Master Beekeeping Program

Lesson 4- Spring Management
Mite Monitoring

Frame Rotation

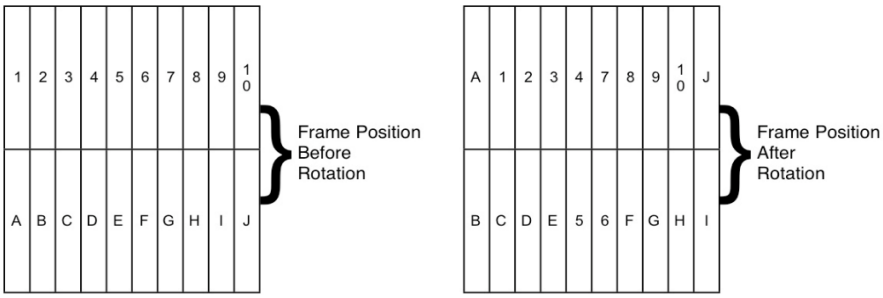
Frame rotation is useful as a swarm prevention technique. Frame rotation helps reduce swarming by providing empty combs to the center of the brood nest and enlarging the brood rearing area in the hive. Helps reduce swarming impulse by reducing congestion.

Frames 5 and 6 from top box moved to center of bottom box. Frames A and J from lower box are moved to the outside of the top box. Move frames 4 and 7 together in the top box.

Caution: Don't rotate the frames In such a manner that empty comb is placed between combs of brood

Upper Brood Chamber

Lower Brood Chamber



Developing Strong Colonies

Weak colony = 6 frames or less of bees by the end of April.
Strong colony= 10 frames of bees or more by the end of April

One strong colony will out-produce several weak colonies.

Combining weak colonies with strong colonies.

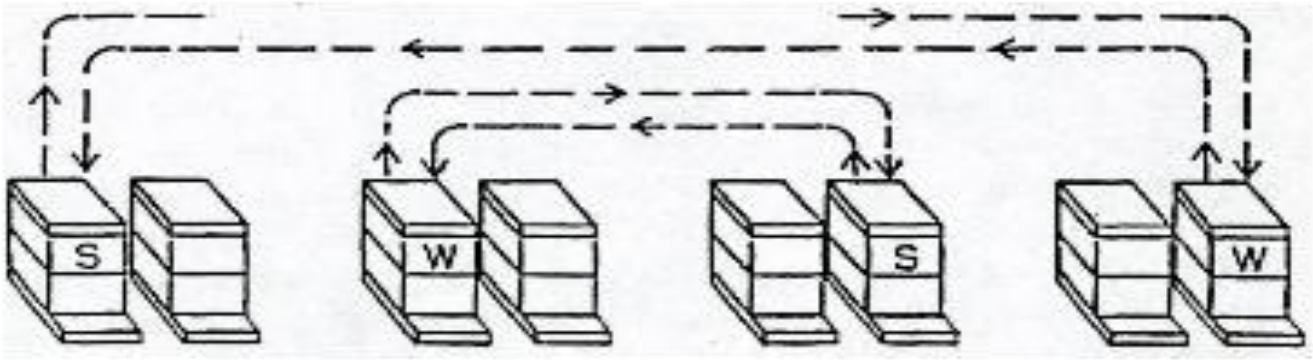
Newspaper Combine: Place the strong colony on top of the weak colony placing a piece of newspaper between the boxes. Put a few cuts into the newspaper. The colonies will eat the newspaper and the stronger colony will prevail.

Queenless colonies should be combined with queenright colonies. Place the queenright colony on top of the queenless colony placing a piece of newspaper between them.

Sign of a good queen: One that lays eggs in concentric bands of brood of the same age

Increasing the size of a weak colony

Change the position of a weak colony with the stronger colony. (Hive swap)
Foragers will go back to their original hive positions. The foragers from the strong hive will boost the weak hive workforce and resources. Best done on warm day when bees are flying.



S = Strong W = Weak
Exchange of Strong and Weak Colonies

Notes:

Resources Online:

PSBA website: www.pugetsoundbees.org
WSBA website: www.wasba.org
National Honey Board: www.nhb.org
Bee Informed: http://beeinformed.org/
Honey Bee Suite - Rusty Burlew: http://www.honeybeesuite.com/
The Practical Beekeeper - Michael Bush: http://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm
Scientific Beekeeping - Randy Oliver: http://scientificbeekeeping.com/

WSU Diagnostics lab: http://entomology.wsu.edu/apis/diagnostic-lab/
Apiary Registration form: http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/Apiary/docs/ApiaryRegistrationForm.pdf