



Die Capensis nuusbrieff deel graag met alle rolspelers, byeboere en belangstes in die Wes-Kaapse Byebedryf al die nuutste in inspeksieverslae en relevante bye-inligting.

We strongly encourage all beekeepers to join our Association to enable more effective communication and information sharing. For more information on how to become a member, events, contact information or facts about bees, please visit our website at: <http://www.wkbv.co.za/>

For the Capensis to be effective, we ask all members to send us clippings and/or interesting articles or pictures to info@wkbv.co.za - we really value your input!

WESTERN PROVINCE BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION: DIE EERSTE JAAR (DES. 1911-DES 1912)

Dit is goed bekend dat die *Western Province Beekeeping Association (WPBA)*, voorganger van die huidige Wes

Kaapse Byevereniging (WKBV), gedurende Desember 1911 gestig is. Wat die aktiwiteite van die *WPBA* gedurende daardie eerste jaar was, is waarskynlik tot vandag toe, vir die meeste van ons 'n geslote boek. Ek was so gelukkig om 'n kopie van die *British Bee Journal*, gedateer 19 Desember 1912, op te spoor waarin die inhoud van die heeleerste jaarvergadering (Des. 1912) van die *WPBA* kortliks gerapporteer word. Die inligting daarin maak op sigself van hierdie artikel *Africana* vir ons byebedryf.

Dat die Vereniging hoog deur die gemeenskap aangeslaan was, is duidelik wanneer na die eerste beskermhare gekyk word. Die president was niemand anders nie as die eertydse hoofregter van die Kaap, "The Right Hon. Lord de Villiers, PC, KCMG." (Lord de Villiers het self bye (in Contantia) aangehou, en was van die eerste Suid-Afrikaners wat die Italiaanse by, *Apis Linguista*, vanuit die buiteland ingevoer het.) Die Minister van Landbou het as vise-president opgetree. Ek gee die lede van die komitee wat in 1912 verkies is hier volledigheidshalwe aan:

J.J. Michau (voorsitter)

W.J.S. Welsh (vise-voorsitter)

L. Hardwick (sekretaris en tesourier) (Een van die hardwerkendste *WPBA* komiteeledes ooit)

GEWONE LEDE:

W.E. Moore

A.J. Attridge (Hy sou later 'n belangrike rol in die georganiseerde byebedryf van Suid-Afrika speel)

J.G. Brand

J. Flack

J.A. Garner

A.J. Hopper

W. Perry, en

W. Terrell

Die heeleerste stap wat die *WPBA* blykbaar onderneem het, was om kort na stigting met die *South African Beekeeping Association (SABKA)*, te affilieer. Laasgenoemde was weer op sy beurt, ook deur middel van affiliasie, lid van die *British Beekeeping Association*. Die doel van die samesmelting met *SABKA* was om groter voordele vir die lede van die *WPBA* te probeer bekom. Een van die voordele was die maandelikse ontvangs van die nasionale *SABKA* tydskrif deur lede. Mens wonder waar hulle, so vroeg in die bestaan van *SABKA*, so baie inligting gekry het om elke maand te kan publiseer.

'n Interessante verwikkeling was die stiging van 'n heuningdepot reeds in hierdie vroeë stadium. Lede kon hul heuning soontoe neem vir die verkoop daarvan deur "die agent." 'n Kommissie van 15% is op verkope gehef. Die vereniging het etikette laat druk vir verskaffing aan sy lede. Dit is beskikbaar gestel, eers nadat die lede 'n onderneming onderteken het, waarin verklaar word dat hulle slegs heuning van 'n "goeie standaard" aan die depot sal verskaf.

Reëlins is met die plaaslike landbouvereniging getref vir die hou van heuningskoue. 'n Bytent is bekom vir die hou van lesings gedurende skoutyd. Die sye van die tent was van gaas sodat die publiek die demonstrasies binne die tent met veiligheid kon gadeslaan. Groot getalle besoekers het hierdie aanbiedings bygewoon.

