them so much as changes of temperature. The reason is that when it gets very cold the bees draw into a small space; as soon as the temperature goes up to 70 or 80 degrees they think summer has come and run about the hive, breaking the cluster and eating a lot more honey than they would do otherwise. In excessive changes of temperature they start brood raising, which is also a bad thing. They try to feed the young larvae with honey and pollen, which, if carried on to any extent, will invariably give the bees dysentery. I am sure that excessive changes of temperature have more to do with it than anything else.—[Mr Selwyn, Laval Co, Que.

To Render Beeswax in an open vessel over boiling water, fill a pail one-third full with pure rain water and place on the fire. As the water becomes hot, crumble in the comb, a little at a time, as it melts, until pail is full. Then pour on a yard of cheese cloth, spread over the mouth of a crock or pail. Tie the four corners of the cheese cloth to a rope and hang to a beam. To squeeze the contents of the bag of hot wax and sediment, tie two long laths at one end, slip the upper part of the bag between and squeeze down until all wax is expressed and nothing remains in the cloth but a caked mass of sediment. The wax in the crock or pail will cool in a few hours into a solid cake, which may be lifted out and the water poured away.—[Gilbert Wintle, Vaudreuil Co, Que.

Keeping Honey—The driest and warmest place in the house should be chosen for storing sections of comb honey. A kitchen cupboard close to the fire forms an ideal storing place and if the sections are protected from dust, insects, mice, etc., by careful wrapping, the honey in them will keep liquid for over 12 mos. In some seasons pure honey will granulate in spite of care.

Half-filled Sections—Most of my bees are in homemade chaff hives, last year I had one colony in a "simplicity." Toward the end of the clover harvest I packed two crates full of half-filled sections, and put one above, and one below the "simplicity." On removing them at the end of a week, I found nearly every section in the top crate beautifully completed and most of those underneath thoroughly cleaned. read" for bait sections this year. This year I have repeated the experiment with same success.—[Gilbert Wintle.

The Swineherd.

SENSIBLE HOG KEEPING.

To be profitable, one must have good sows and always a thoroughbred male of the breed preferred, not overlooking the individuality of the boar because his pedigree is good. The male should not be allowed to run with the sows, but should be kept in a lot to himself. Feed him, and the sows as well, on food that tends to large growth rather than fat. The business of the market hog in the corn belt is to convert the corn crop into cash, so of course his principal food is corn, but corn alone will not do for breeding stock. Good pasture, clover preferred, is advantageous to all swine, but especially to breeding stock. The pigs should be kept gentle, the male especially, by being often scratched and patted; then they can be readily driven.

It is generally best to keep same male and sows for several years if they prove good, prolific breeders. The policy of using young stock for breeding is liable to produce small pigs, which are less able to withstand disease. Keep them healthy by raking up cobs and other rubbish in their lot, burning until partly consumed, then scatter salt over, and every vestige will be devoured. I sometimes add corn to the fire until charred. A little sulphur or coppe as fed in ashes is also beneficial. For shelter and breeding pens, I prefer a small house rather than a large stationary one where so many sleep together. The small house can be easily moved, thus expediting cleaning, and I find them much the best for sows with young pigs in very cold weather. My houses are made of matched lumber 5x7 ft, and 4 ft high in front, sloping to 2 ft in rear, with an opening the entire length at top to be left open except on stormy days.—[O. M., Md.

THE COST OF PORK.

It requires 13.50 lbs of skim milk to produce 1 lb of pork when fed with corn meal. Skim milk could not be economically fed to fattening hogs unless it was a product which could not be otherwise utilized. It required on an average 1.5 lbs of shelled corn to produce 1 lb of pork. An average period of four weeks, or 1 bu produced 13.5 lbs. It required 4.5 lbs of corn meal to produce 1 lb of pork, or 1 bu of corn made into meal and fed will produce 12.5 lbs of pork.

