



WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

About the Beekeeping Companion Database

- **Meet the Developer**

Nelda (Nel) Murri is a retired academic pharmacist whose beekeeping journey began unexpectedly in 2019. What started as curiosity quickly evolved into a passion for honey bees, pollinator stewardship, and the science of apiculture.

Today, Nel manages 35 honey bee colonies on a 160-acre former sheep ranch along the Wallowa River in northeastern Oregon. She is dedicated to advancing beekeeping through education, collaboration, and evidence-based practices. Nel is co-founder of Wallowa County Beekeepers, founder of the Wallowa Beekeepers Cooperative, and currently serves as Secretary of the Western Apicultural Society.

Combining hands-on beekeeping experience with the analytical skills she developed during her career in pharmacy, Nel is committed to helping beekeepers make informed decisions that promote healthy colonies and sustainable pollinator management.

- **About the Beekeeping Companion Database**

The **WAS Beekeeping Companion Database** was created from an extensive collection of publicly available scientific literature, educational resources, and trusted references gathered over years of study.

As a pharmacist, Nel spent her career evaluating the quality of medical evidence. She brought that same evidence-based approach to beekeeping, carefully distinguishing research-supported information from the many traditional practices that have accumulated over centuries through personal experience and anecdotal observation

One of the most fascinating discoveries was that although the honey bee is among the most thoroughly studied insects in the world, many commonly accepted management practices have never been rigorously validated through scientific research. This realization inspired the creation of a resource that helps answer everyday beekeeping questions using the best available scientific evidence while acknowledging where evidence is still evolving.

Rather than attempting to document every historical beekeeping practice, the database focuses on information supported by current research and well-established best practices. When scientific evidence is limited or unavailable, beekeepers are encouraged to thoughtfully weigh potential benefits and risks while considering both colony health and honey bee welfare.

The Beekeeping Companion Database is designed to help Western Apicultural Society members quickly find reliable, evidence-based answers to everyday beekeeping questions. By bringing together carefully evaluated scientific research and trusted educational resources in one searchable location, it saves time, encourages informed decision-making, and supports healthier bees through continually updated best practices. As new research emerges, the database will continue to evolve, providing members with an expanding resource for lifelong learning.

Nelda Murri
Database Developer
Western Apicultural Society