

The economic value of supplemental feeding of honeybee colonies for package bees production in Egypt

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The effect of feeding pollen supplements on *Apis mellifera* L. populations and the economic value of feeding colonies for spring or summer production of package bees was studied on thirty colonies of F1 Carniolan race. Five feeding treatments (6 colonies each), were evaluated from the beginning of dearth period (Autumn season) to compare the benefit of feeding. Colonies fed with checkpea flour + yeast produced population of adult bees which significantly increased 3.3 times and 2.4 times than control treatment for spring and summer net income, respectively. The net income for feeding treatments of Extra- bee, soya bean flour + yeast and skimmed milk were high with (3.1 & 2.2 times), (2.6 & 1.7 times) and (1.5 & 1.4 times) than control colonies for spring and summer production, respectively.

