

TREASURE VALLEY BEEKEEPERS CLUB
QUEEN PROGRAM
2012



The Treasure Valley Beekeepers Club (TVBC), is in the initial year in developing a cooperative association with the Apiary Program through the Washington State University (WSU) Entomology Department.

The WSU honey bee selection and breeding program continues into its 8th year. The program provides selected honey bee stocks to beekeepers through provision of selected queens to the Washington State Beekeepers Association Collaborative Apiaries. The WSU breeding program is focused toward developing honey bee stocks that exhibit a measure of resistance or tolerance to common honey bee pathogens and parasites. A related program coordinated by WSU and UC-Davis is designed to enhance US honey bee diversity through importation of honey bee semen from Old World sources, evaluation of progeny and release of germplasm to the queen production industry.

http://apis.wsu.edu/apiary_program.html

Last Visited March 4, 2012

In late-2011, WSU provided four experienced members of the TVBC with queens bred through the WSU Apiary Program. In exchange for receipt of the queens, the four TVBC members have committed to providing data back to WSU on the performance of the queens and providing TVBC members with queens bred from this stock. In the Spring of 2012, we will begin offering queen cells bred from this stock to members of the TVBC.

The queen distribution program is envisioned to operate roughly between May 15 and July 15, 2012. Queens will be provided as ripe queen cells and at no cost to current TVBC members under the following program:

1. Participants receiving queen cells must be members of good standing with the TVBC. If you have not joined, go to the Club website, sign up and send in your dues.
(<http://www.idabees.org/index.html>)
2. All participants will need to take a queen installation class put on by one of the TVBC members, through a University program (for example, a WSU, UC Davis, etc.) program, or be able to demonstrate a familiarity with the mechanics of the successful installation of queen cells. At a minimum, beginning beekeepers should anticipate participating in a one-hour instructional course.
 - a. In addition to initial instruction, the TVBC will provide a worksheet that will provide details on how to set up your hive to successfully introduce a queen cell.
3. Queen cells will be distributed on a first-come/first-serve basis. We anticipate rotating through the four beekeepers that have the breeder stock on a weekly basis (Each week only one beekeeper will have cells available.) We will aim to have cells available weekly on either a Friday afternoon or Saturday morning timeframe (details to be worked out). In the beginning, the distribution will be limited to a total of 10 to 15 cells per week.
 - a. Initially, cells will be limited to one per member. This may change after a few weeks and after everyone has a chance to obtain a cell.
4. Cell recipients will be requested to test the bees from the queens that came from successful queens.
 - a. Two sampling tests will be required during the bee season.
 - i. TVBC will provide a protocol for testing, including a mailing address for shipping the collected bees.
 - b. Those that participate in the testing program will be first in line to receive queens in the future through the TVBC program.

Some beekeepers may desire to have their hive(s) requeened by someone more experienced in the art of requeening. A few of the four experienced members of the TVBC that have the breeder queens will be available to provide this service, most likely for a trade of some sort or a nominal fee.