

Spring Unpacking, Unwrapping, Hive Cleanup, And Colony Assessment

Spring unwrapping, unpacking, and hive cleanup at Country Blossoms Honey are done for the year. We remove winter wrap, insulation, entrance reducer, and feeder shim (if there is one). It's still cool here, so we leave the screened bottom board trays in place for another few weeks.



This unpacking process requires disassembling the entire hive to clean debris off the bottom board. During warm weather, the bees do this cleanup themselves, but when it's cold and they are clustered, they cannot do this, so dead bees and debris accumulate on the bottom board and begin to decay when the weather warms.

We assess where the brood is located and then reverse the brood boxes if needed. This year, we reversed the brood boxes on about 40% of the hives. We check to be sure each colony is queenright. We also assess the hive population and the amount of brood to determine which of the colonies will need to be split soon. We do not remove every frame during this process, just enough to do the assessments.

