

HARLEY'S SWARMING

About a week before the bees swarm, they stop feeding the queen and start running her around to lose weight. Very little pollen and no nectar coming in. The bees are upset. They seem to have nowhere to go and don't know what to do.

SWARM CONTROL

1. Ongoing management to keep the colony from swarming.
 - a. Maintain good comb
 - b. Run 2 empty drone boards (top box-right and bottom box-left 3rd frame in from the outside) for mite control and keeping them busy! Remove foundation from the frame every 10 days (!!) and replace empty frames.
 - c. Reverse hive body in the spring at the first sign of dandelion.
 - d. Don't let the colony get honey bound.
 - e. Maintain a strong hive.
 - f. Super on in plenty of time.
 - g. Location, Exposure, Sun, Shade, Ventilation.
 - h. Move frames around, next to brood nest.
2. Swarm Prevention
 - a. Remove or cage queen
 - b. Split the hive and make a new hive
 - c. Replace old comb with new foundation
 - d. Add supers.
 - e. Cut out queen cells.

There comes a time when you open the hive and know they are going to swarm. (What do I do?) This is a good, easy way to do it:

You need a queen excluder and a double screened board with openings which will allow the field bees to return to the bottom box.

- First, you take the top box off and set it near.
- Take all the brood frames out of the bottom box and put them in the top box along with the house bees.
- Destroy any swarm cells or keep them or give them away.
- All the field bees along with the queen stay in the bottom box.
- Add the double screened board and queen excluder.
- Put the top box back on.
- Put the inner cover on and the outer cover on.
- Strap down and leave for 5-7 days then remove the double screened board and queen excluder.
- Reconfigure the brood frames that you moved to the top box back to the center of the bottom box.
- Put top box back on. DONE!
- Add honey supers.