

### How to Treat Foul Brood by the Baldrige Plan

The Baldrige plan of treating a foul-broody colony successfully is as follows:

1st. Open the hive of the diseased colony and cage the queen. The best time to do this is late in the afternoon or near sunset. Place the caged queen in the top of the foul-broody hive, and where the cage can be got at with as little trouble as possible.

2d. Bore a small hole, about one inch in diameter, in the front end of the foul broody hive a few inches above the regular entrance, and fasten over of it on the outside of the hive, a Porter bee-escape. After the bees are through flying for the day turn the foul-broody hive half-way round so the bee-entrance will face the opposite direction.

3d. Now go to some healthy colony and select one or two combs of brood well covered with bees and place them in an empty hive, and fill this hive with empty combs, frames of comb foundation, or empty frames, and set this hive on the stand of the diseased colony. The rear ends of both hives will now touch each other, or they may be a few inches apart. Now leave the hive thus, say two, three, or four days or long enough for the outdoor workers in the foul-broody colony to return to their old location. This they will do, of course, and they will then remain in the new hive having one or two combs of healthy brood.

4th. Near sunset on the second or third day take the caged queen away from the diseased colony and simply let her run into the entrance of the new hive.

5th. Now close the regular entrance of the foul-broody hive and all other exits except the one through the bee-escape. Then gently place this hive by the side of the new hive and close

to each other, the closer the better, with both fronts facing the same way. Thereafter the bees that hatch or fly out of the diseased colony must pass through or out of the bee-escape, and as they cannot return, they must and will go into the new hive. By this means the new hive, in the course of three or four weeks, will secure all or nearly all the bees and brood that were in the diseased colony, and during this time, or for any length of time thereafter, no robber bees can gain entrance thereto, and carry away any diseased honey.

This plan of treating foul-broody colonies prevents all loss in bees, brood, honey, or the building of new combs, and is a simple and practical way of treating the disease. In some respects the plan is a far better one than any other one I have seen described.

My plan may be carried out in diverse ways, but it is not always best to describe such and thereby confuse the reader. The entire plan is based upon the well-known fact that foul brood is a germ disease, and that the germs may be taken into a new hive by the bees filling their bodies with the diseased honey, deposited in the foul-broody hive. The disease may likewise be taken into the new hive by the nurse-bees. My plan does away with all such danger, for when the diseased colony is left undisturbed over night the bees re-deposit all their honey, and on going out to work the following day they go out with empty bodies and return with healthy honey. All the nurse-bees will remain in the diseased colony, and before they pass out of their hive though the bee-escape all germs in their bodies will have been disposed of in nursing the uncapped brood in the foul-broody colony.

My plan of treating foul brood is not exactly a new plan, as it was outlined by me in 1897, in the Bee-Keepers' Review. Since that date I have treated a number of foul-broody colonies by my plan, and always with good success. I am advised that others have done likewise.—M. M. Baldrige, *American Bee Journal*.