Redirecting the instincts of the bees to prevent swarming

Re productive swarm: this is the goal of a successful hive and the preparation is actually stared the fall before, intent is well set by early spring.

Sequence from decision to swarm

Once there are enough bees and enough stores the brood nest is backfilled starting this sequence

Since the brood nest is filed with nectar, this frees the emerging bees who would have been nurses so they are unemployed

And frees the queen from laying so she can slim down to fly with the swarm

And the hive won't need nurse bees (no open brood) so they can swarm

Queen cells are built usually sometime around or shortly after they are capped the hive swarms

Depending on the weather this can be as long as when the queen cells are about to emerge

The old queen and the unemployed nurse bees leave and cluster on a nearby branch

Scout bees find a new location and the swarm flies off to there new home

Some ways to prevent swarming are: Stimulate the hive for rapid foraging force by rotating the hives

Inspect the productivity of the queen if possible introduce a new queen to the hive.

Give sugar water and pollen patties.

Swarming is probably the greatest cause of low honey production. Keep in mind, Swarming is not completely understood, and no matter what methods are used colonies may still swarm there is no 100% sure method that works every time.

60% of the colony swarms with the older queen

Clipping the queen's wings does not prevent swarming because they will wait and swarm with a new virgin queen.

The primary cause of swarming is congestion

The swarm is made up of largely young bees at the optimal age for producing wax since the swarm must quickly build a new comb

A large hive (one that has not swarmed) has more foraging bees than the bees caring for brood even though the large hive has more brood. Once a hive has swarmed it will greatly reduce it's ability to produce surplus honey.

Colonies are most likely to swarm during spring and early summer during the start of the nectar flow

Bee keepers who capture swarms often have issues afterward because the swarm is accompanied by the older queen that may soon die or may not lay well and be unsuccessfully be replaced.

There are many methods to control swarming but three are most followed

1. Reversal of brood bodies
2. Providing a young queen
3. Demaree method

See swarming paper to go into detail for these methods.

ENJOY YOUR BEES !!!!

Swarm Queen Cells