

## NWPBA Field Day

June 18, 2016

Location of the Field Day is Vorisek's Backyard Bee Farm, 15834 Linesville Rd, Linesville, Pa. 16424. This is two miles north of Linesville, on the Linesville-Conneautville Rd. Parking drive is at the property-line of field (will be marked) to the apiary. For Handicap parking or special needs, pull into the yard at the top of the house driveway. DO NOT PARK AT CUSTOMER ROADSIDE HONEY STAND.

In collaboration with the **Pa Queen Bee Improvement Program**, we plan to raise queen cells to give away at a minimum donation. The best chances of success are introducing those cells to your nucs at the host location, then letting them hatch and mate in a drone-strong area. If all goes well, the queen stock will be daughters from Purdue 'leg-biters' or other mite resistant stock. Drones are northern survivor stock. Mite resistance and survivor traits are pieces of the puzzle for sustainable beekeeping in our area. We are interested if anyone with an exceptional queen that has survived 2-3 years. Even better if the hive has had little or no treatment for mites.

Last Field Day we had people that brought more than two nucs. (I included myself, since I had nucs for any excess queens and mating nucs for extra replacement queens) 62 nucs total. We needed 24 extra queens to replace failures. (86 queens total) We grafted over 120, but many were not accepted. Three queen builder colonies were needed. Plus more hives to support bees to the cell builders.

Because we don't know how many queens will be successful and how many nucs will arrive, I am proposing a limit on the giveaway/donation queens. The proposal is a limit of two queens/nucs per person. If we have more queens after everybody's 'two' are filled then those should be paid for. Perhaps \$40 each. (\$20-program, \$20-queen grafter/providers) In that way, they are paid for fairly.

The Field Day queens are intended as a giveaway/donation. Any money I receive is forwarded to the Pa Queen Bee Improvement Project. I am not accepting any money for this day, other than cost for queen cups or expendables.

There is no question, the effort for this field day takes away from expanding one's own operation. Therefore, extra queens produced beyond Field Day needs, will be owned by the producers of those queens. Tentatively, no nucs will be available for sale at this Field Day.

- bring a snack to share-

This event will likely draw more people from the surrounding region. Three experts with the project are planning to attend. Dwight Wells, from Ohio, is one of the founders of HHBBC (Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Cooperative) working with Purdue University. Joe Kovaleski, heads the project with 2Cs and A Bee in south central Pa. Jeff Berta is co-chair for the Pa program, represents Pa on HHBBC and lives in Slippery Rock.

Another option that will likely be available at the field day are 48-hour cells. These could be the extras and just take a few days longer to finish....which might be good because mating will be spread over more time and drones. In simplest words, your nuc will finish feeding and capping the 48hr queen cell(s). The genetics are already in the cell. Acceptance of the 48hr cell is better than other new queens methods, because they 'own' it.

For anyone desiring to take cells home, it is suggested to bring a 'traveling' nuc and install at the Field Day. Consideration of your local drone strength should be considered to assure good mating.

This will be the only \$5 give-away of queens/queen cells for the season at this location. The 'queens' are understood to be queen cells or 48hr cells that hatch and are successfully mated at the Field Day location.

The roadside stand will have retail honey and hive products for sale.

We ask anyone outside the NWPBA to pay \$10 for a membership to attend, as this is primarily a NWPBA meeting.

**Appropriate beekeeping safety wear is each individual's responsibility !  
DO NOT SWAT OR SWING !  
GENTLY BRUSH OR WALK AWAY.... UNDER TREES or INTO BUILDING.**

#### **Tentative Field Agenda:**

Guest speaker – Pa Queen Bee Improvement Program overview

- 1) Swarm Capture –
- 2) Hive Inspection/What you see –
- 3) Queen cell transfer from cell builders to nucs –
- 4) Optional..... making beeswax handcream and lip balm –Cathy V

for any questions contact Charlie Vorisek at [vbeefarm@windstream.net](mailto:vbeefarm@windstream.net)

**There is NO RAIN DAY.**

Tents will be used if needed.