2018 Hive Irradiation Event

Fellow Beekeepers,

Spring will be here before many of us are ready for it. So now is the time to make preparations for the arrival of new packages and nucs. If you have dead out hives from this season, before you put new bees in those dead out hives you should consider taking part in the PA State Beekeepers Association hive irradiation sterilization program. The annual PSBA/MCBA hive irradiation sterilization event will be held on Monday March 12th, 2018 at Sterigenics in Salem, NJ. Spending a little money and getting those dead out hives sterilized before putting new bees into them that cost $110 or more would be the first step in keeping your new colony healthy.

The hive irradiation program will safely kill any disease or harmful bacteria in your dead out or used hives that you bought that could harm new bees. You can sterilize boxes, frames, honey comb, and the honey in them. Just double bag any boxes that contain honey/stores as per the instructions on the MCBA website. This program has operated successfully for years allowing beekeepers from OH, PA, NJ, NY, and DE to sterilize second hand equipment and dead out hives and put them safely back in their operation without the threat of infecting new bees in that equipment.

Go to http://www.montcopabees.org/services-resources/irradiation/ for complete details about how to prepare and palletize your hive equipment. You MUST follow all of the instructions to wrap individual boxes or pallets of your equipment. Heavy plastic under sheeting is critical. There cannot be any leaks of liquefied honey from any pallet. Watch the video and read the instructions on bagging boxes with honey and stores in them. You can deliver your equipment already stacked and stretch wrapped on a pallet. Or you take loose hive equipment to Sterigenics and palletize it right there. If you have more than one pallet of equipment, and you have any questions about exactly how much it will cost to irradiate your equipment; there is a post office close by to purchase your money order after you find out exactly how much it will cost to irradiate your equipment.
We will meet at the irradiation facility, Sterigenics International located at 75 Tilbury Road, Salem, NJ 08078 on Monday morning March 12th at about 10:30 A.M.

I suggest that you talk it up among fellow beekeepers and combine equipment to make it more cost effective and economical to take part in the treatment process. If we get enough equipment for 7 pallets the cost will be only $177.78 for a standard 40" x 48" pallet. On one pallet we can pack 42 deep boxes and 6 mediums all with frames and comb which breaks down to treatment cost of $3.70 per box. You can pack 66 mediums on a pallet which would be $2.70 per box to have them treated. That is certainly cheaper than the cost on new boxes, frames, and foundation plus the time, energy, and food resource bees need to build comb.

This is cheap health insurance when you are putting a new package of bees into a dead out hive. If anyone is taking part please let me know by e-mail by the beginning of March. And please pass this on to others.

Sincerely,

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