



## SEASONAL NOTE No. 1

*Autumn (August / September / October)*

*Theme: Preparation for Winter*

### **DISEASE TESTING**

*Adult Diseases:*

- *A good time to check for acarine and nosema*
- *Taking a sample of bees (See overleaf)*

*Varroa:*

- *Most members no longer need to treat their bees for varroa mite. Booklet "A beekeeping regime that facilitates varroa tolerance in honeybees", copies from Association at €3.*

### **UNITING COLONIES**

- *Weak or queenless colony*
- *Disease free / only one queen*
- *Newspaper method successful*

### **REQUEENING**

- *High success rate at this time of year*
- *Introduction via cage normally satisfactory*

### **EXTRACTION OF HONEY CROP**

- *Clear bees and remove supers*
- *Check stores, immediate feeding may be necessary*
- *Extract honey as soon as possible*
- *If returning wet supers, do so in late evening; robbing?*

### **WINTER FEEDING**

- *Take precautions against robbing (See overleaf)*
- *Strength: 4kg sugar made up to 5litres with water*
- *Commercial hive 18kg (40lb) / National hive 14kg (30lb)*

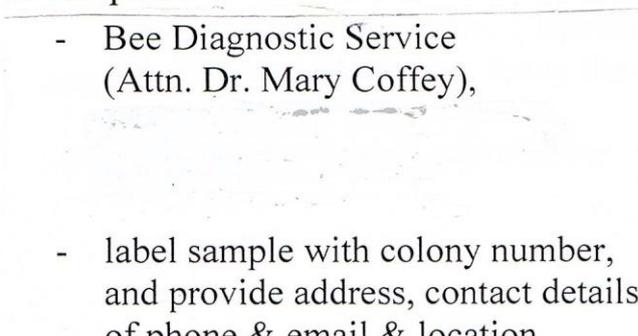
### **VENTILATION**

- *Ensure ventilation compatible with colony strength*

### **HIVE CONDITION**

- *Watertight*
- *Roof secure (stone on top!)*
- *Mouse guard*

## Taking a Sample of bees

- Testing for adult bee diseases:
  - nosema, acarine
- Collect sample of old bees at:
  - landing board
  - outside frames of brood box
- 30 bees in a match box
  - a window in the match box helps to confirm the size of the sample
- Send samples to:
  - Bee Diagnostic Service (Attn. Dr. Mary Coffey),  

  - label sample with colony number, and provide address, contact details of phone & email & location.



## Precautions Against Robbing

Robbing is much easier to **prevent** than **stop** once it has started.

- No spilling of syrup or exposing honey combs
- Reduce size of entrances
- Feed at late evening(including 'wet' supers) / all hives together
- All equipment must be bee tight
- Keep colonies open for the minimum time during manipulations
- Keep strong colonies (give nucs particular attention)
- Keep colonies disease free