

THE BEELINE

Founded 1908

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December 2005

President's Message

by David G. Smith

Too bad that the Oct/Nov weather did not continue a bit longer. The bees really enjoyed the warm temperatures. But winter is now upon us and what you did with your colonies since July will determine their survival - provided you do all the correct things between now and April. Just do not let them starve in the February/March time-frame. Also, do not forget the benefits of using fondant when the weather is cold. It is an easy way to feed. And, if a colony needs feeding, ensure you feed all in the apiary, not just one colony, to try to prevent robbing. The November issue of *Bee Culture* has an article on both the subjects of wintering and feeding.

If you have not already done so, I suggest you review the results of beekeepers over-wintering their colonies during recent winters. Check the MAARECA web site at the following page:

<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/pdfs/MAARECSurveyP RELIMAA.pdf>

More important, I would ask that you participate in the MAAREC survey by answering the questions regarding your own experience, either for the 2004/2005 winter, or wait until April and then submit your 2005/2006 results. Log on to the following site:

<http://web.survey.psu.edu/beekeeper/>

Dr. Dewey Caron needs your help in quantifying the impact of current beekeeping practices on over-wintering.

MAAREC held a meeting this October at the University of Delaware. The main topic of discussion was the Africanized bee and its potential impact on beekeeping in this part of the country. MSBA was represented by Jerry Fischer, Bill Troup and I. If you want to see the progress of this bee in its migration within the US, log on to the MSBA web site and check the link to the USDA site. It is

an informative map that identifies the location of Africanized colonies by year and state. Africanized bees are now in Florida and the map will be updated the end of the year to show their arrival there. Why should you be interested? There are several factors that will bring Africanized bees to this area. The major factors are commercial beekeeping that transports colonies through our states, our purchase of packages from southern states and our purchase of queens from southern states. As a result, the Africanized bee may be here before too long and we could be impacted. MAAREC is working on a *Procedure for Responding to Bee Spills* in order to proactively address any adverse impact from such a swarm. I have a 26-minute VCR tape on the "Home Owners Guide To Safe Handling of Honey Bees," should you desire to use this in your local educational efforts.

At the annual meeting in October the membership approved the design of a honey-jar label. Printers are being contacted for bids and the labels should be available for purchase at the February meeting at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Questions? Contact Lloyd Luna.

Enjoy the coming Holidays and best wishes for a bountiful honey crop in 2006.

beekeeper@closecall.com



***MSBA Winter Meeting
February 18, 2006***

***Howard County Fairground,
Friendship MD***

***Additional information
Inside***

MSBA Annual Dues are due!

Please see the membership card info enclosed in this mailing. Use the membership card to update your mailing address or contact the MSBA Treasurer with any changes to your address.

**Winter Meeting:
February 18, 2006**

***Howard County Fairground,
Friendship MD***

The MSBA Executive Board is working out the details of the agenda and speakers for the MSBA Winter meeting. Full details will be announced on the MSBA website in January as the details become available.

The February meeting is typically the best attended meeting we have, and generally features renowned speakers on topics vital to our local beekeeping interests. Vendors also have had an increased presence at this meeting.

Please reserve this date on your calendar. Start time is anticipated to be 9am.



MSBA PROPOSED HONEY LABEL



At the October 15, 2005 MSBA meeting, members approved the printing and distribution of a new label for honey containers. The one and one half inch, self adhesive, glossy label depicts a green map of Maryland, golden honey comb, encircled by a black and white rope, or line for the nautically inclined, inscribed with MARYLAND HONEY.

Three separate companies have submitted cost estimates ranging from \$.0388 to \$.0634 each in quantities of 20,000 or 25,000. When details are finalized, we expect to distribute them at MSBA meetings, and perhaps through county beekeeping organizations. Our goal is to have the labels available at the MSBA Winter meeting at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

Please contact Loyd Luna at 410.757.5797 or willuna@erols.com for additional information



MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION

NEWS FROM THE APIARY INSPECTORS OFFICE

Jerry E. Fischer Sr, State Apiary Inspector, Maryland
Department of Agriculture
Phone: 410-841-5920 Cell: 410-562-3464 Fax:
410-841-5835

E-mail: fischeje@mda.state.md.us

APIARY STATISTICS: To date this year, there were 987 registered beekeepers, with 8,333 colonies in 1,337 apiaries. This is NOT the actual number of beekeepers and colonies, as there were approx. 290 beekeepers with 400 colonies that was not re-registered in 2005.

