

EAS MASTER BEEKEEPER ORAL EXAM IMPROMPTU QUESTIONS 2018:

#1 From a First Year beekeeper:

A new beekeeper calls in a panic because he is sure his bees are about to swarm. He describes a large number of bees clustered on the front of the hive both above and below the landing board. Hurriedly, he also texts a photo. What advice would you give him?

- Explain bearding and why it occurs
- Check for fanning at the entrance
- Describe methods for increasing ventilation – open up entrance reducers, increase the size of upper entrances, install/open screened bottom boards, place a small block on back edge of inner cover, below telescoping outer cover, to increase upward, cross ventilation of hive
- Describe swarming as a normal, natural reproductive event of healthy colonies seasonally each year, much less likely with a new colony and a young queen...although not impossible!

2 From a small-scale beekeeper friend:

“I was excited to read in my local newspaper an article about bees, written by a non-beekeeper. The article was describing varroa mites and the problems beekeepers are facing. One paragraph, however, described what beekeepers are doing about the mites and was filled with completely incorrect information. What should I do? “

Possible answers you might get:

- Could contact the author and offer to discuss the topics in the article, thanking them for their interest in the plight of the honey bee
- Could contact the local newspaper and explain the impact of inaccurate information
- Could offer to write future articles for the newspaper
- Could offer to speak at local organizations the author belongs to such as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, or any place this person has influence. (Run interference on this 😊)
- Could just ignore it because most people would not understand, and to quote Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, ‘You can’t tell anyone anything anyway’.

#3 From the Press, specifically, a TV REPORTER!

“Our TV station is going to have a segment about using honey bees for almond pollination. Tell me 4 things about the commercial pollination business.”

Answer should include 4 things from the following list:

- Contract or agreement between beekeeper and growers
- Pollination (short definition- to include that bees MOVE pollen from the male part of the flower to the female part of that flower or another flower)
- Pesticides- (short discussion)
- Mowing- (short discussion)
- Payment from an (almond) grower for colonies of bees in the orchard
- Moving hives
- Timing of bringing hives into AND out of the orchards
- Size and condition of colonies
- Hiring honey bees has the potential to double a (almond) growers crop