Velddae, wat ongelukkig nie goed ondersteun was nie, het deel van die jaarprogram uitgemaak. 'n Opstel-wedstryd (blykbaar oor bye-aangeleenthede) vir skoolgaande kinders is ook gehou.

Soos wat maar altyd in die toekoms ook die geval sou wees, is kommer oor die vereniging se geldsake uitgespreek. Ter afsluiting van die vergadering is die werwing van nuwe lede as 'n belangrike doelwit gestel.

AFB: (Brendan Ashley Cooper)

(excerpts from his presentation)

"It is never a nice feeling when you find something wrong with your bees.

You may have seen me on TV and in newspapers at the beginning of the AFB outbreak and also in Carlos Francisco's great AFB film. He documented the outbreak in South Africa from the beginning.

This is not an AFB educational. There is lots of information on the internet and in books like this book on the Elimination of AFB in New Zealand. This is my story from when I first discovered AFB in my hives in March 2009 till now. As they say, everyone kisses their wife differently, and this is how I handled AFB.

I run 1000 hives and live in Lakeside, Cape Peninsula, Cape Town. I was one of the first 6 beekeepers to positively identify AFB in their hives.

We were all in a comfort zone with our Cape bees being able to handle most obstacles up till the first discovery of AFB. We never really paid much attention to irregularities in the brood chamber and just reused empty equipment to rehive other swarms. This led to the spreading of this disease throughout my operation.

It all started with a phone call from a beekeeper friend to talk about the discovery of AFB in someone's hives. My immediate response was complete denial. Later that week I removed queen cells from one of my queen breeders to find something very strange. Some of them were wet/sweaty looking and upon further inspections they showed signs of AFB. It was shocking to find clinical symptoms so quickly in my operation after that first phone call. None of us really knew anything about AFB, and we had to look at the rest of the world to make decisions. My immediate reaction was to save my beekeeping business and treat my hives with OTC as was done in America and elsewhere, but this would not solve my problems and only be a temporary fix, as the antibiotics did not kill AFB, but merely suppress the symptoms. There is also a chance of

contaminating the products of the hive when using oxytetracycline.

In my research, I came across articles written by an American researcher, Marla Spivak on the ability of some honeybee colonies to tolerate AFB. These were so called hygienic bees which could identify infected larva and remove them from the comb cell before they became contagious. This concept became my game plan and I decided to kill any hives showing the slightest clinical symptoms. This is a form of natural selection, leaving, in theory, hives which can handle AFB. It was a very hard decision to kill so many hives, after spending years filling hives with bees.

And so began the time consuming task of inspecting every hive at approx 3 minutes per hive. You do the sums. Our first round of inspections in April 2009 was bad with many colonies showing clinical symptoms. Approx 120. Paul and I went to each of our sites together and inspected each colony's brood for clinical symptoms. We were looking for the common signs, being:

1. perforated cells where the bees are moving the collapsed larva
2. shotgun brood patterns
3. darker capping
4. sunken capping
5. typical decomposing larva when a stick was dipped into suspect cells

The theory was that if the spore levels were high enough, they infect young larva through their food, and the larva dies in the capped cell. These cells look different. This is called clinical symptoms. The spore numbers are so high that the infection spreads faster than the colony can handle and the colony would collapse within the next few months.

On finding AFB symptoms, we immediately close up the hive and remove it from the site. The chances are that we will not get back in time before complete collapse. This would mean that the surrounding bees in the area would rob out the honey, which carries the spores. We consolidated all hives showing clinical symptoms on an isolated quarantine site. This site was used for many visits by various role-players to understand and make decisions as to the way forward. We had news people, government bodies, researchers and training teams present at various times. After many failed requests for guidance, we made the decision to kill all these bees.

We tried phostoxin tables, 2 per hive, but found that it was slow, and now use petrol. We pour half a cup into the hive entrance and it runs along the floor. Immediately we close the entrance and block

any holes. The fumes kill the bees really quickly. From my experience the equipment is reusable if left out to air after sterilisation.

