

Wintering down!

1 Check varroa mite treatment. (Strips-7 weeks, 49 days, - 2 brood cycles- Worker 42-Drone 48 days)

- a Check 24hr. natural mite fall (mesh base) Alternative treatment: Summer-Formic acid
- b Sugar shake Winter -Oxalic acid

2 Check Brood

- a Eggs? – Queen lying!
- b Open capping's, check larvae for AFB (If positive Report within 7 days)
Brian Taylor Asure Quality Website: www.afb.org.nz
- c Fork-out and remove drone brood

3 Reorganise frames (carefully)

- a Brood cluster in the middle
- b Pollen
- c Honey on the outside

4 Check winter food

- a For a 2 super hive – 1 top super honey.
- b No surplus honey? – **Feed!!** Top feeder syrup- 2kg sugar + 1L water, (3 litre syrup)
- c Weak hive – Unite with strong hive. Newspaper in between, strong hive on top!

5 Hive care

- a Reduce entrance, reduce robbing ----- Strong hive: about 100mm – Weak hive: 10-15mm
- b Roof cover insulation ----- Polystyrene foam 10mm (minimal)
 - 1 Metal roof cover (commercial) ----- Need insulation!
 - 2 Timber/metal roof cover ----- Preferred, + Insulation.
- c Hive position
 - 1 Full sun, year round, sheltered. ----- Move hive: 1m/day ok.
 - 2 Place hive off the ground ----- Pallet / bricks or concrete blocks
 - 3 Tilt slightly forwards. ----- Water run-off.
 - 4 Ventilation ----- Use open mesh floor, don't leave check board in!

6 Spare honey super storage—(Wax moth safe)

- a Clean your “Wet” honey frames, (Clean supers on the hive, use robbing board)
- b Reject old, black or broken frames
- c Chimney stack clean, dry supers in between queen excluders
(Chimney stack as high as possible to create internal “draft” and include some “hungry spiders”)
(Place the stack outside in a cool and windy spot, rain cover the top.)
- d Propolus mats and scrapings Manuka health Te Awamutu
Arataki honey Rotorua