

1st Quarter to Do List
By
Seven Beekeepers near Palmyra

JANUARY

1. Attend and participate at PA Farm show on behalf of PSBA.
2. Emergency feed if given the need and opportunity of a warm day. Use solid sugar feeds (dry sugar, fondant), but not syrup.
3. Double check that the hives haven't blown over and that your wind breaks are still in place.
4. Perhaps check that the entrance isn't clogged with snow for ventilation. However, even with deep snow, the entrance is often open enough for ventilation naturally.
5. Order package bees this month.
6. Take a photo of snow covered hives and post it on social media.

FEBRUARY

1. Emergency feed if/when given the need and the opportunity of a warm day.
2. Assemble, clean, and repair equipment.
3. It's best to not request foundation be shipped in cold weather. If you have to buy it now, make a trip to a supply company and bring it home in your warm car.
4. Enjoy a cup of hot tea sweetened with your own honey on a snowy day.

MARCH

1. Emergency feed if/when given the need and opportunity of a warm day.
2. Take a quick peek in the top of the hives on a warm day.
 - This quick check will help you decide if/when to switch to stimulant feeding
 - Don't pull out individual frames with bees on them.
3. Mid-March switch to stimulant spring feeding
 - Personalize the decision to stimulant feed based on each individual colony's situation
 - Use light syrup (1:1) ± your favorite additives.
 - Include pollen/protein patties as stimulant feed.
4. Late March, cull old, dark frames from the bottom deep (provided the bees are completely out of the bottom).