

# OTS QUEEN REARING

*A Survival Guide For Beekeepers Worldwide*



EXPANDED  
2016  
EDITION



*Self-Sufficient Beekeeping Strategies  
For Novice and Expert Alike*

- *On-The-Spot Queens*
- *Generate Private Stock*
- *Notching Method*
- *Honey Production*
- *Biological Mite Control*
- *Pollination*

© 2016 Expanded Edition, The International Mating Nuc, Inc. All rights reserved



by MEL DISSELKOEN

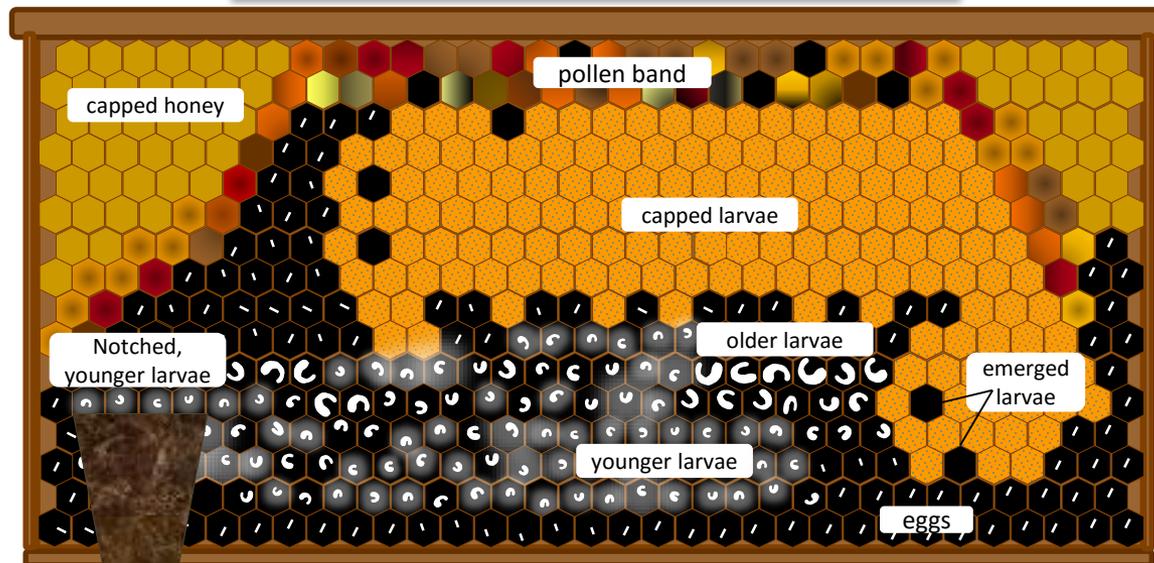
# OTS QUEEN REARING: A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR BEEKEEPERS WORLDWIDE

by Mel Disselkoen

Developed, edited, illustrated, and photos by Lynn Quinn

Photos and photo editing by John O'Connell

About the cover: A honeybee colony brood frame



About this book: The sole purpose of this book is to help save our honeybees as well as the ancient art of beekeeping. It is completely self-published and self-financed.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Opening . . . . 5-28

Dedication . . . . 7-8

Preface . . . . 9-10

Introduction . . . . 11-14

G.M. Doolittle . . . . 15-22

Dr. C.C. Miller . . . . 23-24

The Case-Hopkins Connection . . . . 25-26

The Discovery of OTS Queen Rearing . . . . 27-28

## The Queendom . . . . 29-58

OTS Queen Rearing Procedures for Making Starts . . . . 31-32

OTS Queen Rearing . . . . 33-38

OTS Queen Rearing by Doolittle's Queen-Right Plan . . . . 39-42

OTS Queens. . . . 43-44

OTS Notching Larvae and Queen Cells . . . . 45-52

OTS Queen Brood Patterns . . . . 53-54

OTS Bee Yards . . . . 55-58

## The Hive . . . . 59-70

Rev. L.L. Langstroth and Father Dr. Johann Dzierzon . . . . 61-62

MDA Splitter . . . . 63-64

Honeybee Math . . . . 65

Anatomy of a Honeybee Start . . . . 66

Drawn Comb . . . . 67-68

MDA Splitter in Pictures . . . . 69-70

## The Colony . . . . 71-86

Alpha Bees . . . . 73-80

Honeybee Husbandry and Genetics . . . . 81-84

Laying Workers . . . . 85-86

## Overwintering . . . . 87-100

Overwintering July Starts . . . . 89-94

Sugar Bricks . . . . 95-100

## Trouble in the Hive . . . . 101-124

Varroa Mites . . . . 103-108

Wounded Workers . . . . 109-110

Intruder Excluders . . . . 111-112

Bee Pasture at Risk . . . . 113-116

The Case of the Honeydew Honey . . . . 117-124

## Closing . . . . 125-162

Conclusion . . . . 127-128

Bios . . . . 129-130

Frequently Asked Questions . . . . 131-134

Illustrations . . . . 135

Glossary . . . . 136

Bibliography . . . . 137

I.M.N. System of Queen Rearing . . . . 138-160

Ode to the Beekeeper, Ode to the Bee . . . . 162



“The art of beekeeping does not require full-strength hives at all times of the year, only during your surplus honey flows...” --Mel Disselkoen



Mel Disselkoen strives to identify the natural behaviors and seasonal reproductive cycles of the honeybee and then direct those behaviors toward a profitable objective. He has kept bees for over 40 years and is familiar with all facets of beekeeping. In 1988, he authored a booklet entitled "I.M.N. System of Queen Rearing" that documented his discovery which later came to be known as OTS, or On-The-Spot queen rearing. Today he utilizes OTS to rear queens for honeybee colony "Starts" to biologically break the Varroa mites' breeding cycle. He has kept miticide-free bees for over 25 years and is dedicated to sharing his findings in order to help beekeepers become successful and self-sufficient.

*"Since honeybee behavior is naturally directed toward survival and increase, beekeepers can adapt their management and business models to the honeybee's natural instincts so that stress is minimized and performance is optimized. By working within this philosophy of cooperating with nature, I have found that the best bee is the bee that can overwinter in your area."*

- Mel Disselkoen

