

This newsletter is for users of APINOVAR screen bottom boards. It is intended to help APINOVAR users to obtain the best possible results with the application of an integrated varroa management system that is highly efficient, economical and completely ecological. We will present in this newsletter our own practical experience of IPM with APINOVAR. The indications provided should not be considered as recommendations.



Not like it used to be!

Integrated pest management systems (IPM) constitute a new approach for most beekeepers. IPM is quite a drastic change from the way we have been dealing with bee diseases in the past 40 years in North America. Medication will not be any more the only weapon. Treatments will also only be applied as needed. In this situation monitoring becomes an essential part of the IPM system. As first function, APINOVAR will be your monitoring tool.

Actions based on proper information

All our interventions will be based on the results of monitoring. Several samplings will be done at crucial moments of the season. Sampling by the evaluation of the natural mite drop will be our only sampling method. We choose it because it is the most sensitive and also the most practical.

Anticipating problematic situations rather than... buying new packages

Damage threshold is a new concept that should be well understood. This is the infestation level where colonies begin to be affected in their performance and where you begin to loose money. 25-30 mites/day is commonly accepted as the damage threshold. APINOVAR IPM strategy will be aimed at not exceeding this threshold. We will also propose other seasonal thresholds that will ensure your colonies do not exceed the damage threshold before the next treatment

window is reached. Seeing ahead will also means treating your bees adequately in the late season so they do not suffer

Things do do

It is time to get things ready for the **first sampling** of the year. It is also time to make sure you will have access on time to treatment products in case your sampling indicates a treatment is needed. What about this sampling?

When?	Ideally the sampling should be terminated a few weeks before the dandelion flow starts (by the end of the first week of May in our area).
Duration	We will sample over a 3-4 days period. Sampling over this period of time ensures that you will have a level of sensitivity corresponding to the normally low varroa level occurring in spring. It is possible to use a shorter period if more hives are sampled.
How many yards?	Ideally, all your yards must be sampled. Infestation levels of different yards can sometimes be drastically different.
How many hives per yard?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-6 hives per yard should be enough. If the yards contain very large numbers of colonies, then sampling 10% of them should give a reliable portrait of the situation. Choose hives from different sections of the yard. • Depending on your situation, it is also possible to sample all the colonies. This gives the opportunity of treating only the colonies that really need it. This is only possible if each hive is numbered and if you have a good tracking system.

from varroa during the winter. In most cases, colonies well treated in the fall will not require a spring treatment if resistant stock is used. The use of a bee stock demonstrating a measurable resistance level to varroa is also part of prevention and part of the APINOVAR strategy. A bee stock well selected for varroa resistance is also more stable and homogeneous. As a consequence, fewer colonies will inadvertently exceed the damage threshold during the season. More on this subject in a future newsletter.



Pitfalls

- Clean out the screens of your APINOVAR bottom boards before inserting the sticky boards. The presence of dead winter bees on the screens means erroneous results.
- Do not put supers at the same time or just before you sample. This would create an abundance of cleaning debris on your sticky boards and make them very difficult to read.

Tricks

Here are a few tricks for the preparation of your sampling cartons

- Use pieces of "corroplast" as permanent sampling cartons. They must cover the whole surface of the sampling tray. They can be simply scraped out after each sampling.
- Draw fine lines on the sampling cartons. These lines should be 2-4 centimetres apart and perpendicular to the length of the carton. They will guide your eyes and reduce errors.
- We coat our sampling cartons with liquefied shortening using a paint roller. Coated cartons are piled face to face and placed in plastic bags for easy transportation to the field.

When comes the time to put the sticky boards in place under the hives, remember that the sampling drawer of APINOVAR can be easily pulled out using a hive tool.



In the next issue

- information on counting
- actions to take according to your sampling results

This newsletter is a courtesy of



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