When dry, shelled corn is more economical than corn meal to feed fattening hogs. One bushel of corn meal is worth 3 bu of oats as food for fattening hogs. Corn-fed pigs gained 4.5 lbs per week and ate about 21 lbs of corn per 100 lbs of live weight. Pork was produced during the cold weather, with corn at 25c per bu for less than 3c per lb. Indian corn is the most economical pork-producing material during the winter months in regions where extensively grown.—[B. L. Myers, Essex Co, Mass.

Young Hogs Most Profitable—The younger the hog the easier and more rapidly will he put on flesh, according to amount of food consumed. The hog that matures earliest is most profitable. Good feeders and early maturers are the successful swine raisers' ideal. Get the best breed for these two points and keep them growing, and success is assured.—[J. L. Irwin.

In Feeding Pigs, skim milk and corn meal, the Mass exper sta recommends the following: Pigs weighing 20 to 70 lbs, 2 oz meal p qt of milk; 70 to 130 lbs, 4 oz meal p qt milk; 130 to 200 lbs, 6 oz meal p qt milk. Feed all the pigs will eat up clean.

Feed Your Oats—Many farmers sell their oats at 22c p bu, or \$13.20 p ton. I have found that a ton of oats, fed to pigs with the by products of three cows, will make 750 lbs of which I sell for 5.5c p lb, or \$41.25, charging 40c p bu for oats and 17.25 is left to pay for labor and cost of the pigs, which with value of the manure would be good remuneration.—[W. S. Tompkins, York Co, N. S.

While increasing in live weight from 54 to 82 lbs, hogs required 3.10 lbs of meal per 1 lb of gain.

One of the most important things on a farm is pure water.

The Shepherd.

IMPROVING THE FLOCK.

I have handled sheep only 2 yrs and have done well for a beginner. My ewes are long wool scrubs, but are large and healthy, 12 head sheared 95 lbs or an average of 8 lbs. I used a three-quarters Shropshire ram on them last fall with the result that I have late March lambs weighing from 75 to 125 lbs each, with nice fine wool of good quality, very close and from 4 to 5 in long. My object is to raise as heavy a mutton sheep as possible and at the same time increase the yield of wool. My sheep do not shear enough to suit me. What breed or combination of breeds will give the desired result? I ought to be able to bring my flock up to an average of 12 to 14 lbs each and at the same time get good, heavy carcasses.—[Charles Bisbee, Oxford Co, Me.

I presume Mr Bisbee wishes to retain mutton quality and constitution at the same time he is getting the heavier fleece. On this basis I would advise using good Oxford Down rams. This breed, to my mind, has the combination of size, weight of fleece, mutton quality, constitution and good breeding qualities combined to a greater degree than any other breed.—[George McKerrrow.

Pasture Grasses—The best mixture of grass for a sheep pasture is 10 lbs each of redtop, bluegrass, white clover, meadow fescue, and perennial clover, commonly called pea vine clover. Where the land is inclined to be damp sow alsike clover quite freely, 6 or 8 lbs of seed to the acre with all the others will not be too much. For a sheep pasture thick seeding is necessary, thus getting a close growth and short, fine grass.

Angora Goats are very profitable on brush land because they eat young brush. Four years ago I bought a pair then got two more females and turned them in the woods with a straight rail fence. It does not take much of a fence to keep them if only there is no place for them to jump up on. I now have 12 fine ones besides having eaten several lambs that I did not wish to keep. The meat is better than mutton and does not have a woolly taste. In the four years I have had them they have not cost me \$4. When we have no snow to cover the ground they need no feeding. I give only oat straw. They will live and get fat where a sheep would starve. They need a shed to go under when it rains.—[C. E. Kinney, Tolland Co, Ct.

The feed consumed by my pigs the past few years has brought the following prices, based on a standard price of 6c p lb for dressed pork; buckwheat 30 to 35c p bu, potatoes 15 to 18c, skim-milk 20c p 100 lbs.—[F. V. Freeze, Kings Co, N. B.

Anything which adds to the attractiveness of the home makes it a better place in which to rear the children who must grow up there.—[J. C. Whitten.

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