

# Winter & Spring Feeding...

01/18/2025



## When & How to Feed Your bees

Northeastern Kansas  
Beekeepers Assn

January 2025

Robert Burns

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"Using this presentation as instrument to aid beeHAVERS to become competent beeKEEPERS."

Preparing your Bees for the spring buildup...



Keeping your Bees alive Feeding your Bees...

Dead bees or a honey crop for 2025?

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn

January 2025

Robert Burns

Feed as early as you can if you think there might be even a tiny shortage. No resources coming in but brood rearing is increasing, and thus demand for food is increasing daily.  
Use the best equipment for cold weather feeding.  
"Lifting the morale of a colony."



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Feeding livestock involves providing them with the right amount of the right food to support their health and productivity. The quality and quantity of feed you provide can impact your livestock's weight gain, egg production, colony growth, and reproductive health.

Feed your livestock – your bees.

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Feeding your livestock My mother's Angus cattle herd depend on us the get them through the seasons when there is no grass.

## FEEDING YOUR BEES.....

### IT'S LATE WINTER/SPRING...ARE YOUR BEES ALIVE???

IT'S OK TO POP THE LID AND SEE WHERE THE CLUSTER IS LOCATED



“What we call table sugar, which is the disaccharide chemical named sucrose, is the exact sugar that is in natural NECTAR. The honey bee gathers this nectar, takes it home to the hive, injects it with the enzyme INVERTASE which chemically divides the sucrose into two simple, mono-saccharides, fructose and glucose, and it is these two simple sugars plus minute amounts of other products that make what we call HONEY.

Obviously then, the best feed is sucrose, table sugar, because it won't make the bees sick, give them any disease, or kill them. ”

George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper

## FEEDING YOUR BEES

### ...IN THE HIVE

THE CLUSTER HAS MOVED TO THE TOP OF THE HIVE  
THE QUEEN HAS EITHER STARTED LAYING OR CONTINUES TO LAY A FEW EGGS  
\* RISK OF STARVATION IS HIGH IN LATE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING



IF the cluster has moved to the top and are visible through the inner cover, it might be time to detect if they may need some feeding to ENSURE they make it through the season.



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"Honey is NOT the favorite food of the honey bee! Honey is just a method of winter storage of nectar; and NECTAR is the favorite food of the bee." George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper

"Surprise; Honey is NOT the favorite food of honey bee! Honey is just a method of winter storage of nectar; and NECTAR is the favorite food of the bee. I want to impress upon you here that nectar is very THIN and WATERY; in fact it can be as high as 80% water and only 20% sucrose whereas honey is only about 16%-18% water. Hence, when you feed bees, it depends upon just what you want to accomplish that determines the thickness of the sugar syrup used."

George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper



There is no excuse to not know the status of your colony(ies) by at least checking on them monthly since October....

While we might not be able to open colonies to pull out frames, but you can certainly pop those lids to see where those clusters are and make other judgements.



Do not be afraid to pop those lids in cold weather. It can be a good time to see where the cluster is located and how large it might be. You are not removing frames and making anything but quick observations.

Eyeball as to where the cluster or the center of the cluster is located. There's really nothing more that a beekeeper, especially new beekeepers should be doing in the middle of February for a look at your bees. **Inspected vs. opened.**

There's a difference between *inspecting* a hive and *opening* a hive.

'Inspecting' involves disruption of the bees, removal of the frames *etc.* You're *looking* for something, and if you're not then you probably shouldn't be disturbing the colony.



Colonies over-winter well when protected from wind  
Reverse inner-covers in the fall / Reverse in the spring (shallow-side down)  
Reduce entrances to keep out mice and prevent robbing (September)  
Consider top ventilation



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Your colony will be much calmer if you begin fall/winter preparations in September/October such as applying entrance reducers and, if you have reversible inner covers, getting those reversed with the 'deep' side down for better ventilation. I tend to reverse my inner-covers again in the spring. Deep-side down for cold season and shallow-side down for the warmer season.

On a nice day or even at night, you can check your bees.  
Where they are clustered?  
Are they in need of feeding? Be brief on cold days.  
Monitor the weight by lifting the back of the hive.



Feeding syrup strategically can help:  
Building honeycomb  
Prevent winter or summer starvation  
Encourage brood production  
Allow you to harvest more honey  
Lift 'colony morale'



## Getting Ready for Spring

Briefly open the hive, and check to see how many frames the bees seem to be covering.

Check the hive weight. If light, the hive will need to be fed.

Other tasks:

- Cluster location
- Feeding

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Don't let the bee colony starve.

And brood rearing is now starting to ramp up. I've been weighing some colonies and they've lost more weight in about the last month than they did in the previous three.

If your hives feel light then they probably *are* light. Make notes. Check at least monthly during the late fall and winter season...

## Winter & Early Spring Bee Table

2021/18/10

### Seasonal NE KS & KCMO Area Bee Table

Month & Condition	Flowers in Bloom	Bee Colony Management
January Colony clustered	No blooms this month	Do not disturb except to check on viable colony; check for stores and feed if needed. Brood will begin to be started for the season. Feed if colony(ies) are light. Clean out dead bees at entrance. Cleansing flights will occur on 50F+ degree days.
February Prep for colony buildup	Witch Hazel, Silver Maple, Red Maple	Check for stores, space, disease, feed syrup to stimulate weak colonies. Maple pollen and nectar are generally available by mid-month or later in our area. Bad weather can hamper foraging opportunities. It is common to have a at least a few days of the month with decent weather. Incoming pollen and nectar along with increasing daylight stimulates an increase in brood-rearing as well as demand for food. Be sure to check for stores and feed if necessary/colony(ies) are light.
March Prep for colony buildup	Witch Hazel, Silver Maple, Red Maple, Crocus, Dandelions, other deciduous trees and perennials/annuals.	Reverse brood chambers at beginning of the month. Check for stores, space, disease, feed syrup to stimulate weak colonies. The appearance of drone brood in early to mid-March signals the beginning of the reproductive (swarm) season in April.