To date, apiary inspectors have inspected 4,138 colonies in 591 apiaries. Inspectors spent additional time, assisting beekeepers with education of hive manipulation, mite surveys and other related problems.

The essential purpose of inspection, American Foul Brood (AFB), was found in 74 colonies, in 40 apiaries during year 2005. This is 2% of colonies inspected. The percentage remains lower than the National Average, due to the working relationship between the beekeepers and the Inspection Department. It is recommended that beekeepers inspect their colonies at least two times a year, SPRING & FALL.

For apiary inspection requests, contact the inspection office (number above) or direct to your County Inspector.

For the second year, we have three MD. beekeepers sending 2,500 colonies to the west coast for Almond Pollination. This shows the essential importance of honey bees and is a huge benefit to our MD. beekeepers and the industry. This was also a huge task on the inspection program the past three months.

COLONY CONDITIONS: Even with the high number of colony losses last winter, beekeepers, with the purchase of packages and nuc's, brought the state numbers back up to and above last year's numbers. The first part of the year was unpredictable in most areas for honey yields, but some areas

received excellent flows. This did not show in the State and County Fairs, as all had below average entries. Honey yields dropped during September being the driest month since the major drought of 2002. With October being the wettest OCT. on record, giving us good ground water and warm temperatures the first of November, the fall nectar flow should have been a welcome for fall surplus honey stores. Check colonies, and if there is not sufficient stores, feed till you have at least 60# winter surplus.

Due to the major hurricanes in the southern states this year, a lot of bee producers (packages – queens) lost some of their operations, which will have an impact on the availabilities of these units. Survey for losses and plan your priorities for 2006 and ORDER EARLY.

VARROA & TRACHEAL MITES:

VARROA MITE is a parasite that can be seen by the naked eye and effects the honey bees in all stages (larvae – pupa – adult). Populations were very low the first half of the year. Second half showed a much higher infestation level, and brood problems (virus) were attributed to these mites. The Varroa mite often has been found to be resistant to Apistan, which has been the primary product used to control this parasite. The Maryland Department of Agriculture has requested and received a SECTION 18, SPECIAL EXEMPTION (from EPA) for the use of Check-mite + (Coumaphos) and API LIFE VAR to control Varroa Mites. There are several products available that are SECTION 3 for the use on VARROA. When using these products, use only as recommended per label.

TRACHEAL MITE is an internal parasite that infects the respiratory system of the adult bees. Tracheal mites have not shown much of a problem in the year 2005.

SMALL HIVE BEETLE (SHB): The SHB was detected in packages this past year. Apiaries were recommended for treatment to ensure successful control of the beetle. SHB has been reported or detected in eight (8) counties in 2005. There has not been any report of larvae or damage to established colonies. The SHB is a pest mainly in stored equipment and in honey houses,

MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION

although it can render honey in the hive, unfit for human consumption.

NUC PRODUCTION: It is essentially important that any one producing NUC'S for sale (even in state) contact the Inspection Office prior to March 1st, 2006. To protect the purchaser and the industry, all apiaries of NUC production and final NUC's must be inspected prior to pick-up. If you purchase a NUC in state, see that it contains an inspection certificate.

ETHYLENE OXIDE FUMIGATION

(ETO): ETO is a sterilizing gas mixture for the treatment of contaminated equipment of AFB. There were 21 loads of equip. fumigated this past year. The fumigated equip. worth a value of \$17,924.23 if the beekeeper had to replace with new. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will be operating the fumigation chamber during the coming winter months. The fumigation chamber is used to decontaminate beekeeping equipment that is confirmed or suspect of infestation with AFB. It is recommended that all equipment, confirmed, suspect or of unknown origin be treated with ETO prior to placing in service.

To request service, contact the APIARY INSPECTION OFFICE: 410-841-5920 or 410-562-3464

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE (MDA) OPEN HOUSE:

At this time, the existence of MDA Open House 2006 is in question. There will be a meeting in December to discuss MDA'S Spring schedule. Two major programs in the spring may cancel out the Open House.

I will inform you as to the out come and the details at the February Meeting.



Mark your calendars:

COMING EVENTS

The following events were announced at the MSBA Board meeting. Locations and details to be announced. Please note that the dates may be tentative and subject to confirmation of location approvals:

MSBA MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2006

February 18, 2006 - Howard County Fairgrounds

March 2006 - Maryland Department of Agriculture Open House (UNDECIDED)

June 3, 2006 - Chesapeake Community College

November 11, 2006 - Maryland Department of Agriculture

Vendors are welcome at meeting. Please notify Carol Johnson, President or David Morris, Secretary one week prior to meeting date. It is requested that vendors donate an item to be a door prize when attending MSBA meetings.

