



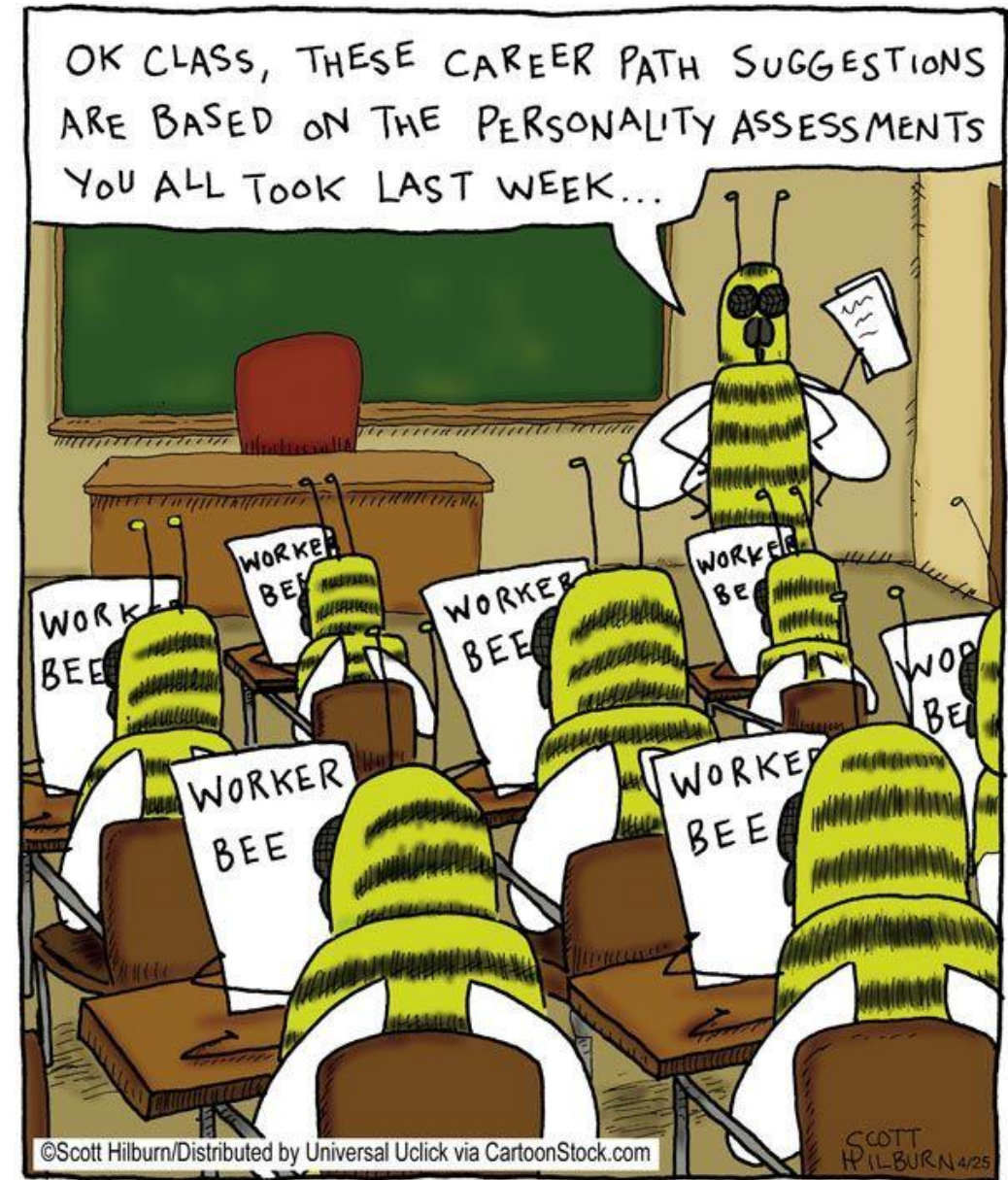
Beekeeping

A Quick Year in Review
By James White



Picture Credit!

Let's be realistic, I nabbed these pictures from all over. I took some of course, but many are from people like Dave Carlin, Patrick Jirik, and others.



An Even Quicker Year In Review

- January – Rest, clean equipment, study beekeeping
- February – Check on bees if weather permits
- March – Feed bees, clean dead outs, prepare for new bees
- April – New packages, feed bees, hive cleaning, treat for mites
- May – Splits with new queens, feed bees after dandelions, watch for swarms
- June – Add honey supers, mite checks, add cut comb supers
- July – Add honey supers, mite checks
- August – Treat for mites, prepare for honey harvest
- September – Honey harvest, wax processing, equipment cleaning
- October – Hive wraps, fall feeding
- November – Pull feeders, final winter wrap, mouse guards, straps
- December – Mead making, honey gifts, well deserved rest

January/February – A Time of Rest...Or is it?

