

## Fall Time to do Beekeeping Chores

The honey crop is spotty over the State, the total spring and summer crop is below average. Goldenrod appears to be in excellent condition, so a good harvest is dependent upon the weather. The conditions in late August have been poor for nectar gathering, but excellent for plant growth.

The supply of honey is still short and the prices are holding at a high level. One-pound jars of honey are selling at around \$1 with five-pound jars as high as \$4.50 in many areas. The wholesale price of local honey in drums and 60's is between 40 and 45 cents per pound. Some people feel that these prices are too high while others feel that honey has finally reached its fair price. Time will tell.

Renting bees for pollination has dropped off because of the increased demand and price for honey. It might be well to consider renting bees but at a fair

price. They are needed, and you may in the future have a need for this source of income. It is foolish to think that you can still afford to rent bees for \$5 per colony when you consider the honey crop lost, cost of labor, and the cost of moving bees. You would serve yourself and the fruit or seed producer better if you charged a higher price and gave better colonies of bees and good service. One beekeeper in New York charges as high as \$25 per colony but gives very strong colonies of bees and good service. It's something to think about.

It is time to remove the spring and summer crop of honey. Goldenrod has just started to

produce and will affect the flavor of the honey now on the bees. Most beekeepers prefer to keep honey separated by flavor. Usually summer honey is mild while fall honey has a richer flavor. If you sell only wild flower honey, it might as well stay on until frost unless you are short supers.

Only honey which is sealed should be removed, but a few open cells on the edges or on the outside combs will probably do no harm. Bee escapes, shaking, flowers, repellents such as Benzaldehyde, are approved methods for removing honey. Do not use carbolic acid or smoke to chase the bees out of the supers.

Supers which have been extracted should be replaced on the

colonies to prevent wax moth damage and to provide space for fall honey. This would be a good time to use queen excluders under these wet supers.

Queen excluders work fine in the fall. They have a tendency to force the bees to store more honey in the food chamber and brood nest where it is needed for good wintering. It is especially important under wet supers since the bees and the queen will usually go into these supers right away. Be sure to remove the queen excluders and empty supers after frost. Some colonies are lost every year because bees go through the excluder but the queen is locked below.

Good wintering, spring buildup, and often swarm control is the result of fall requeening. Young queens lay better in the fall, start earlier in the spring, and are less likely to be superseded the following year. Records indicate that colonies headed by young queens swarm less and produce a better crop of

honey than colonies with older queens.

Fall is the recommended time to requeen even though it is more difficult to find the old queen. Requeening is best done when there is a light honeyflow. Use of a nuc or a double screen above the colony to be requeened is worth a trial. This eliminates the problem of a queenless period if she is not accepted. Once the new queen has started to lay, she may be united over a sheet of newspaper. Acceptance is high with this method.

Almost all county fairs and farm shows have classes for honey and beeswax. This is a good way to get honey out where people can see it. It's really a form of promotion and you may need this in the future. There are usually three to five color classes in extracted honey so that there is a class for almost any honey. Honey should be clean and free of foam and in uniform containers.

Arnold G. Lueck  
Associate County Agent

## Dr. Adams To Speak at Garden Spot YF Meeting

The Garden Spot Young Farmers will meet Tuesday

evening, September 18. The meeting will be entitled "What is a Livestock Feeding Plan". Speaker will be Dr. Richard Adams, director of Forage Testing Service, Penn State University. Dr. Adams is also a dairy feeding specialist. The meeting will be held in the agricultural classroom at Garden Spot High School at 7:45 p.m.

Topics Dr. Adams will be discussing include:

1. What makes up a feeding plan.
2. Determining livestock nutritional needs.
3. Difference between various measures of feed quality.
4. Pitfalls of feeding programs.
5. Value of forage analysis.
6. The use of urea in silage and grain.
7. How your feed dealer can help you develop a feeding plan.

An added highlight of the meeting will be free forage analysis kits, a \$6.25 value, given away as door prizes.

Representatives from local feed companies are encouraged to attend. Dr. Adams will be speaking to feed dealers as well as farmers.

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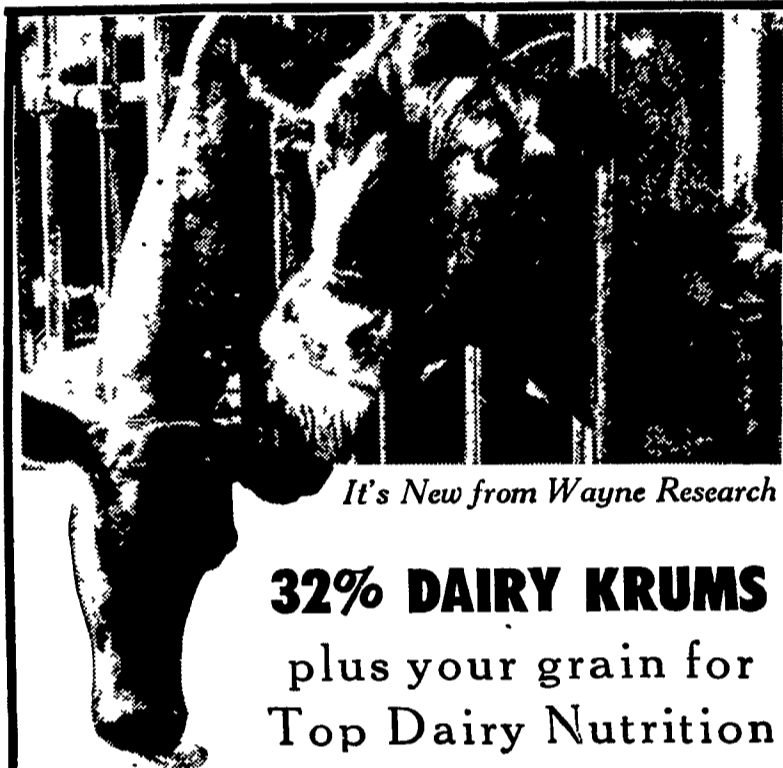
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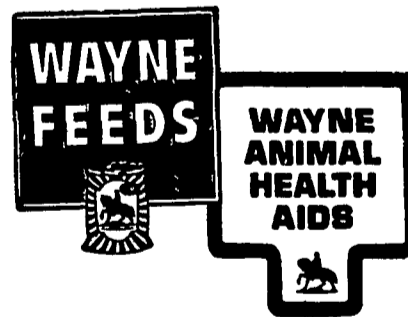


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