

# **Backyard Beekeeping, Our Approach**

**Gretchen & Russ  
Killingsworth**

**Honey Bee on Indian Hawthorne  
in our backyard**



# About Us

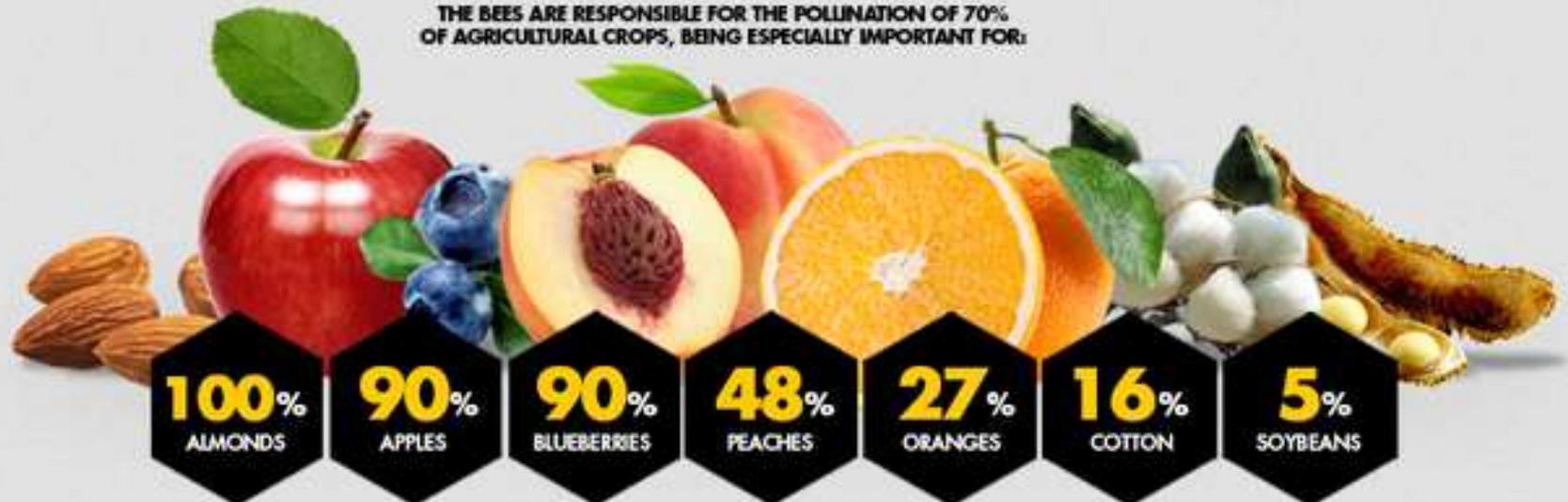
- **Beekeepers since 2012**
- **1 to 4 hives in neighborhood backyard**
- **How did this happen?**
- **Set up hives; capture swarms; re-queen hives; deal with pests, defensive hives, & annoyed neighbors; relocate hives; harvest >1000 lbs honey; harvested wax & propolis; mourn losses; keep track of everything; go to club mtgs & conferences; take lots of pics; stung >100 times**
- **Metro Beekeepers Association class teacher, Mentor for MBA youth scholarship, Honey sales at Farmers Mkt, Board of Directors**



# Why Would Anyone Keep Bees? <sup>3</sup>

- **Honey, Wax, Pollen, Propolis**
- **Better gardens, plants, agriculture yield**
- **Ag exemption (tax savings, rural property)**
- **Fascination. Beekeepers love bees.**
- **Help environment by helping bees thrive**
- **People use local honey to reduce allergies**
- **Medical (burns, arthritis, apitherapy)**
- **Make friends at bee meetings**

THE BEES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLLINATION OF 70% OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS, BEING ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR:



