

## FIELD DAY REPORT 2019-2020

In the winter of 2019-2020 I established 40 starts from the original 10 artificial swarms I had made in May (see chart on pages 31-32 in my book). Those May artificial swarms grew to having at least 8 frames of brood each so I was able to make 40 July starts from each artificial swarm. I lost 12 of these starts over the winter, leaving a total of 28 overwintered survivors. Therefore, not only did I replace the 10 original hives from July, but I also increased 18 hives that I could sell in the spring. This is what I call beekeeping excellence as was also done by GM Doolittle when he made 6 frames of brood and 4 frames of honey to overwinter in a single deep. My 2020-2021 season looks about the same.

By using OTS queen rearing methods, you can lose half of your July starts over the winter and still have 100% increase. If more beekeepers did this we could have the numbers back as we had before chemicals and varroa in the 1980's.

I have been miticide and chemical-free for 30 years beginning in 1990 but the last 2 years I have used Oxalic Acid in the vapor form in November, when there is no brood, to clean up any reinfestation from robbing out any neglected hives nearby that are dying. I only treat once a year in November because I can't do a brood break at that time of the year.