Our next challenge was to sterilise the equipment. Most other countries burnt their bees and equipment eg New Zealand, regardless of how much honey was lost. We discovered that Australia and Canada had good results with irradiation at a low dose of 10 – 15 kGy. We decided to play it safe and irradiate all equipment at 25 kGy. We had another problem with a large portion of our stored equipment (supers etc) also being infected with AFB spores, (approx 20 tons). We decided to sterilise everything. Later experiments showed that we actually needed to irradiate at 45 kGy to kill every single spore in the denser pollens and propolis.

Our second round of inspections in the Canola, pre pollination, in August 2009, did not go well either. We were lucky to have the assistance of Neil Farrer from New Zealand who was visiting his daughter. He had a lot of experience as he was one of the inspectors in a country which has very strict legislation to control AFB. They have a zero tolerance approach with legislation giving them the power to inspect burn and prosecute. We found another 11.5% infection, which we culled.

At the same time we needed to fill all our sterilised empty equipment. We built 250 catch hives. We wanted to bring in fresh genetic material which would hopefully have been exposed and survived AFB. At the same time we split as many of the remaining AFB “tolerant” hives as was possible. It was a very busy period, but we managed to fill a lot of our empty hives with bees which were hopefully going to show some tolerance to AFB. We did catch some swarms which exhibited clinical symptoms, which was a shocker and could have been either that the catch hive had spores in the equipment or that the swarm was carrying spores in their gut.

Round 3 of inspections took place after pollination in November 2009. Our work had paid off and we only found 3% of the hives inspected showing clinical symptoms. We lost in that first year nearly 30% of our bees (almost 300 colonies). This process is ongoing. 2010 inspections resulted in approximately 5.5% of the hives inspected showing clinical symptoms. We inspect 3 times a year and still cull all hives showing clinical symptoms. This takes a lot of time. Our number of infected hives has dropped dramatically over the past 2 years. Our last round of inspection in April this year had an infection rate of about 1.3%. I believe that taking this hard line, inspecting often and removing colonies which are genetically intolerant

to AFB has paid off and my infection rates are thankfully now very low.

I am very fortunate to have had the help and insight of Paul Ransom and Mike Allsopp. I work very closely with Paul Ransom in all aspects of my beekeeping. We were very concerned that my hives would unintentionally contaminate his and others hives on canola and during pollination. We did not take any chances and my motto was inspect, inspect and inspect. Somehow his hives escaped the severe infections which we were finding in my bees and he was only finding a small amount of AFB in his hives at 1 – 2%. Mike Allsopp is also a star and a great help, always answering his phone and helping with ideas and information, and doing the scientific research for all of us. He advised on many aspects of my AFB outbreak and also handled the testing of samples after irradiation.

This whole experience has been very educational and has given me a lot of insight into my bees. As one inspects brood patterns one learns a lot about the differences between swarm tendencies, from good queens which lay beautiful large uniform brood patterns to bees showing severe amounts of chalk brood to queenless colonies etc.

We never used any barrier systems as it is impractical with so many hives. Neither do we sterilise hands and hive tools between hives, and only burn the hive tool in our smoker if used on an AFB hive.

Other beekeepers have had infections at different levels from very little to full blown outbreak similar to my experiences. They have dealt with the problems associated with AFB in different ways. Some are using or have tried using a barrier method together with sterilizing hands and equipment between hives with jik. Other beekeepers have and are using OTC antibiotic to keep the spore levels down. This is an ongoing process and expense. It does not cure the problem. Another system used by some beekeepers with varied success is the so called “shook swarm” method whereby one shakes all the bees off the contaminated equipment onto sterilised equipment. 3-4 days later this process is repeated, the theory being that the bees have used up the honey in their gut and therefore are no longer carrying any spores.

Another method of sterilizing ones equipment which is quite labour intensive is to boil all the infected equipment at 160° for 10 – 15 minutes in parawax or waxsol. This temperature will kill all the spores and save the equipment.

