#### QUEEN REARING WITHOUT GRAFTING AND MITICIDE-FREE

#### Indiana Beekeepers Association Turkey Run Convention



by Mel Disselkoen

Autumnal Equinox 2011

Over the past 25 years I developed, improved, and tailored the IMN Queen Rearing methods into what I now call "OTS" or "On-The-Spot" Queen Rearing. With OTS, I can self-sufficiently rear and sell quality honeybee colony "starts" and simultaneously break the varroa breeding cycle which eliminates the need for miticides

#### DR. C. C. MILLER



Source: Used with permission from A.I. Root Co. and Dadant & Sons

#### **G.M. DOOLITTLE**



Source: Used with permission from A.I. Root Co. and Dadant & Sons

## WHY I UTILIZE OTS QUEEN REARING TO SELL BEE STOCK





#### WHO'S YOUR DADDY? There Are Fourteen Or Fifteen Fathers In Each Hive



## THE ENORMITY OF THE OTS GENE POOL



## FROM GRAFTING TO NOTCHING Hands-On Wins Hands-Down

#### 1973-1987

#### **1980s-PRESENT**



## HONEYBEE GESTATION CYCLE: JULY-AUGUST 2011 (EXAMPLE)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1. Egg laid	2.
<b>3.</b> Egg hatches into larva	<b>4.</b> Open larva	5. Open larva NOTCH	<b>6.</b> Open larva Bees build	<b>7.</b> Open larva Bees build	8. All cells are sealed including Queen Cell Fertile mite enters cell just	9.
10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	before sealing <b>15.</b>	16.
		<u>Make Starts</u> emerges on	I <u>s</u> : You have 3 days to day 16 I		Virgin emerges	
17.	18.	19.	20.	<b>21.</b> All worker brood now emerges	22.	23.
<b>24.</b> All brood, including drones, have emerged	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	<b>30.</b> Queen Mated (~14 days after emergence)
<b>31.</b> All brood, including drones, have emerged	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
7. Day 38: All fert enter day 8 of ner killing the larvae	8. ile varroa mites w queen's brood, and themselves	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.

## HONEYBEE GESTATION CYCLE: POINTS TO REMEMBER

- It is possible for the bees to still raise queens 5 days after notching so allow another week for new queen to start laying
- The 2-brood-frame starts should have 3 solid frames of honey on day 38
- A 1-frame notched honey hive should have close to 100 pounds of honey on day 38

**Gestation Summary** 



# UNLOADING THE MITE: MAKING STARTS BREAKS THE NORMAL BREEDING CYCLE OF THE MITE BY INTERRUPTING BOTH THE MEDIUM AND THE STIMULUS

A fertile mite must have a *medium* to lay her eggs and a *stimulus* to start reproducing. The medium and stimulus are always on the 5th day of the larvae, day 8, one day before capping the cell



<u>DR. C. C. MILLER</u>: "Give them larvae of all ages from which to select, and they always choose that which is two days old, or younger . . . . I have never known bees to start a cell after the larvae were too old."



Source: Quote: Fifty Years Among The Bees (pages 237-238); Photo: Frank C. Pellett's Practical Queen Rearing used with permission from Dadant and Sons

## <u>POST-SOLSTICE EGG LAYING</u>: OLD QUEENS SHUT DOWN BUT NEW QUEENS MAINTAIN PEAK BEYOND SUMMER SOLSTICE

