

## **Beekeepers Calendar: January**

Bees will spend most of the month in tight cluster. When the weather is above 40° they will move to new areas of the hive and take cleansing flights. Gauge food levels in wintering colonies by lifting one corner of the hive and feeling the “honey weight.” On warmish days (above 40° with no wind) you can quickly peek through the hole in the inner cover to see where the bees are in the hive and assess their food reserves. After every snow storm, make sure to clear entrances to allow for proper ventilation. Spend some time during this quiet part of the beekeeping year purchasing, assembling and/or repairing equipment. Catch up on beekeeping periodicals you set aside during the busier season. Sign up for beginner and intermediate beekeeping courses offered by county extensions, bee supply businesses, adult education or local beekeeping associations. Order packages or nucs for late April-June arrival.