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Reversing is a major anti-swarm management tool that you should be using to break up brood chamber congestion which is now considered the number ONE cause of swarming. Age of your queen is considered the number TWO cause of swarming in swarm SEASON. Although it's still winter, typically we can have our first trees with flowers/blossoms in bloom by mid-to-late February; therefore feeding a pollen substitute is not generally necessary. I need to add Witch Hazel to this list as it is not common but generally the earliest of any pollen sources.

## The Beekeeper's Year in a Table Format

The Beekeeping Year	SPRING			Summer			Fall			Winter		
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Region: NE KS / NW MO	The Beekeeper's Year -- Northeastern Kansas / Northwestern Missouri Region...											
Blossoms				Dearth/Robbing	Some Flowers			Dearth/Robbing			Blossoming Flowers / Trees	
Colony Expansion	Colony Population Build-up (+) including Drones			Colony Population Decline (-)				Drones are Expelled	Snuggle Time			
Supers and Harvesting Honey		Supers On	Spring Nectar Flow On	Harvest/Replace Supers	Summer Nectar Flow	Harvest - early Sept						
Mites	Mite Population Build-up						Mites vs Bee Population peaks?					
Mite Treatment		Treat?					Treat?	Treat?	Treat?			
Queens		Queen Rearing	Queen Availability	Queen Rearing								
Colony Activities	Combines	Spring Splits/Increases		Summer Increase Nucs				Combines				
Equipment & Frames	Equip. Preparation	Spring/Summer Frame Rotation					Fall Frame Rotation?			Equip. Clean & Plan	Equip. Preparation	
Feeding	Stimulatory Feeding 1:1								Fall/Winter Feeding 2:1 ratio			

Our regional beekeeping year in table format.

## The Beekeeper's Year in a Table Format

The Beekeeping Year Region: NE KS / NW MO	SPRING			Summer			Fall			Winter		
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<b>The Beekeeper's Year -- Northeastern Kansas / Northwestern Missouri Region...</b>												
Blossoms												
Colony Expansion												
Supers and Harvesting Honey												
Mites												
Mite Treatment												
Queens												
Colony Activities												
Equipment & Frames												
Feeding	Stimulatory Feeding 1:1								Fall/Winter Feeding 2:1 ratio			

Here, we'll just concentrate on the feeding table.

New packages and nuc should be fed at least 8 weeks to be established for their first season ...at least until both brood boxes have been drawn out.

I like to feed my swarms a couple of quarts after hiving them in order to give them a great start even though they are already stimulated to build wax.

It really gives them a boost. Wild swarms could only be so fortunate.

### SPRING STIMULATION

- In early March, I switch to 1:1 syrup ratio ... or weaker...(use less sugar)
- Simulates a nectar flow & promotes wax building. Builds bee morale.



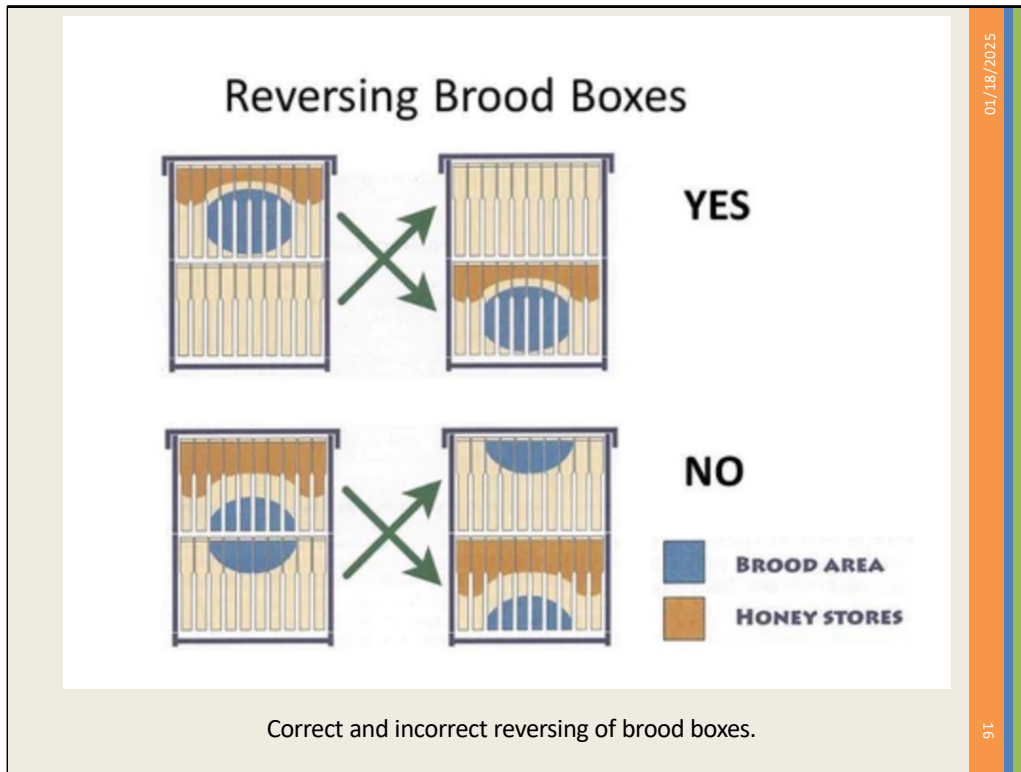
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“Too many people think a bee colony is like their bay fishing boat, where you bring it back home on the trailer in October and just sit in your back yard until the weather warms up in April. Honey bees are alive, active, and EATING 365 days of the year, and maybe YOU have to help them get through the winter.”

