

## Making Spring Splits

Mel Disselkoen's OTS, On the spot queen rearing system

Coweta Beekeepers Association ( Georgia)

[www.cowetabeekeepers.org](http://www.cowetabeekeepers.org)

Enabling a Beekeeper to increase honey production and profits while reducing swarming.

Starts with overwinter colonies

Need 7-8 frames of brood to initiate

Normally starts around April 15th

You are performing a reverse split

Remove queen and two frames of brood to a nuc box, must be able to recognize and find the queen

Leaves you with

A queen right nuc

A queen less original colony

### On the spot system

Need to find frame of eggs or larva under 36 hours old

Need to notch the cells that contain the eggs or 36 hour larva

Do this on two frames

Leave in the original colony to make their own queen cells

Seven days later check the frames for capped queen cells

Then you need to choose to make more nucs or just raise a queen for the original colony

Keep the original hive intact to produce honey

Intent is to squish all but two queen cells

Keep the best two- look for bees attending the queen cells

Remember you will not see any new eggs or larva for 37 days after you see the capped queen cells

I usually go back in the hive in 10 days after the capped queen cells are checked to see if the capped queen cells have hatched, you should see that one has hatched and the other was destroyed by the queen that hatched first

If your queen never makes it to a mature productive queen you still have the original queen in the nuc that can be returned to her original hive.

This is just one method of keeping hives from swarming while also raising your own local queens, I have been using this method the past two years and have had about a 97% success rate. My hive overwintering rate is higher with these queens and the colonies seem to be stronger. This also helps control varroa mites, as it causes a brood break so the mites are unable to reproduce.

I suggest trying this method, even if you only do it on one hive and see what you think. It works and there is no better feeling than raising you own queens from your best hives with the best desirable traits.