- Research
 - Read some books
 - Attend a conference
- Spring Package Order
- Order/Build New Equipment
- Establish Goals for the Coming Year



January/February

- Equipment prep for the coming year
 - Fall dead out cleanup (if you have any)
 - Super box clean up
 - Used Equipment painting
 - Make replacement entrance reducers
 - Wax processing?



January/February

- Inspection
 - Look for mouse damage
 - Check for available food
- Feeding
 - If the temp rises near 40 degrees, check on the bees quickly and feed them
 - Use a 1:1 syrup and solid food
 - Wear your outfit since they don't like having their lids taken off
 - Clean dead bees in opening if possible



January/February – A time of Rest...Or is it?

- Business bookkeeping and taxes
 - Close the previous year's books
 - Equipment depreciation schedules
 - File tax forms
 - Depreciation and Amortization
 - Profit and Loss from Farming

March

- Feeding!
 - Use a 1:1 mixture, and add in pollen patties
 - Try making your own pollen patties
- Inspection
 - On good days
 - Bring home the dead outs to be prepared for reuse
- Final equipment prep
 - Make sure you have short stack hives (Ground stand, bottom board, brood box, feeder, outer cover) ready for each package on order



April – Spring At Last!

- Arrival of new packages
 - Hive equipment should be ready to go
 - Hive the package
 - Use the smallest opening for the entrance reducer
 - Make sugar water (1:1)
 - Feed the bees!



April

- Remember that a new package will not produce a new bee for up to a month
 - Your population of bees will most likely drop before it expands
- Mite checks
 - On over wintered hives
 - Treat if you have a problem
- Keep the bees well fed



May

- Hive inspection
 - Is the queen laying?
 - Is your hive getting ready to split? Are there queen cells?
 - Do you have good laying patterns?
 - Watch for the first brood box to be filling. Add second at 60% to 80% full
- Split large over wintered colonies
 - Split them before they split themselves
- Paint supers and other available equipment
- Good time to purchase and prepare cut comb foundations (they don't ship in winter)



May

- Remember that May is swarm month! (Same for June and July)
 - Is it your goal to capture one? Do you know someone to call when you see one?
- Keep feeding the bees
 - Feed until they stop taking it – don't stop just because flowers are out
- Move any hives to summer locations before they get too big
 - Strap it up the night before
 - Close openings with fine screen in the morning
 - Load up and take away



June

- Feed the bees?
 - Maybe if you recently split them.
 - Most likely they have stopped taking your syrup for the natural stuff
 - Some have successfully fed a brand new hive into June when lots of wax has to be built
 - Remove feeder when done feeding, and replace with inner cover
- Hive inspection
 - Is the queen laying?
 - Do you have good laying patterns?
 - Second brood box is definitely on for established colonies
 - Mid to Late June will see the addition of queen excluder and first super
 - Put on super before you start driving the queen down with honey in the brood boxes
- Farmer's Market Honey Sales!



July

- Hive inspections
 - Occasional mite checks
 - Watch for laying patterns
 - Ensure that there is always an empty super on top. Add by twos if necessary
 - Teach someone else beekeeping
 - Should be on the largest opening for entrance reducer
- Harvest some summer honey?
 - You could pull a frame and hand harvest some honey if things are going well



August

- Continue Hive inspections
- Prepare for fall harvest
 - Spinner use
 - Honey bucket with gate
 - Storage containers
- Late August honey harvest?
 - It's not a bad time since the temps are still good
- Formic Acid treatment of hive in early August to prepare queen for winter bees



September

- Harvest the honey
 - Early September when it's still warm
 - Dry store or wet store supers
- Equipment Maintenance
 - Good time to paint supers, feeders
- Standard hive inspections
 - May need the smaller opening again for the entrance reducer
- Begin fall feeding
 - 2:1 Syrup solution
- Add mouse guards



October

- Treat for mites
 - Since there is the least amount of mites in brood
- Feed bees
 - Use a 2:1 (Sugar to Water) ratio
 - Feed until they don't take anymore
- Winter wrap hive
 - Use Bramble box for winter opening



November/December

- Club Package Initial Order
 - Get your name on the list early
- Process wax to clean it up
 - Make some hand dipped candles
- Package up honey for Christmas gifts
 - Friends of beekeeper always know what they are getting for Christmas!
- Make your Christmas list
 - 9 frame spacer
 - Candle molds
 - Frame griper
- Make some mead!
- Take some time off and enjoy the holidays



Blatant Sales Pitch

A mead making presentation with ample samples, followed by A Forager Chef presenting cooking with honey.

Tickets limited.



FEB 21 Vintage Living Lesson: Mead Making and All Things Honey

Public · Hosted by The Root Cellar

★ Interested ✓ Going ↗ Share ...

🕒 Wednesday, February 21 at 7 PM - 9 PM

📍 Forager Brewing Company
1005 6th Street Northwest, Rochester, Minnesota 55901

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