

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



Ed Markus, Editor 421-4296
466-4296 ejmarkus@fidalgo.net

March 2009

Board Members:

William Markus, President	630-5086 or 661 0452	Mary Pat Larsen, Secretary	708 0337
Alerd Johnson, V President	293-7953	Dianne Dong Treasurer	848-9006
Bruce Bowen, Board	422-5146	Robert Castillejo ,Board	856 -1774
Charlie Langseth, Honorary Board	293-6853	Greg Fagot, Board	854-0424

We will meet at the Skagit Farmer's CENEX offices, our usual space, just north of Burlington proper. We meet Thursday evening, April 9th at 7 o'clock.

For this meeting, President Bill just informed me he is putting together a small panel to present and discuss mite controls for our area. He intends to cover as many opinions and facts as possible, including current chemical controls to more natural and less intrusive methods.

Bill got the results of WSU testing done on his bees and the WSU bees. His showed low mite loads and some nosema. He has excellent survival The WSU bees, even with treatment, were loaded with mites and only 3 of 10 hives are alive now.

The first take away message here is that testing is available to all of us. You have been sent the forms. You can test for mites! If you are concerned with nosema, feed,, feed! It helps your bees outrace nosema. It is easier on your bees than medication and cheaper. Protein patties or syrups are the ALL-BRAN of beekeeping!

• Having these food sources help pass the nosema spores out of the bees digestive tract. They also allow for spring build up during our current cool weather. My bees are building.

• I want to share again that I'm trying Mega-Bee pollen substitute in syrup in jars. I was told by Michael Cook that it was too thick as per label instructions and settled out of solution. Even 1 cup/gallon is too thick for the small holes poked in my gallon pickle jar lids. So I will try a bit bigger holes before I drop the dilution again. I will say the bees take the mixed syrup more slowly, in most cases, than regular syrup which the control hives are sucking down rapidly. That means, I think, less syrup, a bit slower hive growth, which is fine and some nosema control hopefully. Ed

Cookies A—M

This newsletter is on-line.
Please e-mail your e-ddress