George Imirie. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper.

Feeding is important for influencing the growth of the colony in springtime



An additional method of stimulating bee colonies to expand...Graphic from Texas Bee Supply blog ... <https://texasbeesupply.com/blogs/beekeepers-blog/reversing-brood-boxes>

Consider reversing brood boxes. Generally speaking, you might find the majority if not all your bees have migrated upward to the top box during the winter, consuming honey. If this has happened to your hive, reverse the brood boxes. Place the box full of bees on the bottom, and the empty box on top.

You might consider feeding a quart of syrup just before (a few days) you make the reversal.





Bees can starve anytime during the year...

OK Time to stop being Mr. Nice Guy. I'm seeing too many beeHAVERS in Facebook discovering that their bees are dead! Have you INSPECTED your bees in since October? Here are some of the reasons for feeding bees:

- 1) Installing packages in the spring.
- 2) To assist colonies in drawing out comb.
- 3) To add to the total of stored food going into the winter.
- 4) To add medication to a hive.
- 5) To build up smaller colonies such as swarms or nucs.
- 6) For queen rearing starter and finishing colonies. YOU, could have prevented these deaths if you just were better EDUCATED in successful beeKEEPING.

This is easily done by attending meetings where bee scientists and Master Beekeepers are the speakers or demonstrators; and by reading UP-TO-DATE books...



Silver Maple Buds – February 15, 2022 . Found bees collecting pollen the next day.

“Feeding of bees is a necessary and important activity for a beekeeper to properly manage his bees, so a conscientious beekeeper should thoroughly understand all the differences of feeding.

Feeding is a morale booster for a colony, gets bees ACTIVELY doing "things", calms them, and, of course, improves their overall health."

George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper.

Maple Trees will soon be in bloom. The start of another season.



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Since pollen is the sole source of PROTEIN in a bee diet, the first pollen found by flying worker bees on a warm winter day from such flora as maples or witch hazels or willows signals the colony that spring is coming. Natural pollen tells the colony to 'kick brood production" into high gear. The lengthening of the day light hours and the sun is also a big influence. The bees' calendar after all is the sun.

“Go ahead, HATE me for saying it; but most winter deaths are caused by INSUFFICIENT food, WEAK hives entering November, ... and POOR TIMING in varroa mite kill; and You, and I repeat YOU, could have prevented these deaths if you just were better EDUCATED in successful beeKEEPING.”...George Imirie

**“I wish someone would explain to me the opposition or resistance of the average beekeeper to feeding his bees sugar syrup. It has been PROVEN (not guessed) that sugar syrup is a BETTER winter food than honey, and never causes any gut problems to a bee that some honeys do, particularly fall honeys”.**

*George Imirie, George Imirie's PINK PAGES*

George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper

As quoted by Bob Binnie in his YouTube presentation on Feeding Bees.

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## George Wady Imirie Jr.

**BIRTH** 27 Aug 1923  
**DEATH** 6 Aug 2007 (aged 83)  
**BURIAL** [Rockville Cemetery](#)  
 Rockville, Montgomery County, Maryland, USA [Add to Map](#)  
**PLOT** Section 1, 176, Site 4b  
**MEMORIAL ID** 21993868 · [View Source](#)

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Photo added by [Grave Man](#)

**George W. Imirie Jr., 84; Beekeeper Extraordinaire**

By Patricia Sullivan  
 Washington Post Staff Writer  
 Saturday, October 6, 2007; Page B05

George Wady Imirie Jr., 84, a master beekeeper who tirelessly promoted the value of bees and beehives, died of congestive heart failure Sept. 6 at the Casey House in Rockville.

As a beekeeper since 1933, Mr. Imirie knew enough about the stinging insects to brave the swarms at his Rockville home without the usual head-to-toe beekeeping garb.

He also helped run his family's auto parts business. (By Tom Allen -- The Washington Post)

**See more Imirie memorials in:**


- [Rockville Cemetery](#)
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Added by [Jim Hitchcock](#)

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FindaGrave.com. George W Imirie Jr. 08-27-1923 - 09-06-2007 (aged 83).

## George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper

I love Find-a-Grave.com. You can learn a lot about a person through their on-line memorial.

Far more than stings, Mr. Imirie worried about the decline in bee colonies over the past several decades, infestation of the wild bee population by mites, and the level of knowledge and skill of those who keep apiaries.



In February, be sure to check your bees at least every other week to ensure they have enough stores to make it through. Even if flowers (tree blooms) are blooming, that doesn't mean those flowers are producing enough nectar to sustain your hive. 1:1 syrup helps stimulate brood rearing while 2:1 syrups are best for bees to store for winter.



### Types of feeding:

- **Contact feeding**
  - Accessible in cool and cold weather and better for emergency
  - Need empty box
- **Rapid feeding**
  - Ideal for spring thru fall but not necessarily in cold weather
  - Tray above the hive
- **Frame feeding**
  - Looks like brood frames
  - Need to access by opening the hive

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Types of feeding: Contact Rapid. Frame. Know the difference. Contact feeding is my preference as I can use it all year long. Other equipment is mostly seasonal and for warm winter. Bees won't break a cluster to go to a tray. Equipment is an investment whether you are using an empty box as equipment or a tray like a top-feeder.