Upcoming

Local/ National / International Meetings:

2006 ABF Convention: Wednesday, Jan. 11, through Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Louisville Hotel in Louisville, KY

EAS 2006 will be held July 31 - August 4, 2006 at Young Harris College in Georgia.

37th Annual Convention of the American Honey Producers Association
January 10-14, 2006

Hilton Houston Westchase and Towers
Houston, TX



2005 Annual Honey and Honey Cookery Show Winners

**The following were the Blue Ribbon winners
at the annual honey show:**

Champion ribbons went to:

Division I Honey products
Lloyd Snyder Granulated Honey

Division II Bee Related Arts and Crafts
Steve McDaniel Photography

Division III (no champion ribbon offered)

Division IV Honey Cooking
Cybil Preston Honey Banana Bread

Best in Show (Lindner Award) went to Nancy
Troup for her gift basket.

Many thanks to our judges:

Bill Troup, Senior Judge
Bart Smith
Cybil Preston
Adele Morris
Alan Fiala

and to our volunteer assistants:

Loyd Luna
Doris Luna
Sandra Dowling
Nancy Troup

and to Christine Goldsmith, MSBA Treasurer,
for writing all those checks.

Hagerstown Valley Apian Society won the
Best Club Showing Award.

We only had 82 entries this year, and disappoint-
ingly, no entries in the Youth Division (Div III)

Start planning now for entering the show next
fall and especially for encouraging young bee-
keepers to start beekeeping and entering into
next years Youth Division.



HONEYFIELD APIARY

2006

NUCS - TO - GO

*THE FIRST APIARY IN MARYLAND TO PRESENT THIS
CONCEPT*

**COMPLETE NUC-TO-GO
\$80.00**

FOR THE 2006 SEASON, OUR
NUCLEUS COLONIES ARE AGAIN SOLD IN
"ONE WAY" NUC BOXES.
ONE TRIP PICK-UP & NO FRAME EXCHANGE

A \$40.00 DEPOSIT, PER NUC, IS REQUIRED
WITHIN 10 DAYS OF PLACING YOUR ORDER.
PLEASE STATE FRAME SIZE (DEEP OR
MEDIUM) WHEN ORDERING.

WE WILL CALL YOU WHEN YOUR FOUR
FRAME NUC WITH A NEW, LAYING,
MARKED QUEEN IS READY FOR PICK-UP.
(APRIL, MAY, JUNE)

WHEN YOU GET YOUR BEES HOME, YOU
INSTALL THEM IN YOUR EQUIPMENT
A SHORT INSTRUCTION CLASS WILL BE GIVEN WHEN
YOU PICK UP YOUR NUC.

*WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDING QUALITY NUCS
FOR OVER 15 YEARS.*

**CALL OR E-MAIL NOW FOR
NUC RESERVATIONS.**

BILL AND NANCY TROUP
CERTIFIED MASTER BEEKEEPERS
10618 HONEYFIELD ROAD
WILLIAMSPORT, MD 21795
E-MAIL: BEESTROUP@RCN.COM
301-223-9662

**WE CARRY A FULL INVENTORY
OF EQUIPMENT FOR ALL YOUR
BEEKEEPING NEEDS.**

INSPECT YOUR BEES WHEN THERE IS SNOW

How do you know your bees are alive? Do they have enough food? Is the queen laying brood? Will there be enough foraging age bees present in the May nectar flow? Will there be enough nurse bees present in late March and early April to feed all these future forager bees?

"But George, it is SUPER BOWL Sunday and it snowing hard outside on top of the 8" we got on Tuesday! How can I inspect bees when it is freezing and there is 10" of snow on top of the telescoping cover of the hive?"

Are you one of those beeHAVERS that don't know that most Northern hobbyists and even some commercial beekeepers keep their bees outside just like yours in the cold and snowy Montana, Minnesota, Maine, CANADA, and even ALASKA? They might have snow on top of their hives continuously and below freezing for several months, rather than just a few days! Just being COLD, even at 20 or 30 BELOW zero does NOT kill bees, and they can even raise the cluster temperature to 95 degrees so the queen starts laying eggs in these cold outside temperatures! They don't need a furnace like your house to warm the whole hive. They just need FOOD that they can get to, and they will make their own warmth after eating; and after warming the bee cluster, they will feed the queen and prepare cells for the queen to lay brood. All you have to do is make sure that they are NOT low on food supplies, and this is easy!

