

Bees look for alternate food

Restaurant crew

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running the restaurant. When they chose to retire two years ago, Mrs. J. Wilbur Houser and Mrs. Leroy Beiler took over the cooking chores.

"Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Beiler did an excellent job, and they cooperated and helped and advised the new committee. We had a lot to learn."

Mrs. Groff said that a lot of local people come, but she also knows people who attend the fair from Manheim and Elizabethtown. "Many come in the afternoon, look around and then eat. There are people who come pretty much the same time each year."

She is usually so occupied in the kitchen that she doesn't get around to see all the exhibits, but Evelyn says, "In the last several years the fair is really growing. Vegetables, houseplants, and flowers have really increased. There are many more people with gardens." She added that sewing entries have increased, and especially arts and crafts entries. "A lot of people have hobbies," she said.

Although she doesn't enter something every year, Mrs. Groff said she enjoys exhibiting. In the past she has entered violets, ferns, and tuberous begonias.

"I did pretty well. Some got blues, some got reds and some got no ribbon at all," she said. She has also entered fresh vegetables upon occasion and the family always exhibits fresh milk.

When asked about Lampeter's policy of not having a Saturday Fair, Mrs. Groff said, "I think the Fair was started by Christian and church people and they probably wanted to have the clean-up done on Saturday."

She was also added it probably had to do with the fact that the original fair was organized through the West Lampeter Vocational School, and the school building was used and students were given credit for school by attending the fair.

Evelyn noted that her hobbies include her plants and her garden. "I like to can and freeze - it's kind of a necessity. I also enjoy cooking and making egg cheese." This dairy farmer's wife said, "We use a lot of milk and I churn butter. I bring the milk in and let the cream rise, then make the butter and use the buttermilk in the egg cheese." She said the frequency of making butter varies, but she sometimes makes it every three days and sometimes as infrequently as every 10 days.

The Groffs have about 50 registered Holsteins and farm nearly 160 acres. Mrs. Groff assists in that operation by keeping farm records, but with three sons at home she doesn't help with the actual milking.

DOVER, Del. - Most honeybees have the foresight to store enough honey in their hives to keep the colony going through the winter...especially those living in areas without a fall nectar supply.

But those colonies running low on their own supply will be on the lookout for an alternate source of sugar. According to University of Delaware extension apiculturists one of their

primary sources of fall and winter sugar is stored honey from other bee colonies.

When the threat of one colony robbing another is the greatest, there are some precautions beekeepers can take. First of all, as one prepares the hives for winter, he should limit the

time each one is open.

In addition, a "robber cloth" should be used - any

kind of cloth big enough to cover the top of a super. The cloth should be wet with plain water and a few drops of weak carbolic acid. The odor acts as a repellent to other bees without bothering those in the colony. Also suggested is limiting access to the entrance of hives by placing a wooden cleat over most of the opening. Even a weak colony can protect an inch-wide entrance.

Honeybees may also try to obtain sugar from fruit. Though they cannot break the skin of most fruits, they look for the ones with holes or cracks caused by birds or other insects.

Experts recommend that beekeepers consider moving their colonies away from orchards and vineyards so their bees do not bother fruit pickers or graders.

Mrs. Groff is a member of the Strasburg Mennonite Church and is involved with her family in church activities. The family is also active in the Gideons.

This year's Fair begins on Wednesday, September 28 and will conclude on Friday, September 30. So when Tuesday comes Mrs. Groff will take her place with the other dedicated workers who help to make the fair a successful community effort.

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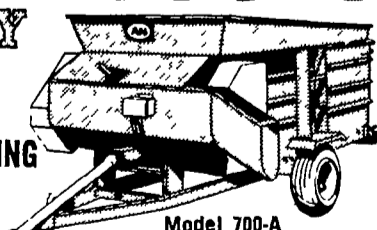
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