### FEEDING YOUR BEES & USING SYRUP

- Use feeds of good quality white sugar for syrup – most natural stimulatory feed
- Cane or Beet Sugar? Sucrose is Sucrose
- Avoid feeding honey to bees due to risk of disease (brood bacteria)
- Use the right method, time, and feeder type for the feeding task
- Do not spill or leave open (feeding) syrup to avoid robbing
- Hot water and stirring help to dissolve all the crystals when making syrup
- Use a 1:1 ratio (by weight) for spring feeding to stimulate wax building and growth



No matter how you are feeding, avoid open feeding and spilling syrup to prevent robbing and waste. Avoid feeding honey unless it's your own, disease-free supply. What is sugar (table sugar) anyhow?

Table sugar, also known as granulated sugar, is what comes to mind when most people think of sugar. It's made from **sugar cane and sugar beets**. Chemically speaking, table sugar is sucrose, a disaccharide that is a 50-50 mixture of the mono-saccharides glucose and fructose. Guess what? What is nectar made of? Nectar is basically a sugar solution composed of **one disaccharide (sucrose) and two hexoses (glucose and fructose)**. The three common nectar sugars are glucose, fructose, and sucrose, but traces of various others....  
Source GOOGLE

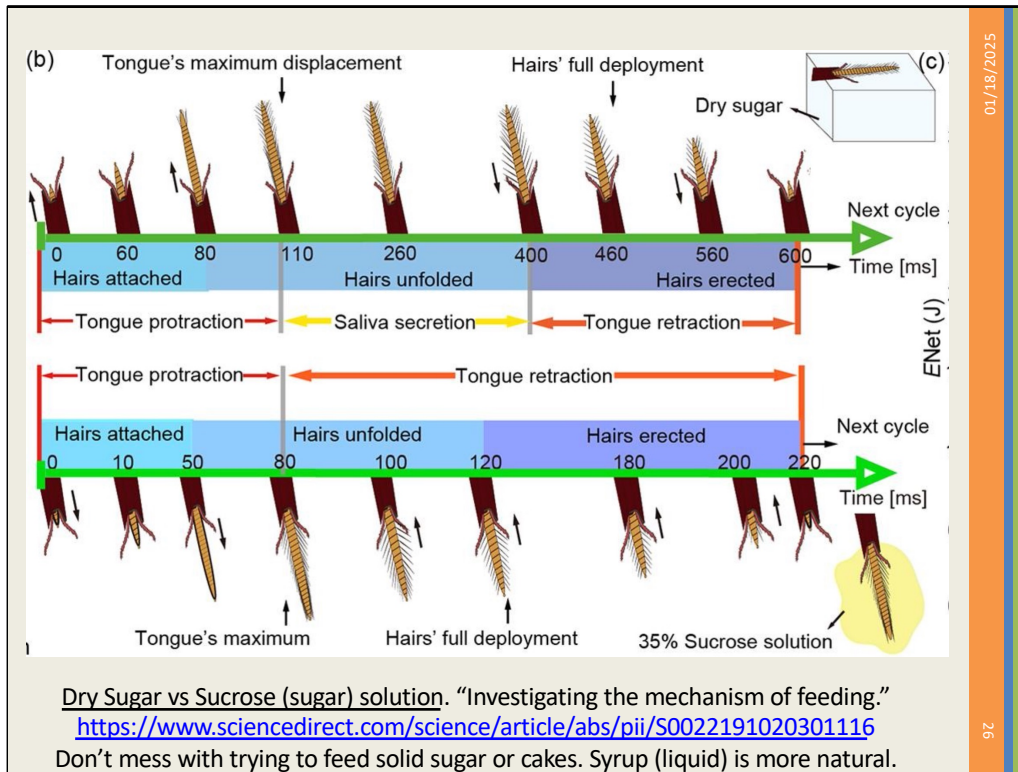




Early 2022 Prices...at least \$1.00 more in 2025

“As cheap as regular table sugar is in the grocery store,... It is WELL KNOWN, and scientifically PROVEN, that bees winter BETTER on heavy 2:1 sugar syrup than they do on honey, because honey sometimes causes diarrhea whereas sugar never causes diarrhea. In summation, plain table sugar is the best feed for honey bees, and you vary the concentration of the sugar depending on what you are trying to HELP the bees to do.”

George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper



### Dry Sugar vs Sucrose (sugar) solution.

Don't mess with sugar cakes or trying to feed solid sugar. What's more natural is (liquid) syrup. Syrup provides immediate intake as well as fluid in the form of water. Remember this point that bees need a tremendous amount of feed in a hurry.

"...natural selection has forged their tongue structures primarily for a liquid diet. We observed that, when honey bees are accessible to both dry sugar and liquid nectar, they prefer to feed on the latter." "The theoretical net energy intake rate of feeding on dry sugar is 50% lower than when feeding on sucrose solutions..."

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0022191020301116>



Don't mess with sugar cakes or trying to feed solid sugar. It was necessary for me to save a neighbor's colony while they were on their annual monthly trip to an international resort.

