In 1968, a breeding system was designed to fulfill the second objective of the Stock Center, the production of a "standard" stock of honey bees. Since this was begun we have devoted a major part of our time and energy to this project. Each year we have produced one or two generations of each of the eight sublines used in the production and maintenance of this stock. The mating system employed (to be described elsewhere) involves mating queens and drones of each of the sublines in a prearranged circular system based on minimum relationship of parents in each generation. Approximately 100 colonies of bees headed by the current generation of this stock are wintered each year at Baton Rouge. This stock is also being evaluated at our Madison laboratory. Results to date indicate that the standard stock is becoming less variable within and between sublines, but large differences between sublines are expected to exist for several generations. The standard stock is designed to serve exactly as it is named—a standard bee for research purposes or a standard by which beekeepers and other bee breeders may evaluate the stocks which they are using. Although many of our better inbred lines were incorporated into our standard stock is not designed as a superior stock or a replacement for our selected inbred lines or hybrid combinations.

We have also started on our third objective, improving stock maintenance technology. Preliminary studies were begun on the wintering of multiple queens in colonies in our temperature controlled bee room. Observations to date indicate a greater success in wintering queens by this method than in outside queen-bank colonies. We plan to refine these developments, and also to explore means of utilizing sen...
storage and of improving instrumental insemination for greater controlled
ating efficiency.

The framework of the policy which guides our operation of the Bee Stock
Center is described in the following basic operational procedures:

1. The Honey Bee Stock Center is a Federal facility, and all stocks
accepted become Federal property.

2. Only genetically defined stocks (accompanied by supporting de-
scriptive publications) will be accepted for maintenance. The Stock
Center will not be able to verify the genetic composition of new
stock since such procedures require facilities beyond its resources.
Genetic definition of a stock will, therefore, be the responsi-
bility of the donor. Accepted stocks will be catalogued and
maintained in sufficient numbers.

to insure their preservations. However, the Stock Center will not
assume responsibility for loss of germ plasm.

3. Genetically undefined stocks which have unusual potential
breeding value may be accepted and incorporated into specific ge-
netic pools for later use as the program of the Center may dic-
tate and as the resources of the Center may permit. We cannot
accept, evaluate or perpetuate "name" lines of bees.

4. Genetic material will be released to research workers and bee breeder-
ers on a fee basis. In no case will stocks of bees be distributed if
they are available from a commercial source. All requests for stock
should be submitted to the Center at least three months in ad-

vance of anticipated shipping time. Research workers will be
supplied inbred stocks (3 queens
of each line requested) free of
charge. Additional queens (in-
bred or hybrid) will cost $5.00
each. Some cooperating queen
breeders are being supplied with
hybrid breeding stock on an ex-
nperimental basis. These queen
breeders are paying $25.00 each
for these queens. At present no
commercial queen breeders are
being supplied with breeder queens
and drone mother queens which
would enable these producers to
control the mating of the queens
produced. We anticipate that the
Center will eventually serve as
the source of some proven test
stocks for both research agencies
and commercial interests. Com-
mercial beekeepers can be very
helpful in the primary evaluation
of many of the gross characteris-
tics of selected hybrid tested un-
der various climatic and regional
conditions.

5. All requests from foreign sources
for stock will be referred to the
headquarters of the Apiculture
Research Branch, Beltsville, Mary-
land.

6. The Bee Stock Center will main-
tain a current inventory of the
stocks in storage. The list will be
available upon request. Although
the principal objectives of the
Stock Center are the collection,
maintenance, and distribution of
genetic stocks of bees, research
projects related to these objectives
will also be carried on at the lab-

oratory. Facilities will be avail-
able to visiting research scientists.
In addition, short term training in
bee breeding and stock mainte-
inance procedures will be available
upon request.

Based on the image, it appears that a dedication ceremony or event for the Stock Center is taking place, with various individuals involved in the operation and management of the beekeeping facility. The text appears to be a report or summary of the operational procedures and policies of the Stock Center, emphasizing the importance of maintaining genetic diversity and the controlled release of genetic material to researchers and beekeepers.