I am not perfect, but have tried very hard to do the right thing here to protect myself, the environment and other beekeepers. Good luck to you all. I hope that you can learn from my experiences."



INSPEKSIEVERSLAG

**LUTZVILLE 3 – 5
SEPTEMBER 2014**

**Inspeksieverlag
Lutzville 3-5 September 2014**

Algemeen: Die gehalte van die swerms bye sowel as die korwe is aansienlik beter as in 2013. Dit was verblydend om ter sien dat meeste korwe op kratte of bande staan. Geen swerms is weer in die lande gesien nie en die afstand vanaf die plante is ook meer aanvaarbaar. Die swerms en korwe van individuele diensverskaffers word hieronder bespreek. Dit moet duidelik gestel word dat daar geen "seleksie" was by die keuse van korwe wat oopgemaak is nie. Sodra ons by 'n land stilgehou het, het ons besluit om elke vyfde een of by die tweede een in die ry en dan weer die derde laaste een, oop te maak. By sommige korwe het ook 'n "blits" inspeksie gedoen deur hul op te tel of 'n stamp te gee en dan te oordeel of daar voldoende bye in die korf is. Geen korwe is oopgemaak omdat dit "verdag" lyk nie.

By geen van die korwe is enige voorsiening gemaak vir ventilasie tydens vervoer nie. Dit is 'n saak wat in die toekoms moet aandag kry. Gegewe die standaard soos tans tussen die diensverskaffers en

die produsente is dit onaanvaarbaar dat 'n swerm met 8 rame bye tydens vervoer vir meer as 30 minute toegemaak kan word sonder ventilasie. Die probleem sal toeneem soos die standaard van die swerms verbeter.

Diensverskaffer 1; Ons volstaan met ons voetnata op die inspeksie vorm. "Algemene indruk goed. Min te verbeter." Korf no 2 is waarskynlik 'n uitsondering, want die res wat gestamp is het goed voorgekom.

Diensverskaffer 2; Die bye is goed. Dit is egter jammer dat die byeboer nie van die ou rame jaarliks vervang nie. Elkeen wat die aktiewiteit binne die korf verstaan weet dat die bye spandeer baie tyd om die korf skoon te hou. Swerms met ou rame stuur minder bye uit vir veldwerk omdat meer bye benodig word om die ou rame skoon te hou. Tweede heuningkas oorbodig.

Diensverskaffer 3; Met gemiddeld 9 rame bye en 7.5 rame broed is hierdie inderdaad 'n uitstekende besending bye. Soos in die voetnata is afswerming moontlik en 'n tweede heuningkissie (super) moet oorweeg word.

Diensverskaffer 4; Hierdie is ook 'n goeie besending bye. Dit is egter opvallend dat daar minder broed is tot verhouding bye as die van die vorige diensverskaffer. Daar is min te verbeter op hierdie besending bye.

Diensverskaffer 5; Hier is korwe wat Wes front en die bye word ingehok deur die koue wind. Swerms maak oor algemeen nie 'n goeie indruk nie. Swermgrote laer as die soos per Syngenta sowel as WKBV standaard.

Diensverskaffer 6; Soos gemeld in voetnota op inspeksievorm, "swak Piketberg".

Diensverskaffer 7; Hierdie korwe was onmiddelik herkenbaar na verlede jaar se inspeksie. Dit is duidelik dat die diensverskaffer geen bestuur van korwe en of/bye toepas nie. Behalwe dat inspeksie bemoelijk word deur koeke wat skeef in rame gewerk is, is dit onmoonlik om goeie bestuur toe te pas. Huidige wetgewing sal dit ook vir die diensverskaffer moeilik maak om sy bye te behou. 'n Tweede en derde heuningkas is oorbodig. Een van WKBV se waardes is dat die byeboer se handeling en sy korwe moet 'n goeie beeld by die publiek skep. Hier het die diensverskaffer baie om op te verbeter. (Dit is nie hier die geleentheid om daarop uit te brei nie.)