. "By February, the bottom brood box should be EMPTY of everything, particularly BROOD, and the bees are working in the top body and getting close to the hole in the inner cover. It is the perfect time to REVERSE those brood bodies, because bees always want to go UP, and rarely down. Hence, you slide out the bottom body and simply put it up on top of the other deep brood box or on top of the other 2 medium brood boxes."...George Imirie

**Sugar syrup ratios we use:**

**1 part sugar x 1.25 to 1.5 parts water**

**best for brood and comb building  
without gaining excessive weight (highly  
stimulating, elicits hygienic behavior)**

**1 part sugar x 1 part water**

**best for colony building, still stimulating  
(good for growing packages and nucs, what  
we use the most)**

**1.5 or 2 parts sugar x 1 part water**

**best for late summer into fall for putting on  
weight with minimal moisture in colony**

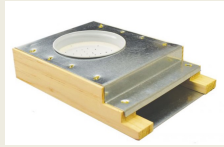
Feeding Bees Part 1 of a four- part series. A detailed look at how and why we feed our bees pollen substitute and sugar syrup including tips on feeders, feeding techniques and much more.

Again, mentioning reversal of brood boxes.

"The feeding pattern of a honey bee was previously defined as "lapping", which refers to reciprocating movements of its glossa entraining nectar by the glossal hairs.

However, bees would also directly suck nectar with glossa keeping protracting and staying still ." Wei et al.

## BEE FEEDING EQUIPMENT



Feeding equipment comes in a variety of styles and categories. All beekeepers are different and have differing ideas on what is the perfect way to take care of their bees.

George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper

“Basically there are five different feeding systems known and I will give my opinion of all of them:

1. Entrance Feeder (Boardman Feeder): Throw it away! It invites robbing, and bees cannot get to it when it is chilly, much less COLD.

2. Division Board Feeder: I refuse to use them' because they drown a lot of bees, they occupy the space of a good brood frame, and mainly, the hive has to be opened to the weather to refill or to inspect. Further, the bees can NOT get to it if it is real cold.

3. Hive Top Feeder: A fine feeder in WARM weather, but bees can NOT get to it when weather is cold. This feeder is useful for feeding large amounts of HEAVY SYRUP for winter stores if the weather is still above 50° and bees can fly. However, I do not like it for feeding LIGHT SYRUP which is sometimes done in cold weather, and bees can drown in it in warm weather. It is popular with some beekeepers, but I don't like it.

4. Baggies: These are ziplock, sandwich bags filled with sugar syrup placed on the tops of brood frames with knife slits in them for bees to feed. Again, you have to open the hive in the cold to add more, and the possible breakage and flooding scares me.

5. A glass or metal jar with about 4 tiny frame nail holes punched through the lid inverted over the inner cover hole, and that enclosed by an empty deep body is my choice of feeding technique. “



AGAiN; Using this presentation as instrument to aid beeHAVERS to become competent beeKEEPERS.

Prevented these bee colony deaths by being better EDUCATED in successful beeKEEPING. That's why you are here at this meeting. You MUST understand that this early feeding to get the heavy brood rearing that is necessary to get a heavy yield of honey is also going to cause SWARMING problems!

Here too, most beekeepers lack knowledge about swarm control, There is a LOT of work for the beekeeper in February, March, and particularly April.

George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper.



George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper

"Bees need a tremendous amount of feed in a hurry, remove the inner cover and invert 4 of these jars right on top of the frames. Unless you have too many holes in the lid or holes that are too large (any size exceeding 3/32" is too large), there is little chance of any leakage, the holes are VERY close to the bees, the cluster heat warms the syrup, and the syrup is well protected from robbing. When these jars are inverted, a non-scientist might think the syrup would just run out of the holes by gravity. However, it does not because the vacuum created in the jar as some syrup is removed by the bees holds the syrup securely in the jar. This is exactly the reason that you can NOT use plastic jars such as milk containers, because plastic will collapse, releasing the vacuum, and the syrup will simply run into the hive.

**USE ONLY GLASS JARS OR METAL CANS for feeding."**



Restricted feeding: Which lid and amount of holes should you use? THAT is exactly the "tease" that you want to give the bees to promote brood rearing and lift colony morale. You want to "make the bees work" to get some of this light sugar syrup, so you never use a hive top feeder or a division board feeder, or "baggies" with large cuts in them; but use a jar inverted over the inner cover hole that has only 3-5 tiny holes in the cap. These holes should not be any larger than 3/32". You don't I want to "drown" the bees with sugar syrup, but delicately feed them!



## About that syrup:

Honey bees will not drink syrup that is **too cold**. Once the temperature of the syrup drops to a certain point—somewhere in the low 50s°F—the bees would become chilled if they were to drink it. Imagine how you would feel downing an icy beverage when you are nearly immobile with cold.

Of course, it could be a false alarm. Perhaps the feed is too far from the cluster, poorly positioned, or just too voluminous for them to keep warm. You will have to make a decisions based on what you find.

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Can syrup get too cold to feed? There plenty of "warm periods" to take advantage of and feed when necessary in winte and early spring...

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/when-a-colony-refuses-to-drink/>



If there's any doubt about feeding liquid syrup, try a towel, rag, or even an old t-shirt. Still, this may not work in an extreme cold situation.

## Tasks to learn & do:

NOW and throughout winter/spring:

HEFT and feel for weight & stores

- 1) Judge cluster size & location
- 2) Reverse hive-bodies with 4-5 days of predicted good weather (never split brood)

Early to Mid-March:

Population build should be apparent  
Increase? Honey goals? More bees?

By February, the bottom brood body should be EMPTY of everything, particularly BROOD, and the bees are working in the top body and getting close to the hole in the inner cover. It is the perfect time to REVERSE those brood bodies, because bees always want to go UP, and rarely down. Hence, you slide out the bottom body and simply put it up on top of the other deep brood box or on top of the other 2 medium brood boxes. Just be quick about it.

