

Comments from the 2017-18 Hive Loss Survey:

1 hive was drowned had a catastrophic failure with a candy board somehow it liquified still trying to figure that one out...
1 out of 2 hives did well. The surviving hive left because they ran out of room in their hive. Very few signs of mites
1st hive died very end of December. Sent bees in for autopsy. 46 mites per 100 bees. Have not received results from 2nd and 3rd hives.
After having traditional Langstough hives for many years, we have converted to top bar hives, using the plans provided by Les Crowder. We love them! If managed correctly, they appear to winter well on less honey and are much easier to work. A hive can be built for about \$20 worth of materials with just a simple skill saw. An expensive extractor is not needed to harvest honey or special frames for comb honey. Seems like a better alternative for new back yard beekeepers who can't afford the startup equipment. But for some reason, NHBA discourages their use.
bees acted like they couldn't raise brood so they went into winter with old bees..hives looked strong going into winter but they died off so clusters were small. Small honey crop
bees didn't collect much honey - smallest crop ever. saw DWV
Border nh and Connecticut river
Do you find that buckfast bees are able to over winter well?
First year I wrapped the hive in tar paper and put a burlap bag filled with leaves in a super on top.
First year using a warre hive.
Going to take a break this year.
had two abandoned hives this year. No bees at all from formerly robust colonies. Full frames of honey, untouched sugar blocks and winter patties. Confusing.
have 2 locations in warren - this is the Studio road location
I believe that 4 of the 6 hives I lost had older queens,
I built new hives of 2x stock with improved ventilation and a quilt box with canvas and pine shavings
I did not contribute data or numbers from my mating nucs that I wintered. All data submitted was from colonies and nucs on standard combs residing
I did not get to the survey last year (2016-17). That was my first winter loss in first 5 years as I lost one of my two hives due to starvation
I have Apimaye hives
I have lost all of my hives over the past 3 years. Considering stopping being a beekeeper .
I have slovenian hives in a beehouse.

I may move my hives into a shed during the winter to protect them from the cold- not sure how to do this or whether it is a do-able idea?
I plan to split and "break the brood cycle" in late April/early May
I started with one hive last spring. It swarmed 3 times in August and we caught the swarms each time. I did not treat because it was queenless for a length of time due to the recurrent swarming thus breaking the brood cycle.
I think it would be interesting if we could hear a life's history in beekeeping from Ben Chadwick.
I treated for mites in late August. Used a closed bottom board but left front entry 2/3 open. Had a 2" spacer at top of hive with 3/4 inch hard insulation. Used a commercial bee wrap sleeve for the first time. Had combined one of the three hives in late summer because it was weak. This is my first successful over-wintering??
I treated my hive for Varroa mites twice. Once in August and once in September. I winterized the hive using 1 inch ridged foam insulation around the hive, and also under the top cover. I used an extender between the inner cover and the super. in the extender area I put in pine needles to help absorb moisture. I also made the top hole of hive, along with the bottom 1 inch hole were left open for ventilation. This process seemed to work well.
I will not be restarting a hive this year (2018)...have developed a severe anaphylaxis reaction to bee venom
I would like to see the NHBA/clubs get more involved with asking our legislators to create a bill to protect the beekeepers. Also - some people address the need to a full time bee inspector.
I'm not sure yet on the status of my queens, but the hives are alive.
Just completed my fourth year, each year has been different. Last year I made up some nucs and had them raise their own queens. Those are the three nucs alive today!
Last year was our first summer with bees. Our first hive was thriving, but was decimated by a bear in early July. The bear ate all the brood and the queen. We bought a new nuc, but the timing wasn't great for the second hive to get established and thrive.
Many NH and VT beekeepers told me there was no way that my italian bees would survive winter. I'm really happy to have proved them wrong. I think it's very hurtful for experienced beekeepers to discourage new beeks in this way.
My hives were wrapped in tar paper, and shimmed up the inner cover for ventilation.
N/a
N/A except my guilt about the one hive where mositure got in--totally my fault
New beekeeper but had help from a seasoned keeper.
No
No

No
No
No
No
No, I am just a novice, its a weekly learning experience.
Nope!
Put 2:1 sugar: pollen sub mix on top of newspaper sheet, on top of top frame in Feb/Mar/Apr because of cold temp
Right now, during the last flying day about three weeks ago, all my hives were alive. I still think it is a little premature to say I haven't lost any - my fingers are still crossed. I have about 16" of snow slowly melting. There's a high of 36 expected today (3/25).
Screened bottoms Top screened shim with fondant candy board. No insulation Left 6 full mediums on each hive. (brood + capped honey)
several experienced beekeepers in 03827, 03833 lost all their hives in the PREVIOUS winter, so we were all starting out in 2017 season with new packages (or nucs)
slight problem with yellow jacket robbing; but hives were strong enough to keep them at bay, but it did seem like there were more yellow jackets than usual
Started with two hives last April. One hive died off within 6 weeks. The remaining one is going strong.
Sugar shakes mite levels were below treatment levels. My hives seemed to swarm more often and later last year.
Thank you
Thank you for your research!
Thank you. Please make these results available.
The bees swarmed but believe they went down the road to a neighbor that had lost his bees.
The food was amazing, again
The hive that died did have DWV. It was a bit discouraging that despite treating there were still so many mites. Besides MAQ's in August. I did 4 OA vapor treatments in the fall.
The hive was a swarm from Landaff that we originally had in Dalton Nh then moved to Northumberland in late August.
The two nucs were lost in November. My surviving 13 were moved to Florida, so I completed the survey answering only for the two fall losses. Thanks Heather for taking the time to put this together.
There needs to be more support for 1st year beekeepers so we can succeed and make it to the next year.

To do differently: I overwintered in 4 mediums and wish I'd moved 2 hives to 3 mediums. Bought a hive top feeder to bulk feed next fall. Will not use MAQS again.

treated for mites at end of july

Vast difference seen and survival rate between southern packages & the northern, over wintered nuc from Vermont. NUC is only remaining hive..

we do not wrap our hives,nor do we use the moisture boxes. we put our sugar boards on in the end of nov. so we do not have to open them up in cold feb. our bees are under a pavllion 10x20 open on all sides with a clear roof for the sun,we wrap up the sides 4 feet with tarps and leave two feet up near the roof line in case they come out on warm days during the winter months.

We have a new colony and really want to help them survive this winter.

We really need to have a state inspector again.

Why are you asking me the EXACT same questions as in the 1st survey? You asked for more info about my overwintering techniques and then repeated the 1st surevey. Waste of both of our efforts.

Winter patty may have melted on to clusters

Would like more technical speakers, with proven results.

Wrapped my hive in ridged insulation. Left the entry open using hardware cloth as a guard.

Yellow wasp took out the bees in November

You may consider asking if the bee keeper uses any organic treatments for mites. I do you use the powdered sugar treatment in the fall 1-3 x per hive