



AUGUST 1 IS **HONEY BEE NEW YEAR** AND IT'S TIME TO TREAT AND FEED!



As August 1 is the start of the next bee year it's time for resolutions. Your resolution should be to care for your livestock so as to successfully overwinter your colonies. To make your Honey Bee New Year's resolution come true you need to take the **SEVEN CRITICAL ACTIONS** outlined below. Start in July, not in October!

N	umber of mites is key to hive health – Test and count once a month from June thru October using alcohol wash or sugar shake. Goal = 3 per 300 bees (1%) by late August/early September, 6 per 300 bees (2%) by October (when fewer mites are in the brood cells).
E	xpect to treat for mites in late July/ early August – If any hive has a count >3 per 300 bees (1%), which is a near certainty, then you need to treat all your colonies. I treat all hives and nucs with Apiguard thymol gel for four weeks once honey supers are off by early August. Fumigants work well in the summer (Apiguard or ApiLife VAR) as do Apivar and repeated treatments of Oxalic acid vapor. Treating with Formic acid (MAQs or Formic Pro) can be problematic due to high heat. Hopguard 3 is less effective in large, populous hives with lots of brood still present.
W	atch out for Robbing! – Put on robbing screens before the dearth starts. Most years the honey flow starts in mid June and the dearth starts by late July. Make sure all hives are sealed tight so that the only way that bees can get in the hive is over the screen. Screens will also help defend against wasps & hornets. Watch out for honey spillages and discontinue aromatic feed stimulants (Honey Bee Healthy or ProHealth) to cut down the likelihood of robbing.
Y	uge feedings of pollen sub patties builds strong hives – Make 'em sloppy! – Feed pollen substitute from late August to mid September to boost protein levels in the colony (this will ensure the production of healthy bees for overwintering) and will actually delay the emergence of diutinus/winter bees which is a good thing. Minimum of 4-5 pounds per double deep hive, 6 pounds is even better. I give them 2 pounds every 7-10 days between the brood boxes. You'll find that those soft "sloppy" patties are inhaled by bees during the dearth.
E	gging on the Queen – Feed a gallon of sugar syrup (1:1 or 1.5:1) in early September to encourage brood production in all colonies. If she isn't laying well then requeen with a nuc.
A	dd honey stores to light hives – by feeding heavy syrup (3:2 or 2:1) or transferring excess frames of honey from other hives or storage in September. Your goal is for each hive to have 60-80 pounds of honey stored by November. The upper brood box should be nearly full of honey and it should HURT when you try to lift it!
R	repeat varroa treatments in September or October – if a hive has a count >6 per 300 bees (2%). Mites are often carried back to the hive by your bees that are robbing out collapsing "mite bomb" hives in the vicinity. Possible late fall treatments include Apivar, MAQs/FormicPro (single strip), Oxalic vapor, Hopguard 3. Things that won't work this late include brood interruption and drone brood trapping/removal. For detailed written and video guides go to: https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/