

02/01/2021

Bulk purchasing scheme report 2020

We are continuing to concentrate on feed and jars for this scheme as they are something we can mostly agree on.

Again we ordered a refill of our bulk liquid container, filling it gave a total of 1400 Kg this was sold at 80p per Kg which was 6p/kg more than last year.

Again I am indebted to two friends and non-beekeepers that helped with the logistics of picking up the syrup from near Saltash (Graham) and removing the full container from the truck and putting it into my barn (Peter). I have ensured they had a drink on us!

The delivery was at 8:30 and went like clockwork with lots of people with large containers filling from the Belgian tanker. We soon sold out of syrup which equates to 125 containers at 400 grams each, which is a total of 50 Kg of plastic saved on buying new containers.

Again we had two orders of jars this year totalling £2433 the second order did incur a delivery charge but the savings were considerable as a box of 72 1lb jars was £22.34 (£21.18 last year) and a tray of 8oz jars was £9.48 (£8.84) (+10% for delivery) the quality of the jars from Freeman and Harding is very good and unless there are any large price increases I think we will stick with this supplier.

Social distancing was the theme this year which I think went very well. Although a combined pickup of Jars and feed was not really possible.

We had an order for 42 boxes of fondant which sold at £15 per 12.5kg box this again was the same price as last year. The order was up on last year's 28 box order.

As you are aware there have been a few casualties caused by the restrictions in trade we have put between ourselves and Europe. I therefore have been in contact with our bee feed supplier who imports from Belgium; he says that things are looking quite good for this year's bulk deliver. There will be a slight increase in cost due to all the additional admin at both ends which has moved from 1 to 7 sheets. As the syrup is bought as one bulk order and then divided this spreads the additional cost quite thinly.

An interesting figure he quoted was that we (the UK) have employed 10,700 additional customs people just to process the additional paperwork generated by our new trading status with Europe.

There is no duty or VAT on this sugar product

Thanks to all who had supported the our bulk buying scheme in 2020

Tim Howes