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CEB-4 1/22/77

April 22, 1977

Honey Bees

(1:20)

If you ordered package bees, have them arrive in Minnesota between April 10th and May 1st. After May 10th, a new hive will have great difficulty in gaining enough strength and enough honey stores to winter well.

Minnesota Extension Entomologist David Noetzel (Nayt-sell) says try to obtain packages from someone locally as bees in nearly half of all packages mailed are killed in transit. Local sources are also usually more reliable as to package arrival dates. Package bees should be fed with a light sugar syrup containing sodium sulfathiazole and Fumidil-B. Light sugar syrup is made from one part sugar and one part water. A quarter teaspoon of sulfa and a level teaspoon of Fumidil is stirred into the warm water before adding the sugar.

Sodium sulfathiazole protects the larvae in the new colony against American foulbrood. Fumidil-B prevents Nosema infections in adult bees. Both diseases are so common that planned preventive feeding of the antibiotics is recommended.

Wintered colonies should be unpacked now and fed light syrup containing sulfa. Controlling Nosema in wintered colonies must be done in the fall when Nosema infection takes place. Spring feeding of Fumidil on wintered colonies is of very little value.

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Weather Emergencies

(0:15)

Be prepared for an electrical outage by having a good battery-operated radio and flashlights handy to take to the shelter. A saw and pry-bar may also come in handy. Teach the whole family and the babysitters what to do. County extension offices have an orange card that lists these tornado safety rules. Ask for number RCD-4.

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