

North Okanagan Semi AGM summary

Beekeepers are anxiously awaiting warmer weather to see how the surviving hives are doing. As usual, some report significant losses of above 50% while others for no apparent reason have light losses. There does however appear to be heavier losses than usual, and the spring dwindle is still pending. It appears the causes include queen/mating problems last season resulting in lack of adequate winter bees, varroa mites not controlled in time, smoke from forest fires, and warmer weather in the fall and early winter resulting in higher consumption of stores. There is concern about suggestions from some beekeepers that bees may have developed resistance to amitraz (Apivar) as treated hives continued to have high mite loads.

We are awaiting word from BeeBC about our funding application for irradiation of hives from North Okanagan beekeepers. Our facebook page and website continue to field inquiries from beginning and aspiring beekeepers so our clubs will be busy when the covid 19 battle is over.