**North wind break,  
incl skirt on shed**

**Workspace in back  
& sides**

# **Our Backyard Apiary**

**6 ft Fence (fly up)  
Enclosed (kids, animals)**



**Langstroth  
10 frame**



**Dry,  
Level**

**Entrance reducers**



**Top Bar**

**Stand &  
Bug barrier**

**Facing south or east**

**Away from  
foot traffic**

**Mulch, Grass deterrent**

**Nearby sources of water, nectar, & pollen**

# Know Your Local Laws

- **Laws vary by city, county, HOA**
- **Fort Worth is Bee-Friendly**
  - **Good laws, fair to neighbors & beekeepers**

## Urban agriculture uses in Fort Worth Adapted from the Fort Worth Zoning Ordinance

Allowed\*

Zoning district	Community garden	Urban farm	Aquaponics, within a structure	General signage	Temporary sales	Farmers' market	Sale signage	Honeybees	Self-pick sales	Warehousing/distribution
Residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									

\* See zoning ordinance for conditions.

<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/development-services/zoning/ordinance>

<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/development-services/documents/urban-agriculture.pdf>

# Good Laws About Bees

- **# Hives**
- **6' fence**
- **Water**
- **Robbing**
- **Aggressive**
- **Know your local laws**

10. Beekeeping/Apiary is allowed with the below regulations:

Ordinance 21653

- a. The responsible parties, who are beekeepers, must adhere to all applicable state laws concerning the care and handling of bees;
- b. Honeybee colonies are kept in hives with removable frames or top bars with dividers, which shall be maintained in sound working condition;
- c. The numbers of hives is tailored to the size of the lot as follows: a maximum of two hives on lots  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre or smaller, four hives on lots larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$  but less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre, six hives on lots larger than  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre but smaller than 1 acre. There shall be no limit on the number of hives on lots larger than one acre. The number of hives **may increase by up to 50% over the designated limits for a period not greater than sixty (60) days.** The Planning and Development Director or designee shall have the authority to require a person to reduce the number of hives or require other reasonable safety precautions in an apiary in order to abate any nuisance.
- d. If a hive's orientation has the hive entrances located perpendicular to and **within 25 feet** or less of an adjacent property line, **a solid wall, fence, hedge** or combination thereof **at least six feet high** shall be placed between hives and adjacent property lines of developed properties, and extends at least four (4) feet beyond the hive in each direction along the property line in order to minimize interactions between bees and the adjacent property
- e. A **convenient source of water** is provided to the bees on the property at all times during the year to discourage bees from congregating at swimming pools, hose bibs, or other water sources where contact with humans or pets may occur.
- f. **No wax comb or other material that encourage robbing** by other bees is left upon the grounds of the lot; instead this material should be stored in sealed, insect-proof containers or closed buildings. For a period not greater than twenty-four (24) hours frames and hone harvesting equipment may be left in the bee yard to allow bees to clean excess honey from the equipment.
- g. If a colony exhibits **aggressive behavior** without provocation, the beekeeper will ensure that the colony is re-queened or otherwise managed using customary beekeeping practices;

Lot size	# hives
< $\frac{1}{4}$ acre	2
$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$	4
$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1	6
> 1 acre	No limit

<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/development-services/zoning/ordinance>  
<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/development-services/documents/urban-agriculture.pdf>

# **We Have Good Neighbors**

- **In addition to obeying the law (fence, etc),**
- **Talk with neighbors before they talk to you**
  - **Wild bees were here when we had no bees**
  - **Explain our considerations to be friendly to them**
  - **Ask how they feel. All were supportive, ...**
- **Reward neighbors with honey**
- **We are fortunate to have Good Neighbors who care about bees**

# How Some People Do Beekeeping



<https://www.facebook.com/buzzon4ever/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsqELn7YeQk>

# Clothing



- **Protect face & eyes, as a minimum**



- **Texas bees can be very defensive**
- **We have encountered bad surprises**

# Essential Tools

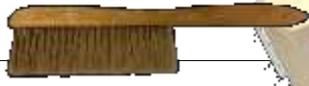
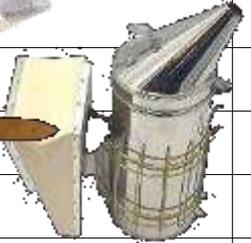


