

Beekeeping in Coastal California Review

By Kim Flottom

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The Beach Boys said it best when they crooned about wishing They Could All Be California Girls, and one of our books this month might make that song a comeback.

Beekeeping in Coastal California. Jeremy R. Rose. 176 pages. All color. 7.5" x 9". Soft cover. \$31.95 plus postage. ISBN 978-0-9844357-0-8. Published by The California Bee Company, LLC. P.O. Box 14626, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405. www.californiabeecompany.com, orders@calbeebook.com, and fine California (and other state) bookstores and beekeeper supply outlets.

Jeremy Rose is a 300 colony small commercial beekeeper in San Luis Obispo, California. He pollinates almonds, practices a sound and safe varroa IPM program, and in this book explores beekeeping principles not only for the coastal areas, but also both northern and southern areas of the state. His sustainable practices include feeding pollen substitutes and sugar when necessary, intervention for controlling most pests and diseases, and weaning out weak and languishing hives overwinter. He does not advocate letting hives die needlessly.

A thorough review of the elements of coastal California covers the weather, especially rainfall or lack thereof, wind, mild winters, fog, fires, AHB, apiary size, races of bees to use, and forage...a big part of this book. His varroa management is extensive, labor intensive, but successful.

Then he launches into a month by month management guide for keeping bees in that part of California – what the bees are doing, what the beekeeper should be doing, what problems occur and what plants are blooming. It is very comprehensive. This is the bulk of this book and the photos are fantastic. At the end there is a great pictorial of the important honey plants in that part of the world. My only fault with this concept is that there aren't beekeeping books with this format for every part of where ever it is bees are kept. I guess that's not a fault, is it...

This was written for beekeepers in the author's part of the world, but I learned things from it, and you will also, no matter where you live.