

Queen Breeding, **BEST** Protocol and Pol-line 2.2 Queens

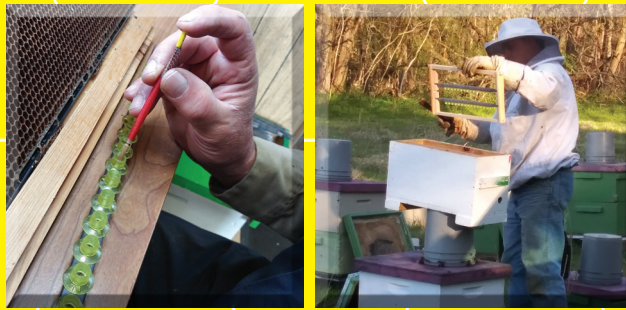
Best colony
Every location
Selected to be
Tested without treatment

BEST Protocol allows a commercial beekeeper to select the best production hives from many of thousands of colonies and then test only those selected hives without treatment.

The detailed process:

During the spring and summer in North Dakota the Pol-line 2.2 program marks the best performing four hives in every bee yard, based on build up and honey production. Then when the last honey boxes are removed, those highest performing hives are not treated so we can later identify the colonies that can thrive without miticide. About October 1, all of those selected hives are evaluated to find the largest population, temperament, and mite loads from an alcohol wash. During February, in Texas, that pool of top producers are evaluated and mite washed again to pick the best hives as queen mothers to graft from. Successful hives maintain a mite load below 1% without treatment.

BEST Protocol and Pol-line 2.2 are the best ways to test bees for mite resistance and select new queen mothers.



Testimonial

Dennis Helmer of Betty Bee Queen Co. has over 30 years of commercial beekeeping experience.

Dennis never overloaded me with complicated knowledge that I wouldn't grapple as a newbie. He kept it simple. Of course, now after 5 years, he is sharing those more and more complicated "golden nuggets" with me that I find myself soaking up like a dry sponge.

More importantly the reason I continue supporting the Betty Bee Queen Co. is genetics. I believe that having strong genetics is vital to strong colonies; providing those traits that aspiring beekeepers desire. Using his queens in all of my apiaries, they provide a genetic line of honeybees that I seek for the continued success of my business. Dennis breeds VSH Pol-line 2.2 queen bees. The results that I have noticed over the years are:

- Steady egg laying that leads to rapid, yet controlled, early spring colony growth.
- Lesser swarming propensity compared to my colonies from packaged Italian queens.
- Healthy, workable bees with good disposition.
- Robust honey and wax production.
- High overwintering survival rate.
- And while one must continue to be ever vigilant with Varroa mite monitoring, I have noticed smaller mite wash counts in my colonies with Pol-line queens. The VSH trait is definitely present compared to my colonies from packaged Italian queens.

I have appreciated Dennis's round-the-clock availability, "golden nuggets" of beekeeping wisdom, and most significantly – the quality queens he raises each year. I will continue to purchase VSH Pol-line 2.2 queen bees from Betty Bee Queen Co. to further promote those desired genetics needed for the future success in my beekeeping operations.

Bill Mengel
Bill's Bees



Betty Bee Queen Co.

"There's no Business like Bee Business."

To place an order call Dennis at

443-515-7113

bettybeequeenco@gmail.com

History

Betty Bee Queen Co. started five years ago on the Eastern Shore in Maryland.

Her roots go back to my grandfather. He was a dairy farmer, raised small poultry flocks, and sold honey by the pail. His trademark was Betty Bee Honey, taking the name of his first daughter. I was on his heels in the bee yards every summer since I was five years old.

After I got out of the military (Semper Fi) I kept bees on the side while working part time for a commercial migratory bee operation in Wisconsin and Texas. That turned into a full-time career in North and South Dakota, Texas, and California. I spent 20 years raising queens, producing barrels of honey, and pollination contracts, keeping me in the Dakotas in the summer and the deep south and west coast in the winter.

Mission

Betty Bee Queen Co. is focused solely on producing queens for the intermediate sized beekeeper, the hobbyist, commercial pollinators and honey producers; to provide replacement queens and to make up for summer and fall losses.

Keeping performance and production in mind, breeder queens are selected from two breeder programs: The Pol-line 2.2 and Joe Latshaw's Ohio AI program.

The foundation for productive and profitable bees is genetics.

Queen Packages and Pricing

Queens are available from late April to November.

- 1-9 queens** \$35.00/ea.
- 10-24 queens** \$30.00/ea.
- 25 queens and up** \$25.00/ea.

(Shipping costs are additional)

When queens are shipped they are packed with the appropriate attendant workers, sponges, and candy to sustain the queens and bees.

Queens are packed in California Mini Cages so workers can provide optimum care for the queens.



Policy

Betty Bee Queen Co. is a one man operation, therefore all queens picked are laying proven queens.

Queens that have not mated properly or not laying well are disposed of and not sold to fill orders.

In the event of a mishap or damage during shipping contact me as soon as possible.

Best practice would be to document the damage with a photograph.

