BIOSECURITY MEASURES IN BEEKEEPING | VARROOSIS

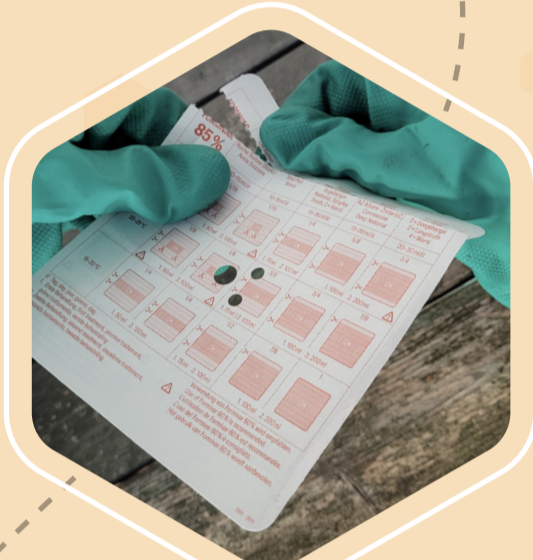Using Low-Impact Compounds Properly

Use of formic acid

To control the varroa mite, formic acid is an option. Formic acid has the property to kill the varroa mite both in the capped brood and on the adult bees.

This makes it suitable to apply just after the last honey harvest and before the feeding of the bees for the winter period. You can use a short-term treatment or a long-term treatment. The method presented below is just one of many options for applying formic acid.

step 1
Ensure you use appropriate safety gear. Wear safety goggles, acid-resistant gloves, and protective clothing. Only handle formic acid products that are approved for use in your country.

step 2
Adjust the flow rate for the dispenser. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. This involves sizing the paper-wick according to your hive size and type, and considering the expected maximum daily temperatures.

step 3
Pour the formic acid solution into the Liebig dispenser's reservoir. Ensure the concentration and amount are appropriate for the treatment area. Insert the dropper. Secure the bottle for transport and storage with a childproof cap. Store at ambient temperature.

step 4
Position the base plate horizontally over the reservoir opening. Place the bottle carefully without applying pressure, with the opening on the fixing prongs. Then rotate both 180° so the base plate is on the bottom. This allows the formic acid to drip onto the paper and evaporate.

step 5
Place the base plate on top of the frames and add an empty box for air circulation. Check the flow of acid by slightly tilting the bottle.

step 6
Close the hive. Close the bottom board. Open the flight entrance in commercial colonies. For nuclei, leave the flight opening unchanged to prevent robbery. Check the evaporated volume and adjust the paper-wick if required, at the earliest after one day.

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