# What Stuff Do I Need?

- **Join a club, take a class**
- **More likely to succeed!**



• **Get ventilated, 3-layer suit**

Suit with Veil		\$80 to \$200
Gloves		\$25 to \$30
Hive Tool		\$13
Bee Brush		\$15
Smoker		\$43
Bottom Board, Reducer		\$44
Inner Cover	• <b>Some people build</b>	\$18
Telescoping Cover	<b>their wooden boxes,</b>	\$37
Deep Hive Box	<b>boards, frames</b>	\$27
10 Deep Frames w/ Foundation		\$40
Two Medium Hive Boxes (at least)		\$26
20 Medium Frames w/ Foundation		\$39
Queen Excluder		\$10
Inner Feeder		\$11
Subtotal		\$430 to \$550
Nuc (bees with queen)		\$220
Subtotal		\$650 to \$760



• **Add 2<sup>nd</sup> hive for \$500 (\$250 + \$220)**

# What Causes Bee Colonies to Die? <sup>11</sup>

## Queen Failure

Lost productivity, age  
Damage by inspection  
Damage in duel(s)  
Mating flight fails  
Other items on this pg

## Diseases

Viruses via varroa  
Foulbrood  
Nosema  
etc

## Animals

Small Mammals (skunks, mice)  
Large Mammals (livestock, bears,  
beekeepers, people)  
Birds, Wasps

## Parasites & Pests

Varroa Mites  
Small Hive Beetle  
Wax Moths  
etc



## Poor Nutrition

Not enough nectar & pollen  
Flowerless landscapes  
Mono agriculture  
Herbicides

## Pesticides

Neonicotinoids  
Pyrethroids  
Fungicides  
Herbicides  
etc

- **Varroa with viruses are single biggest threat to bees**
- **Combined threats compound individual harmful effects**
- **Beekeepers have responsibilities to inspect the hives & care for their bees**
- **Inspect for queenright, food, pests, diseases, housing**

# Inspections

1. Queenright
2. Nutrition & water
3. Pests
4. Diseases
5. Housing

• **Think ahead**

• **Do we need to do anything to help the bees?**

• **MBA resources**

• <https://metrobeekeepers.net/this-month-in-the-hive-inspection-checklist/>

## Beekeeper's Inspection Checklist



### 1) OUTSIDE OF HIVE

- # of bees coming & going
- Pollen going in
- Crowded entrance
- Fighting or robbing
- Weight of hive (food stores)
- Spotting (treat for nosema?)
- Dead bees on entrance or ground
- Bees on ground (mites? poison?)
- Equipment (box, stand, weathering)
- Water source (reliable, persistent)
- Neighbor issues?
- Tall grass (pest bridges)
- Sun/shade level

### 2) FRAME

- Temperament of bees
- # of bees on frames
- # of frames with bees
  - If < 6 frames, combine?
  - If full, split?
- Swarm signs
  - Queen cups, open, empty
  - Queen cells (larvae or closed w/ pupa, bottom of frame)
  - Supersedure cells (on frame sides)
- Brood pattern appropriate
- Larvae in jelly?
- Queen sighting or signs?
- Bees with deformities?