Surely, NOT for a beginner or novice, but veteran beekeepers can get a fair estimate of food supplies by "hefting" a hive to see about how heavy it is. Then, brush the snow off the top and remove it, and look into the inner cover hole. If the bees are right up in inner cover hole, start to worry, because this might indicate that they are VERY short on food supplies and need immediate help. If it is snowing, windy and cold, you should not remove the inner cover and check any further. Just quickly prepare a gallon of 1:1 sugar syrup in a jar and invert it over the inner cover hole, so the bees can get a very quick feed. During the next 15 days, one of those days might get to 50 degrees in the sunny afternoon, take from work, and inspect your bees. That would be a good time to move outer frames of honey over to the center frames position so the bees again have plenty of food ABOVE them. It is also a good time to REVERSE your brood chambers (see George's PINK PAGES about reversing).

I want you to think strongly about some things that I continually mention: You can NOT tell if your bees are alive by looking at the bees flying in and out on a warm day, because your bees may be DEAD and the bees you see are robber bees robbing out the honey in the colony. You MUST go INSIDE your colony to inspect it! Remember that your colony can NOT make a good honey crop unless it has a lot of foraging age bees ready to go out and forage when the nectar flow is in progress; and that means the egg that produces this forager must have been laid by the queen 40 days before it can go foraging! Also, remember that there must be a lot of NURSE bees present to WARM the colony and to feed the brood that will later become forager bees; and hence feeding 1:1 sugar syrup back in February and March to stimulate queen laying may be desirable.

INSPECT YOUR BEES IN FEBRUARY!

Good Luck!

George W. Imirie,
Certified Master Beekeeper

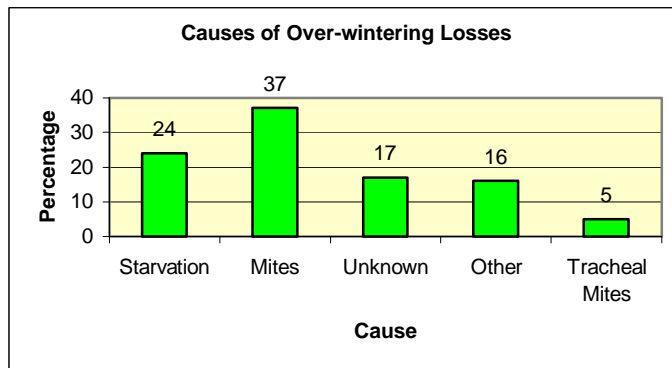
(Reprinted from George's Pink Pages available on the internet.)

MAAREC Beekeeping Survey - Preliminary results MD

Dewey M. Caron & Elizabeth Burdick, U of De
Presented at MSBA Summer Mtg [see MAAREC.cas.psu.edu website]

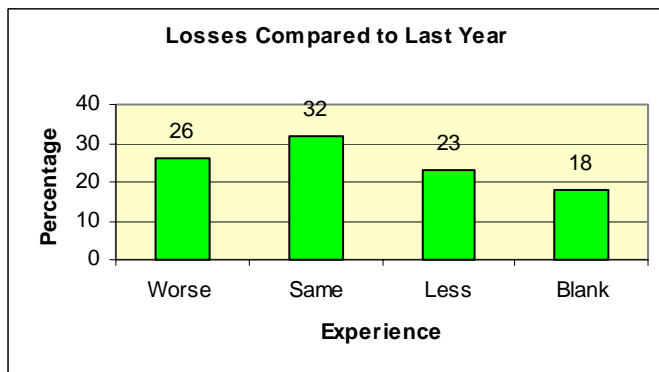
We have received almost 200 responses from MD beekeepers - about 1/3rd of total mailed. Beekeepers with from 1 to 50 years of experience [median 10 years, mode of 5 years] sent surveys back. Beekeepers ranged in age from 18 to 88 years old; median 57 and mode 62 years old. The total number of colonies maintained by respondents was 1,726 [range 0 to 200 colonies, median number of colonies 3 and the mode 2 colonies].