## Superbly Populated- (late March) GOOD candidate for increase/swarm

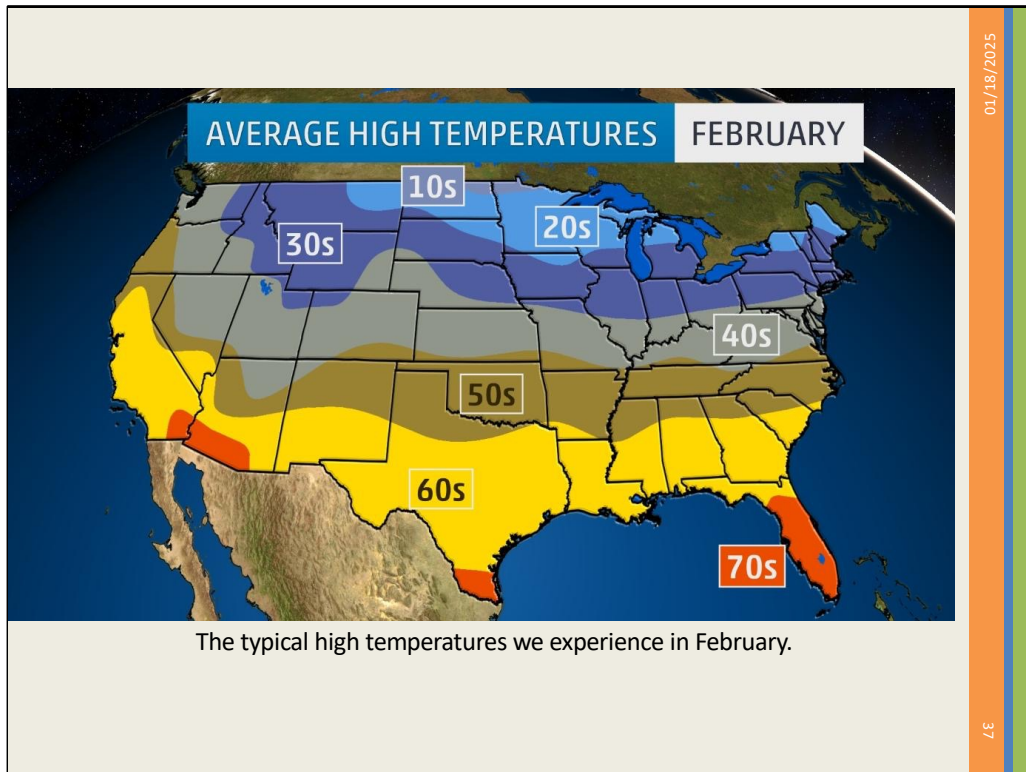


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Now, your queen has empty space to move UP into, and YOU have empty comb space for the bees to install the FEED that I hope you are feeding them.

REVERSING is considered by most experts the Number One swarm control technique, but it is an "art" and cannot be explained in just a few words. I have just given you the FIRST step of reversing, and it should be done in late FEBRUARY or very early March. So-called SWARMING season is that short period right after the dandelion bloom and a good nectar flow commences. However, bees will not swarm until they have mature drones available, which in our area is generally @ April 10<sup>th</sup> or after...that's when the serious swarm season begins.



Our average high February temperatures for the continent...

## More information through your local beekeeping associations:

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers since 1948 (KS local)

**website:** <http://www.nekba.org>

Kansas Honey Producers since 1903 (KS State Beekeepers)

**website:** <http://kansashoneyproducers.org>

Midwestern Beekeepers since 1947 (MO local)

**website:** <http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org>

Your associations for local and state membership and information. Bee clubs or associations are a good support to help struggling beginners. You also already have taken the step of taking a bee class like this one. Consider furthering education opportunities like the NEKBA Bee FunDay event and a day-long event such as with the state beekeeping group.

More information and other sources available on the NEKBA Website:  
**website:** <https://www.nekba.org/presentations.html>

**PUBLICATIONS - LIST of Contents**

1. Handbook of Small Hive Beetle from Clemson Cooperative Extension ([.pdf download 1.9MB](#))
2. Queen Rearing Brochure from Univ. of Arkansas ([.pdf download 792KB](#))
3. Feeding Bees Sugar - Best Practices Fact Sheet from UK Government ([.pdf download 358KB](#))
4. Best Practices Guidelines: The Essence of Beekeeping from UK Government ([.pdf download 390KB](#))
5. Best Practices Guidelines: Bee Improvement (raising queens yourself) from UK Government ([.pdf download 274KB](#))
6. Best Practices Guidelines: Spring Checks from UK Government ([.pdf download 755KB](#))
7. Managing Small Hive Beetles, Jon Zawislak, Univ. of Arkansas, Div. of Ag. ([.pdf download 424KB](#))
8. Small Hive Beetle: A Potential Pest in Honey Bee Colonies in Oregon, Dr. Dewy Caron, et al ([.pdf download 835KB](#))
9. MAAREC Small Hive Beetle Fact Sheet-Revised 2015 ([.pdf download 379KB](#))
10. 2019 [Veto-Pharma.com](#) January 2019, 2nd Edition, Varroa Guide - USE ([.pdf download 4.3MB](#))

\*Veto-Pharma is the maker of ApiLifeVar, which is available from Mannlake ([www.mannlakeltd.com](http://www.mannlakeltd.com)). Api Life Var - 10 pack (Contains 20 Wafers) An alternative product for Varroa treatment. Up to 95% efficacy, most effective when the temperature range is 65° - 95° F (18° - 35° C).