### 4) BEEKEEPER

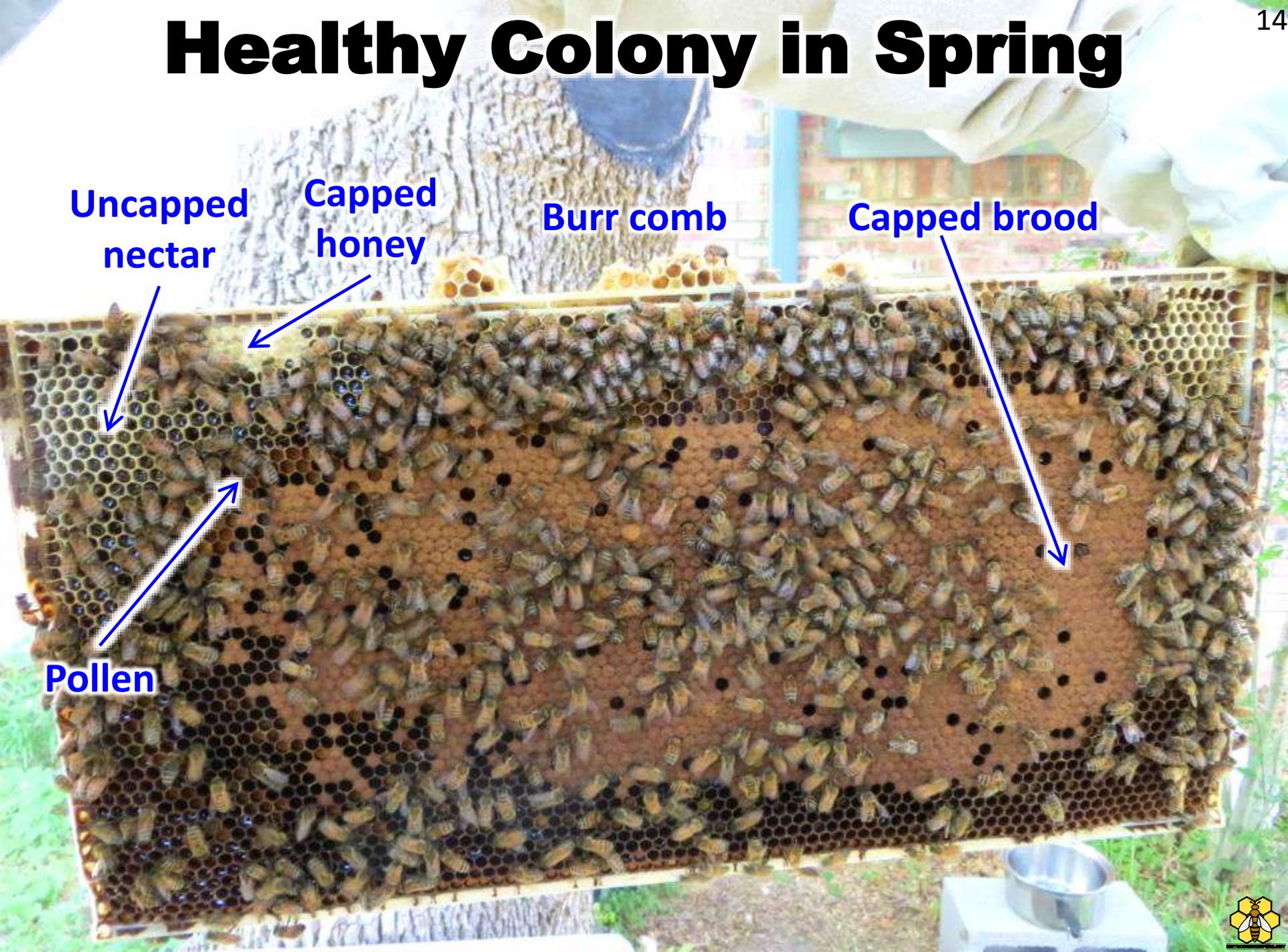
- Order ahead of time (bees, queens, equipment, jars, labels, PDB, etc)
- Equipment for supering, harvesting, wintering
- Record keeping
- Learn more (bee club, books, internet, etc.)

### 3) FRAME

- Honey stores
  - If 80% full, add super
  - If low then feed
  - Have 30 lbs for winter
- Pollen, Bee bread, add sub?
- Feeder status? Add?
- Pests (Small hive beetles, Wax moths, ants, etc)
- Nurse bee behavior
- Drones, drone cells
- Dirty comb (replace after ~5 years)
- Burr comb (clean?)
- Cell Level
  - 1 egg at bottom of cell
  - Multiple eggs in cells
  - Slightly convex wax cappings
  - Perforations in wax cappings
  - Color & cond of wax & cappings
  - Mites on pupa?
- 300 Bee Level
  - Mite Count
    - Alcohol wash
    - Sugar Roll
    - Sticky board
  - Is it time to treat?