Diensverskaffer 8; Ons wil hier volstaan by die voetnota op inspeksievorm, nl. "algemene indruk

van swerms teleurstellend./ EM en Jan is seker dat bye drie weke gelede in baie beter toestand was. Daar is opmerklik baie dooie bye naby korwe, nie reg voor nie." Nader ondersoek is nodig om vas te stel wat die effek van die stroop wat gevoer is asook die effek van chemie.

Diensverskaffer 9; Van ongeveer 40 korwe met bye is ongeveer een derde geskik as bestuiwingseenhede. Dit was miskien 'n bietjie toeval dat nege van die eerste tien wat lukraak oop gemaak is, swak is. Soos versoek is nog vier geselekteerde swerms ge-inspekteur. Hierdie vier, plus een van die tien voldoen aan die standaard. Indien daar genoeg van hulle by die land is, dan behoort dit die nodige bestuiwing doen. Dit sal raadsaam wees as korf No;9 se bye doodgemaak word en saam met die koeke verbrand word. Die raampies en korf moet daarna behoorlik gesteriliseer word.

Diensverskaffer 10; Met ons aankoms by die land het ons die indruk gekry dat daar bye aktiwiteit is ten spyte van die feit dat die korwe Wes front. Toe ons verneem dat daar dieselfde oggend nog bye tussen die ander afgelaai is, was dit duidelik dat dit meer orientasie vlugte was, as bye wat veldwerk doen. Met gemiddeld 7.7 rame bye en 4 rame broed voldoen die korwe teorties aan bestuiwingsstandaarde. Daar is ook ander faktore wat die funksionering binne in die korf nie moet versteur word nie. Die diensverskaffer het, soos dit hoort, by elke korf twee rame vervang met nuwes. Ongelukkig het hy die broed in drie segmente verdeel en dit was dus vir die bye moeilik om die broed warm te hou. Dus, minder bye vir veldwerk. Dit is moontlik ook die rede hoekom korf 8 en 9 geen broed en geen koningin het nie. Met geen broed is die behoeftes van die swerm laer en sal hul veldwerk onvoldoende wees vir die doel van bestuiwing.

Lw. By "veldwerk" word bedoel bye wat buite die korf werk. Dit sluit die besoeke van bye aan koolplante in die land in.

Ten slotte: Ons aanbod om 'n werkswinkel saam met byeboere (diensverskaffers) en produsente te hou, bly staan. Einde Maart of April is dalk 'n goeie tyd. Dan kan die standaard ook weer bespreek word. Die huidige Syngenta standaard vereis 3 rame broed en 8 rame bye, 'n 1:2.4 verhouding. Dit is onrealisties. WKBV se standaard bepaal minimum 3 rame broed en 6 rame bye. Dit is 1:2 verhouding. Of gemiddeld 4 rame broed en 8 rame bye. Dit is 1:2 verhouding. Uit eie praktiese ondervinding is dit nader aan 'n 1:1.7 verhouding. As ons die 10 produsente se gegewens bymekaar tel, die dooie swerms

uitgesluit, dan is die verhouding 1:1.67.

Ons is dankbaar vir die geleentheid om die inspeksie te kon doen. Ons bly in 'n leerkurwe (nie net inspeksies nie, maar ook van heuningbye) en die inspeksie help daarmee.

GROETE NICO & EM LANGENHOVEN

PLEASE NOTE THAT INFECTED EQUIPMENT CAN ALSO BE STERILIZED BY BOILING IT AT 160°C IN WASTE PARAFIN WAX.

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HEUNINGFEES 2015:

Alle byeboere word herinner dat ons soveel moontlik heuningmonsters soek vir 'n moontlike heuningfees in Maart/April 2015.

6 Potjies van elk word benodig met handgeskrewe etikette vir:

1. Soort: bv. Fynbos
2. Area: bv. Hopefield
3. Datum ge-oes

By voorbaat dank - Nico