NEKBA website as a resource of information... **website:**  
<https://www.nekba.org/presentations.html>



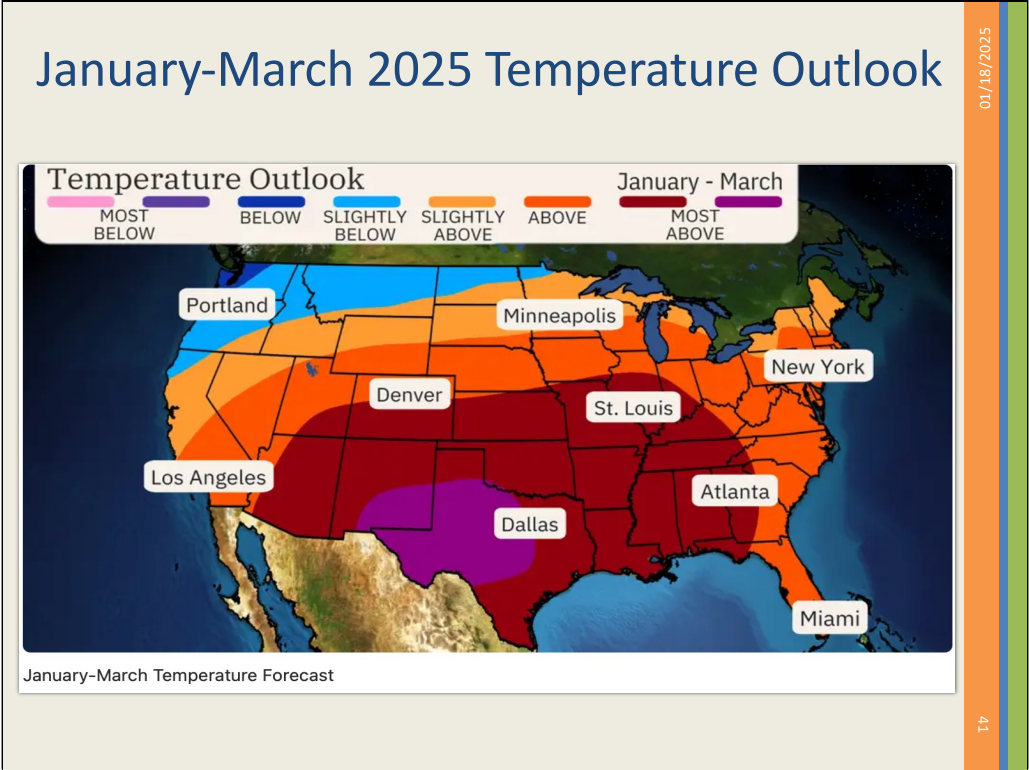
**Feeding is a delicate balance.**

**“The number one mistake I see newbies making is feeding too much.”**

**- Kristi Sanderson....NEKBA  
Special Events Coordinator, KHPA  
VP State Fair, and double Master  
Beekeeper**

Keep in mind that you're going to need to try some sort of swam control. Reversals of brood boxes and queen replacement (young queens don't tend to swarm).



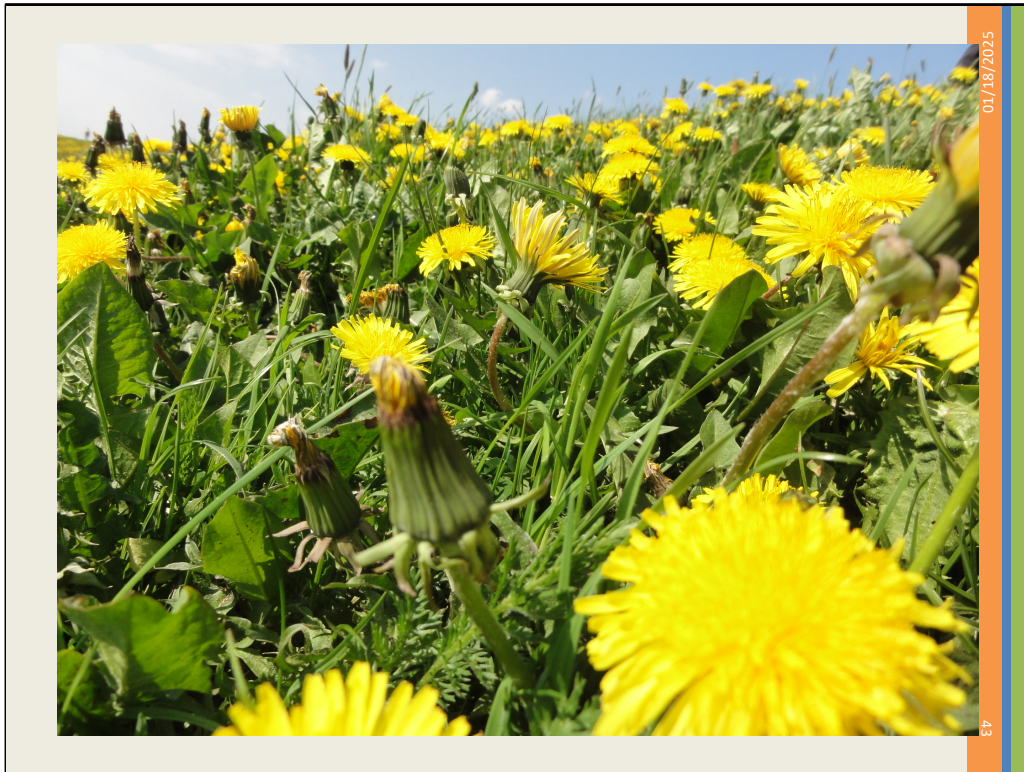


**\*Spring forecast 2022\* First look at Spring shows the Jet Stream to extend the Winter weather patterns, under the influence of the La Nina**

# CAUTION: Feeding has consequences DISCUSSION



There's more to learn about swarm control and prevention...



