

## **Tri-County Beekeepers Meeting Tuesday, March 5, 2019**

Board members Stephanie Johnson, Bob Cross, Dennis Clark and Deb Cross were present. Bob called the meeting to order at 7:05. Attendance was approximately 100. Seven new members were present and introduced themselves. Youth Scholarship Winners – Owen Skluira and Carter Heating were introduced and their equipment was issued. We're looking for mentors for these 2 young men, please consider mentoring.

Silent Auction was held for used equipment which was donated by a past member. Proceeds will go into the Scholarship Fund.

**Final** bee orders were taken. Club is going with:

- **Kooiman Farms**, 3 lb. package for \$122 or 2 lb. package for \$93. A \$10 deposit will be added. April delivery date.
- **Rusch Farms**, 4 frame nucs with new queen, \$150, sales tax multiply by .0737 with a May delivery date. Must have ordered by February 1<sup>st</sup> to guarantee delivery.

Stephanie stated:

- Minnesota is one of the top states for pollinators.
- Email system is having technical difficulties. Check that emails are not going into your SPAM folder.

Committee Reports

- Mary Kivi– library is set up tonight.
- Picnic Committee is willing to host a picnic at Mary Kivi's home. An email will be sent.
- Fair Committee (Stephanie) Benton County Fair dates are July 30-Aug 4. Setup and meeting on July 29 at the fair. We've been asked to present MORE this year. Sara will be making table coverings for booth. Comment made that last year's setup was exceptional.
- Demo Committee (Clay) looking for demonstration sites. An email will be send sharing locations of any upcoming demos.

Bob gave a short demonstration with the scholarship winners on hiving a box of bees.

Discussion

- Members spoke as to what they have done to over-winter hives.
- How can you not spread disease/mold to a new hive if sharing old frames? Clean up the dead bees. New hive bees will clean up most of the frames. If fermented, don't share.
- What do you need to do to sanitize hives to house new bees? Torch the inside of the boxes if worried about disease.
- Vern explained the different qualities of top bar/Warrè/Langstroth hives.
- Can you use a hive tool in multiple locations? Yes, but they're easy to loose.
- What is typical behavior of a hive at this time in the season? Bees should be in top box. Don't prop cover unless at least 20 degrees. Don't pull any frames yet. If short feed, make candy board and put right on top of cluster. Don't use pollen until middle of March as it will get the queen to lay.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning balance: \$7811.97

+ \$380 for new members  
- \$290 Wix.com bill  
- \$102.38 trailer registration  
Ending balance: \$7799.59

Motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.