

OHIO QUEEN INITIATIVE - OQI

Dr David Tarpy: Properly mated queens are fertilized with over 5 million sperm. "81% of commercially raised queens are fertilized with less than 5 million sperm, and 19% are fertilized with less than 3 million."

- **Why:** Average **30%** of Ohio Colonies died over 2010/2011 winter
 - With the average age of beekeepers being **over 60 years**, we need to work with new **younger beekeepers** to adopt beekeeping management practices based on recent research
 - An influx of new younger beekeepers will add more members to local clubs, OSBA and **add stability and sustainability to Ohio Beekeeping**
- **Mission:** To develop Northern adapted Honeybees that are productive and sustainable in Ohio's environment and be more resistant to disease and mites.
- **Build networks between clubs, beekeepers and researchers**
 - **Networks of Influence (effect)**
- Keep current on the latest beekeeping research

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- **How:** Exchange honey bee genetics within Ohio
 - Day old Larvae or 48 hour queen cell transport
 - Discussed later in presentation
- **CLUB Work Shops**
 - Train Beekeepers how to create Nucs
 - Train Beekeepers how to overwinter Nucs/Colonies in Ohio
 - Handling queen larvae and 48 hour queen cells and Nuc management
 - Manage the changes in beekeeping management

Ohio Queen Initiative Goals

- 2012 Goals
 - Produce Northern Adapted Queens within Ohio
 - **Transport honey bee genetics within Ohio**
 - Day old larvae - 3 hour transport limit - Joe Latshaw
 - 48 hour queen cells - 10 hour transport limit - Larry Connor
 - Queen cells - Ohio Clubs with Joe Latshaw's larvae
 - Virgin Queens "
 - Mated Queens "
 - **Train Beekeepers:**
 - how to create Nucs
 - how to overwinter Nucs in Ohio
 - to requeen package bees in June
 - Train interested beekeepers how to produce queen cells
 - Develop beekeepers skills and confidence

2012 Ohio Queen Initiative Activities

- Beta Test small production runs of transferring queen larvae and 48 hour queen cells – Debug Process
- Club workshops held by OSBA
 - Larvae transport training
 - Cell starter and finisher training
 - Nuc creation training
- Prototype Evaluation Project – Debug Process
 - 3 or 4 clubs or groups of ~ 20 beekeepers with 200 queen larvae or 48 hour queen cells
- Evaluation Production Run (**6 clubs have volunteered**)
 - ~5 or 6 Clubs or groups with 200 beekeepers with ~500 queen larvae or 48 hour queen cells

Required OQI Club Resources

- Nuc creation experience
 - How many Beekeepers?
 - Required bee and brood resources?
- Queen cell starter – finisher experience
 - How many beekeepers?
 - Required bee and brood resources?
- Nuc hardware for number of queens to evaluate
 - Type of nucs
 - 3 frame - 4 frame - 5 frame – 10 frame with follower boards
 - Type of over wintering system
 - 5 frame double – 8 frame double – 10 frame (single or double)
- Locations for nuc and cell starter
- Drone resources - ~100 per queen

Key Elements for Success of the Club's Queen Rearing Operation

- The Club board must embrace the project
- Need club membership's support
- At least 2 or 3 members with the desire to develop above average queen rearing knowledge and skills
- A core group of volunteers to assist with the nuc maintenance and workshops – Too much for 2 or 3 members
- Creating and stocking nucs – Need membership support
- Club workshops are learning opportunities, confidence builders and necessary to get all the work done
- Record keeping required

OQI Advisory Board

- Jim Kerns Colony Evaluations
- Roy Hendrickson Queen rearing classes
- Joe Latshaw Genetics/Queen rearing classes/queen stock Eval
- Joe Kovaleski Queen Evaluations/queens
- Tim Arbeit Queen Evaluations/queens
- Barb Bloetscher Pests
- Dana Stahlman OSBA President
- Dwight Wells OQI Project Manager

2012 OQI Budget Expenses

- Admin
 - Office Supplies \$250.00
- Travel Expenses \$2000.00
- Printing Expenses
 - Tri-fold \$250.00
- Web Site Inkind
- Speaker (TBD) Expenses
 - Meeting Expense \$1000.00
- Hardware Expenses \$500.00
 - Grafting Supplies
 - Project Evaluation Equipment
- Total \$4000.00

2012 OQI Budget Income

- Queen cells/larvae
 - \$2.00 pay back seed money (Three Year Payback)
 - \$2.00 pay to OQI
 - \$1.00 to Local participating Clubs

*JL Be Cell bars
do they need frames*

Andy Anderso talk effe Clark County