# Healthy Colony in Spring



Uncapped nectar

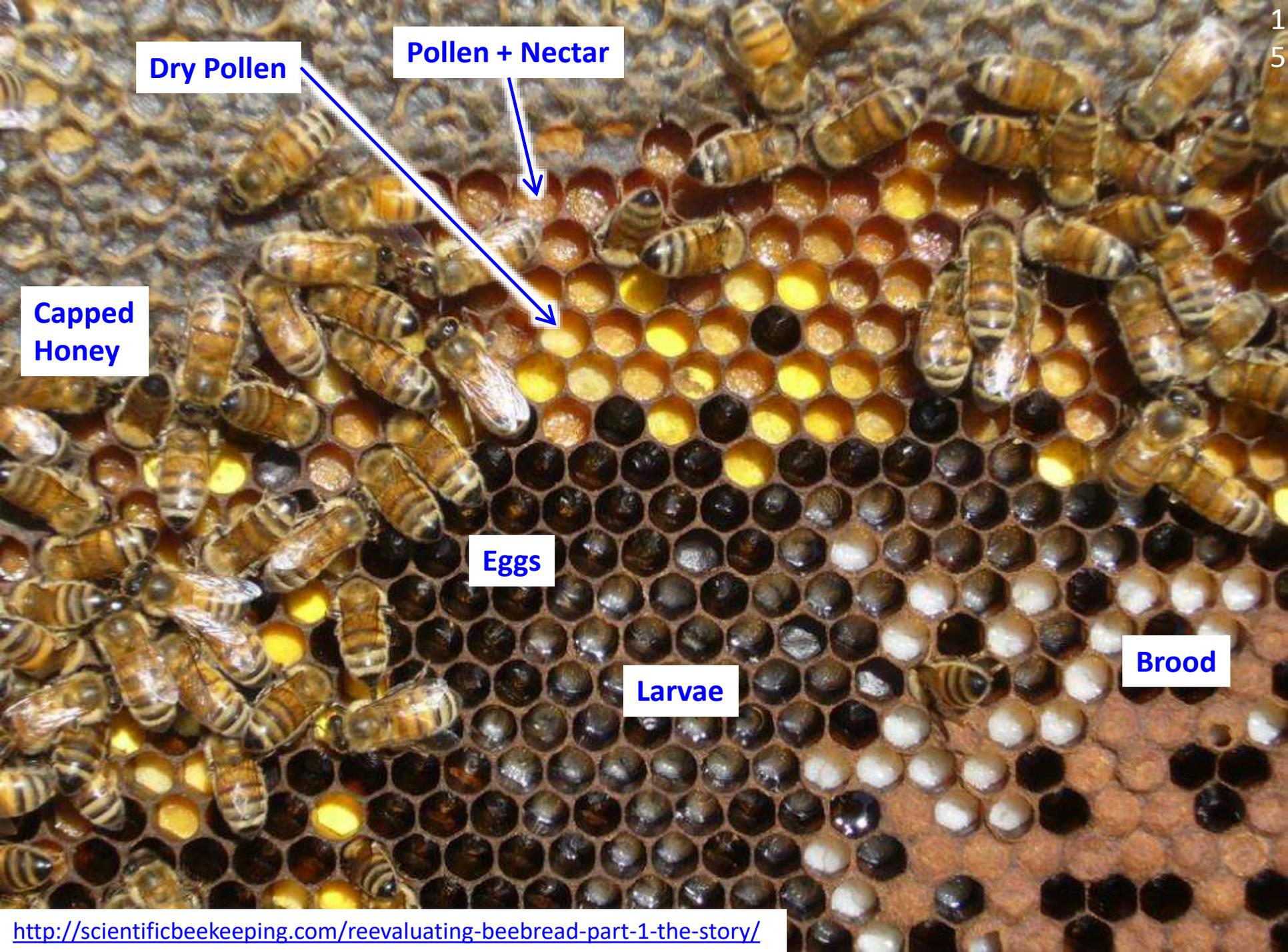
Capped honey

Burr comb

Capped brood

Pollen





Dry Pollen

Pollen + Nectar

Capped  
Honey

Eggs

Larvae

Brood

# Inspections Vary by Season

- **Objectives are the same all year**
  - Is the colony Queenright? (healthy queen)
  - Do they have the honey & pollen needed?
  - Are there pests or diseases that need attn?
  - Housing. Too little or too much space?  
Sound boxes & stands?
- **MBA free [Resources](#)**
  - [Inspection Checklist](#) (blank forms)
  - [This-Month-in-the-Hive](#) inspections by season

## Inspection Checklist, Outside

- Be ready for contingencies (clothing, boxes, frames, buckets, pollen sub, nectar sub)
- # of bees coming & going
- Crowded entrance
- Fighting or robbing
- Pollen going in
- Water source
- Sounds of bees
- Spotting
- Bees crawling on ground
- Dead bees on ground
- Equipment (weathering)
- Any neighbor issues
- Tall grass around hives (ant & pest bridges)
- Sun/shade level



## Inspection Checklist, Inside

- Smoke before opening
- Temperament of bees
- Pests (SHB, moths, etc)
- # of bees on frames
- # of frames with bees
- If frames full, add box
- If not enough bees to defend space, reduce a box or combine
- Queen health
  - Brood pattern
  - Queen cups (open, no larvae)
  - Queen cells (larvae or closed with pupa)
  - Supercedure cells (on frame sides)
  - Queen sighting
- Stores (honey, pollen)
- Cells
  - Eggs, single at base
  - Larvae healthy
  - Perforations in wax
  - Wax color & condition
- Bees with deformities
- Nurse bee behavior
- Drones, drone cells
- Old comb (replace)



## Inspection Checklist

- Mite Count
  - Sugar roll, alcohol, sticky board
