SBA MODULE 1 - Syllabus Issue 2014

HONEYBEE MANAGEMENT

The candidate shall be able to give a detailed account of:

1.1 the types of hives and frames used by beekeepers in the United Kingdom, including comparative knowledge of the following hives, National, WBC, Smith, National Deep, Commercial, Langstroth and Dadant (details of exact frame sizes will not be required).
1.2 the principles which govern the design of hives and frames, including the concept of bee space, and the main features of their construction;
1.3 the use of wax foundation;
1.4 methods of fitting frames with wired and unwired wax foundation;
1.5 ways of getting wax foundation fully drawn;
1.6 the methods of spacing frames in hives, the usual measurements used and the advantages and disadvantages of varying the spacing;
1.7 the need for regular comb replacement in the hive and how this can be effectively carried out;
1.8 how to begin beekeeping, including the acquisition of bees, sources and type of personal and other equipment, the approximate costs of equipment and bees and any precautions necessary;
1.9 the criteria used in the selection of apiaries;
1.10 the factors to be considered in the siting of colonies in home and in out-apiaries;
1.11 good apiary hygiene;
1.12 the variable temperament of bees in relation to management and public relations;
1.13 the actions which can be taken to avoid bad-tempered bees causing a nuisance to members of the public;
1.14 the year's work in the apiary and how this is dependent upon the annual colony cycle and the timing of local bee forage;
1.15 the drifting of honeybees, the dangers caused and techniques used to minimise the problem;
1.16 the principles involved in feeding honeybees, including types of feeder, amounts of food, types of food and timing of feeding;
1.17 the value of honey, pollen, water and propolis to the honeybee colony;
1.18 the prevention, detection and control of swarming;
1.19 the use, and types, of queen excluder used in the United Kingdom;
1.20 methods of swarm control used in small-scale beekeeping enterprises;
1.21 methods of marking and clipping queens
1.22 the methods of making nuclei and the uses to which nuclei can be put;
1.23 how swarms and nuclei can be turned into productive colonies;
1.24 methods of taking and hiving a swarm of honeybees;
1.25 the methods used to unite colonies of honeybees, the underlying principles of these methods and any precautions that should be taken;
1.26 robbing by honeybees and wasps and the associated dangers, including prevention and curtailment;
1.27 spring management of honeybee colonies;
1.28 management of honeybee colonies for honey production from oil seed rape and other specialist crops such as heather;
1.29 summer management of honeybee colonies;
1.30 moving colonies and the difficulties and dangers involved;
1.31 different methods of 'clearing' bees from supers;
1.32 how colonies are prepared for the winter period and the principles underlying this preparation;
1.33 the effect of honeybee stings and recommended first aid treatment.
1.34 laying workers and drone laying queens and the conditions leading to their development;
1.35 the signs of queenlessness and a method of confirming the condition;