

Beekeepers Calendar: September

The year is starting to wind down. The queen has drastically reduced her egg laying and the hive is making its last foraging push before winter. If weather permits, sample colonies for varroa mites one final time in mid-September. It is not unusual to have a spike in varroa mite populations during this month as surrounding hives collapse from varroa infestations and mites migrate into your hives (called the “mite bomb” effect). Treat accordingly, and make sure you follow the label instructions if there are still honey supers on the hive. Harvest any extra honey produced during the fall honey flow and remove empty/partially filled supers by mid-September. Extract only ripe (capped) honey. Partially filled supers should be fed back to the bees above the inner cover, or uncapped nectar/honey can be extracted and fed back. Reduce entrances and feed heavy (2:1) syrup, or frames of honey to hives low on stores. Take measures to prevent robbing. Make plans to attend the virtual MSBA Annual Meeting on October 17th.