Start feeding 1:1 sugar syrup to your bees in EARLY MARCH to get your queen laying; and then start swarm control. DO IT AGAIN AS SOON AS THE JARS ARE EMPTY and keep feeding until dandelions bloom.

George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper.

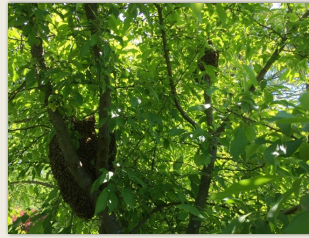
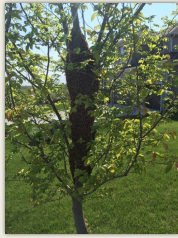
## About this presentation:

This presentation is meant to provide information on feeding sugar to honey bees. Most times in nature this is not necessary.

But with our managed honey bees, when there is a dearth of nectar or where honey is removed as a crop, it is often necessary to replace the honey or supplement what remains to ensure our bees' survival.

Can syrup get too cold to feed?

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/when-a-colony-refuses-to-drink/>



# 100% Pure Honey

- ▶ Pure
- ▶ Unfiltered
- ▶ Raw
- ▶ Local
- ▶ Beekeeper
- ▶ Honey

# Robert Burns

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Keeping Bees for 50 years 1973 - 2022  
Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association  
Kansas Honey Producers' Association

Thank you!

Recognizing the start of my 5<sup>th</sup> decade with bees.... Thanks for your attention today! My hope is you'll find this information helpful and enlightening. Good luck with your new adventure with the bees. If we have run out of time, I apologize for making this program so lengthy. I'll be available later for questions. Hope to see you at our monthly events like our meetings and Q&A sessions. Thanks again



01/18/2015

We all know what they might look like after this month's weather event....

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Did YOU have an UPPER ENTRANCE to allow HUMIDITY to escape the colony? Was the colony protected from northwest winds? Did the colony SLOPE FORWARD so rain or snow could drain out the front door?

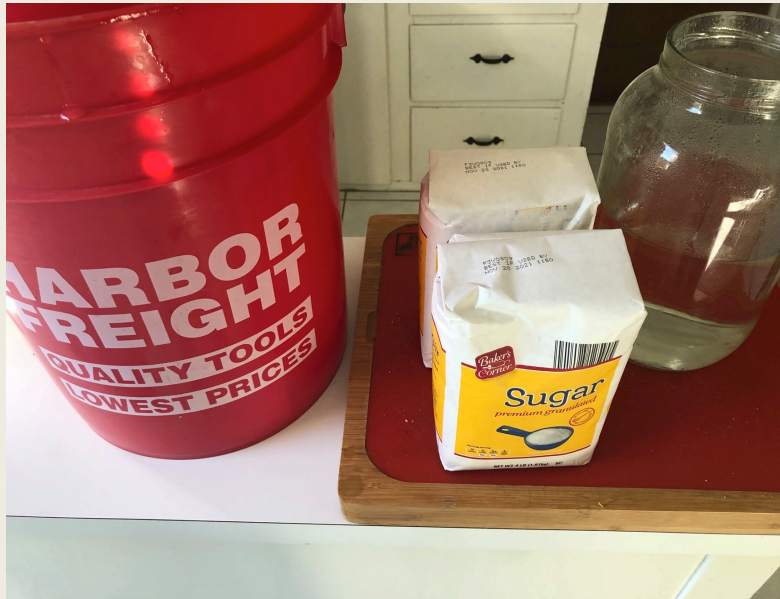
George W. Imirie, Jr. Certified EAS Master Beekeeper.  
act as an insulator.

Snow can

Refined beet and cane sugar are pure sucrose and, of course, are safe and nutritionally equivalent.  
There are no better sugars than pure sucrose.

(Considerations in Selecting Sugars for Feeding to Honey Bees American Bee Journal, February, 1977, Vol. 117 (2):76, 77)

Fall/Winter Ratio 2:1 by weight    Gallon of Water = 8 lbs    Therefore ½ gallon = 4 lbs (water) : 8 lbs Sugar (sucrose) @ 2 qts  
Spring/Summer Ratio 1:1 by weight    Gallon of Water = 8 lbs    Therefore ½ gallon = 4 lbs (water) : 4 lbs Sugar (sucrose) @ 3.5 qts



Feed bees with a purpose: 1) prevent starvation and or 2) stimulation. Over-feeding can cause a condition known 'honey bound' and induce swarming. Feeders should be cleaned and sterilized between feedings. Mix enough syrup for immediate use only. Any syrup with evidence of fermentation or that has a sour taste should be discarded and replaced.

Feeding of bees can be a necessary and important activity for a beekeeper to properly manage one's bees, so a conscientious beekeeper should thoroughly understand all the differences of feeding.





...No matter how you feed...

**TIPS:**

1. Avoid open feeding/spilling
2. Prevent robbing
3. Avoid feeding honey



Honey bees are alive, active, and EATING 365 days of the year, and maybe YOU must help them get through the winter. FEEDING is your HELP for your bees!