

*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.*



### Start the season the right way

As far as varroa control is concerned, you have to start your season the right way. Remember that varroa progression is logarithmic. Natural drop (ND) levels of 2 or 3 varr/day may seem low but they are much too high for this time of the season. If nothing is done they will translate in levels exceeding the damage threshold before the end of the season. Remember that you cannot treat during the honey flow. It would be sad if you had to remove your honey supers for an emergency treatment.

### Things do do

It is time to count the sticky boards from your first sampling

It will also soon be time to make an intervention (treatment or other) if the levels of natural drop justify.

### Tricks



- Little hand counters are handy: they reduce the number of mistakes and they make counting easier
- Use a magnifying lamp.
- Write your results on standardised results sheet that you will store in a specific binder. Take one sheet per yard or per group of homogeneous colonies. Figure the 24 h average and write it on the sheet
- Pay attention to the range of the variations between the individual results. Important variations mean that something was done wrong the previous fall. Maybe your treatments did not work well or evenly. Maybe you did not use a reliable treatment method. Maybe your ND levels were too high at the beginning of your treatments. When everything is done right your spring ND levels should be under 0,5 varr./day with little variations.

### To treat or not to treat

If your ND level is under 0,5 varr/day you do not have to treat if you are using resistant stock, which we highly recommend. Treating in late spring remains a possibility if you want to further reduce your mid-season and end of season ND levels.

If your ND levels exceed 0,5 or 1 varr/day, then you have to do something.

### How to reduce the ND levels?

The logic of our IPM system supposes that our main treatments are the end of season treatments. Spring treatments will only serve to correct little problems. They will not be full treatments. Formic or thymol treatments may affect the development of your colonies. **It is**

**important not to over treat in the spring.** Aggressive treatments like Mite Away II or long sequences of Mite Wipe or flash should be avoided whenever possible.. We attach to this newsletter a document suggesting different options according to the ND levels. Also remember that flash is not perfectly adapted to all circumstances. Situations where colonies are

weak or uneven do not represent ideal circumstances for flash. Mite Wipe may be a better option in such circumstances. Note that a single Mite Wipe application will not translate in a significant long term impact.



## Pitfalls

- Pale varroas must be included in the count as well as the dark ones. Pay attention: they are difficult to discriminate from wax debris. **Beekeepers are generally overconfident and miss 50% of the varroas present on the sticky board!**
- Do not use formic during the dandelion flow. The abundance of nectar in open cells considerably reduces the efficiency of formic

### In the next issue

- mid-season sampling
- actions to take according to your sampling results

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**APINOVAR**

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