We asked about winter losses in our survey form. There have been a number of stories on the TV, radio and in the newspapers about past season winter losses mostly as related to shortage of pollination colonies in almond this spring. In our survey 87 (45%) of MD beekeepers did not experience any colony losses over the winter. There were however 627 colonies reported lost over the winter; about 36% of the total number of colonies. Beekeeper median loss was 1 colony. About 93% of those deaths, attributable by respondents were due to mites (37%), starvation (25%), 17% were of unknown causes, 5% were from tracheal mites and other causes for an additional 16%. [See graph below]



In the survey we asked beekeepers to compare this past season with the previous winter (2004) when Jerry Fischer, based on returned mandatory registrations, stated that there was an estimated 50% loss of bees in Maryland. Compared to that winter about 26% responded that they had experienced greater

losses, 32% of the respondents responded they had the same amount of losses as last year, and 23% of the beekeepers had better success this year. A large number, 18% left this question blank (see graph below).



Our survey asked a number of questions about measures to deal with mites. 65% of the beekeepers did use chemicals to treat for Varroa mites and 35% used non-chemical methods. 55% of the beekeepers preferred Apistan to treat mites. 21% used Coumaphos, ApiVarLife

was used by 11% and 12% said under the "other" category they used Checkmite, Honey- B-Healthy, oxalic vapor, thymol, and sucroicide.

Without the use of miticides around 41% of the beekeepers though they would have experienced the same level of losses, 11% of the beekeepers thought their losses would have been 5 to 25 % more, 19 % of the beekeepers thought their losses would have been 25 to 50% worse and an equal percentage, 14% in each category believed that they would have had an additional 50 to 75% or 75 to 100 % greater loss without the use of miticides. The remaining 58% of the total number of respondents skipped this question.



MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION

FDA APPROVES TYLAN SOLUBLE FOR THE CONTROL OF AMERICAN FOULBROOD IN HONEY BEES

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved TYLAN (tylosin tartrate) Soluble for the control of American foulbrood (*Paenibacillus larvae*) in honey bees. This is the first approval for the use of TYLAN Soluble in a minor species (honey bees).

TYLAN Soluble, a product of Elanco Animal Health, a division of Eli Lilly and Company, Greenfield, Indiana, is already approved for therapeutic uses in chickens and swine and production uses in turkeys.

TYLAN Soluble is the second approved new animal drug for honey bees that controls American foulbrood (*Paenibacillus larvae*). FDA reviewed extensive data to ensure the product met all necessary effectiveness, animal health, human food safety, and environmental standards. Studies were conducted by USDA's Bee Research Laboratories. FDA has concluded that the honey derived from honey bees fed tylosin tartrate is safe when the animals are fed according to the approved labeling.

Additional information on this approval may be obtained by contacting Joan C. Gotthardt, D.V.M., Director, Division of Therapeutic Drugs for Food Animals, FDA, Center for Veterinary Medicine, Office of New Animal Drug Evaluation, 7500 Standish Place, HFV-130, Rockville, MD 20855, 301 827-7571; E-mail: jgotthar@cvm.fda.gov.

SNYDER'S APIARIES

(410) 329-6671 or Email – SnydersApiaries@ClearviewCATV.net

	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & UP
Hive Body [HB]	\$15.60	\$14.90	\$14.20	\$13.20
Hive Body w/Wood Frames	\$23.20	\$22.30	\$21.40	\$20.55
Hive Body w/Pierco Frames	\$32.00	\$30.70	\$29.40	\$27.80
Illinois Super	\$11.75	\$11.20	\$10.65	\$10.10
Illinois w/WoodFrames	\$19.35	\$18.60	\$17.85	\$17.10
Illinois w/Pierco Frames	\$26.45	\$25.40	\$24.40	\$23.40
Shallow Super [SHL]	\$11.35	\$10.80	\$10.30	\$9.80
Shallow w/Frames	\$18.95	\$18.20	\$17.50	\$16.80
Telecovers \$17.00	Inner Covers \$7.75	Bottom Boards \$12.00		
Top Feeders \$12.00	Slatted Racks \$12.00			
	1 - 10	50 - 99	100 - 499	500 & UP
All wood frames	\$0.80	\$0.76	\$0.72	0.69
Pierco Products	1-49	50-100	101-1000	>1000
Hive Body Snap-In Waxed	\$0.89	\$0.86	\$0.83	\$0.79
Illinois Snap-In Waxed	\$0.81	\$0.78	\$0.75	\$0.72
Hive Body Frame Waxed	\$1.64	\$1.58	\$1.52	\$1.46
Illinois Frame Waxed	\$1.55	\$1.47	\$1.40	\$1.33

We also have Wired, Duragilt & Comb Honey foundation.

