

Douglas County Bees

**June 3, 2020**

Type of Meeting: Monthly Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by President Jack Reilly at Singleton Park

22 members attended

New Business

No new business

Old Business

In past meetings, it was decided that the demand for Drivert Sugar was not enough to warrant buying a full pallet. The storage space for a full pallet was also an issue. The Medford club has not responded to our request to go in halves on a pallet so the Lane Co. group will be contacted to see if they have a local source.

Type of sugars to feed bees in on the D C Bees webpage and it was emphasized that cane sugar and drivert sugar are the best.

The following is an excerpt that explains drivert sugar is. The link below takes you to the web page that also discusses various sugars and why they are good or bad for bees.

Drivert sugar is a dry fondant sugar that has been agglomerated with 8% invert sugar. Invert sugar is a mix of glucose and fructose created by heating pure sugar (sucrose) with water. In simple terms, it is 92% pure sugar (sucrose) with 8% glucose/fructose in powder form.

Reference: [www.keepingbackyardbees.com/what-kind-of-sugar-should-i-feed-my-bees/](http://www.keepingbackyardbees.com/what-kind-of-sugar-should-i-feed-my-bees/)

One couple explained that powdering regular sugar in a Vitamix food processor works well for them as a substitute for Drivert Sugar.

Cash and Carry may have Drivert Sugar

Roundtable discussion

One member had bees building comb on the bottom of her screened bottom hive. It was suggested to insert the bottom board and brush the bees off the bottom in hopes that they will reenter the hive. A hive from a recent cut out was put in a top bar hive and is doing very well. If a hive is not very active or building numbers of bees, requeening might help. This can be accomplished by removing a frame from a second hive that contains freshly laid eggs and covered brood. Find the poorly producing queen and kill her leaving her in the hive so the bees recognize the need to raise a new queen. They will do this by taking an egg from the inserted frame and put it in a queen cell to make their own new queen.

One member reported that a hive that was doing very well suddenly seemed to be in trouble.

He suggested that spraying around a substation may have been the cause. Bees can be locked in the hive for a day or two if spraying in the vicinity is suspected.

Borage as a bee foraging source was discussed. Borage is hard to transplant but once established it is very hearty. Deer also love it, so some protection may be needed.

The proper way to use queen excluders as explained. Queen excluders will keep the queen from entering a honey super and laying eggs. An excluder also keeps drones out of the honey supers. Excluders need to be installed between the main hive boxes and the honey super a couple of days after the honey super is added. The delay will give the worker bees time to get used to entering the super and accept the super as part of the hive.

YouTube is a large source of bee keeping information, but members need to be aware that videos from other parts of the country may not apply to our area and not all videos are from reliable sources.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12