

Hello Fellow Beekeepers:

April 11, 2020

As you all may have figured out by now, the world is askew. Mexico wants us to stay out, Canada won't let their citizens come here, and we're left to fend for ourselves, stuck at home with our kids, unable to eat our sample meals at Costco, and all the brewpubs are closed. This may, indeed, be the apocalypse.

However, there remains a bright beacon amidst the gloom, that which beckons us to wander outdoors and check on our bees, or wait with anxious anticipation for Package Day and the arrival of new ones. And while we can't meet at the WSU Extension to perform demonstrations on package installation, we won't leave you hanging. We are here to take care of you, virtually as well as in person, so this is how it's going to go down.

Some of the IEBA instructors and frontline volunteers are going to prepare the club hives next week and get them set up for the First Year folks to play with, once we get the all clear. In the meantime, we will be shooting video of Spring Inspections, preparatory work for your bees, new and old, as well as video instruction on how to Install a Package. We will provide links for you on the IEBA website at www.iebees.com, and may even have some live feeds on April 18 – Package Day – emphasis on the word *may*. Live feeds are still a little new for the IEBA, but we're gonna give it a shot. Everything you need will be available on the website and/or YouTube. An all-call email will be sent out as well, and everyone on our list will receive notification of where to look for the information and videos.

The instruction you'll receive for package installation will be no different than what we have done in the past, except that you'll see the demo on your computer or phone, rather than in a group surrounding a hive in the parking lot at the Extension. We'll walk you through, step by step, and you'll be just fine. If it's not in the IEBA video or in any of our instructions, and you're thinking of trying something else, DON'T. We know what works up here in the Northwest. The internet is full of tips and tricks for installing packages, but what works well in Georgia might not work here, and you could cause damage to your bees. Do NOT spray your bees with sugar water when installing. It will just make them sweet, wet and cold. Trust what your teachers tell you, and you'll be fine.

Package day is still a go for the 18th. Have your hive set up and ready to go at home. Tate's Honey Farm **will not** be selling equipment on the 18th, this day will be for package distribution only. Prepay if you can. It'll go faster for everyone. If you are dealing with other vendors, check with them for dates/times for pick-up and other instructions. Once you pick up your package, if you haven't already watched the video, go home, set your bees on top of your hive body, and tune into the video. Watch it once, take it out with you if you want and install your bees. Then, grab a beer...I mean soda or water...and kick back and watch your bees get used to their new home. Guess what? You're hooked! Life will never be the same again.

This message will be available online as well, in written form, in case you don't have video access, or if maybe you just don't want to look at my face. If you should have any questions between now and then, email us at beehelper@iebees.com, and we'll do our best to get back to you in a timely fashion. Until next week, enjoy that umpteenth puzzle, reruns of Friends, or whatever it is you're doing to keep yourselves occupied. Bee happy and Bee safe!

Matt Liere
IEBA President