PACKAGE BEES & QUEENS

As in previous years we have available a limited supply of 3-pound packages of bees. The packages are made up with young high quality Italian bees. Packages received over the last 9 years when installed on foundation, with proper care, drew out two hive bodies of wax and with a good honey flow one to three shallow supers of honey were harvested from these colonies.

The packages will be available for pickup on Saturday, April 8, 2006. A 3-pound package with an Italian queen is \$55.00 each or \$57.00 each with a Russian queen. Queens are also available for pickup the same day at \$13.00 each for an Italian queen or \$15.00 each for a Russian queen. There have been NO Small Hive Beetles reported in the area of my supplier.

Orders MUST BE PLACED by MARCH 29, 2006 for delivery Saturday, April 8, 2006.

We have lots of other beekeeping equipment in stock and available for pickup or shipment to you. So if you need any other beekeeping supplies give us a call or send us an E-mail and we can give you prices or send you a more complete price list.

PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

I t's all the B uzz!

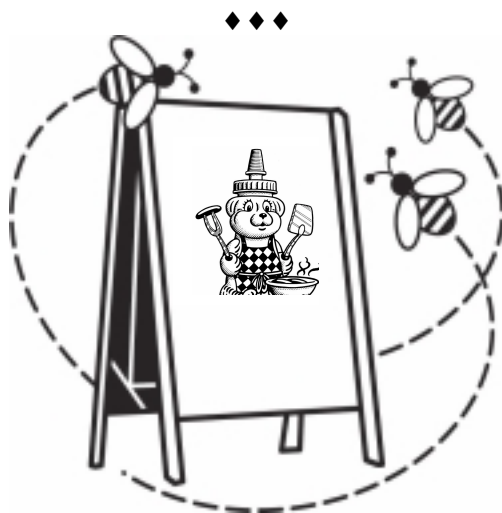
November Avg Retail Honey Price: \$3.86/lb
(per National Honey Board)

DARN TOOTIN'

It was 150 years ago that Massachusetts beekeeper J.C. Stoddard patented the calliope. Fond of the sound of locomotive whistles, Stoddard affixed 15 of them of varying sizes to a steam chest, with a music-box cylinder to open the valves. Though his hometown quickly banned it, the calliope became the signature sound of riverboats and circus parades. Quite the inventor, Stoddard patented a hay rake in 1879 and a fire escape in 1884. He died in 1902.

Maryland Beekeeping Data for 2005

Registered Beekeepers	1,283
Number of Colonies	9,152
Number of Apiaries	1,638
Beekeepers with Greater than 50 Colonies	25
Beekeepers with less than 5 Colonies	1,120
Members of MSBA	485



POLLINATION?

by David Smith

Have you been thinking of getting into the pollination business? In some respects it is becoming more attractive each year. At least one individual is offering free transportation and over-wintering of your colonies for California pollination.

Here is some current information from the December 2005 issue of American Bee Journal: **ALMOND INSURANCE SCARE**, by Jim Robison

"Just wanted to let you know that a new scare tactic is being used by the insurance companies that cover the almond crops. It seems that they are telling growers that if they don't rent 2 hives per acre that their insurance coverage will be impacted. While this may be good for our industry, it will surely have a negative effect on relationships. The up side is that I have quoted \$150 per hive rental fees for the 2006 bloom. Some growers don't like this, but accept it as the price of doing business.

I tell all my clients that there is a two-fold benefit from our bees. A higher yield will offset the price, plus we are a 100% tax deduction on the following year. The down side is that more growers will elect to drop their coverage and rent no bees. Now with this new issue a third benefit can be added."

Perhaps some Maryland beekeepers will consider forming a consortium and by pooling their resources take advantage of the free-shipping arrangement and send a thousand or so colonies to California. A side benefit of wintering bees in California is the potential reduction in winter losses. Jerry Fischer reports that three of Maryland's biggest commercial beekeeping operations have already shipped their bees for this years' pollination season. Think about it.

◆ ◆ ◆

MARYLAND STATE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION

2006 MSBA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

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Talbot: Winslow Womack (410) 745-9589

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Wicomico: Dean Burroughs (410) 546-2910

Worcester: Wes Townsend (410) 641-1030

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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

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APPALACHIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

President: Jerome Cassidy Telephone: (301) 334-8631

ASSOC. OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND BEEKEEPERS

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President: Scott Seccom Telephone (301) 725-6185

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Season's Greetings



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