  - Need treatment?
  - See [Varroa Mite](#)
- After inspections
  - Place orders ahead of time (bees, queens, jars, labels, equipment, etc)
  - Equipment for supering, harvesting
  - Record keeping
  - Learn more: Attend Bee Club, books, web, etc.



# Inspections & Actions by Season

Queen-  
right  
Nutrition  
Disease  
Housing

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Temp	Eve > 50° F	Day > 95° F	Eve < 50° F	Day < 50° F
Blooms	Lots after mid-Feb	Sparse if dearth. Often Autumn surge.		Low until early Feb
Activity	Lots		Lots on warm days	None on cold days
Inspect	Weekly	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 4 weeks	4 to 6 weeks
Queen	Lots brood		Declining brood	Little/no brood
Bees	8 to 16+ frames	6 to 16+ frames	6 to 10+ frames	4 to 8 frames
	Look for healthy brood, healthy adults, dead bees on ground			
Honey	Feed new hives for a year. > 40 lbs honey or feed syrup (or fondant if <50°F)			
Pollen	Feed pollen until bees stop taking	> 1.5 frames or feed		Can add patties or open feed
Water	Ensure persistent water supply all year			
Varroa	<u>Test 2 to 4 times/year.</u> Treat? <u>When mites &lt; 2%.</u> <u>When mites &gt; 3%.</u>			
SHB, Moths	Remove/add boxes consistent with enough bees to defend the space			
Boxes, Frames	Keep 50% to 70% bees/frame. More → swarm. Less → pests.		Remove empty. Discard old.	Store wax frames. Clean, repair.
Excluder	Add if desired. Stop feeding syrup before nectar flow, if plan harvest.		Remove > harvest	No. Queen must move with cluster.
Entrance Reducer	Remove if excess congestion. We use all year (wooden in summer)		Add	Yes

- **Some beeks intervene less (don't feed, no entrance reducer)**
- **You get to choose how much you do to help them survive**

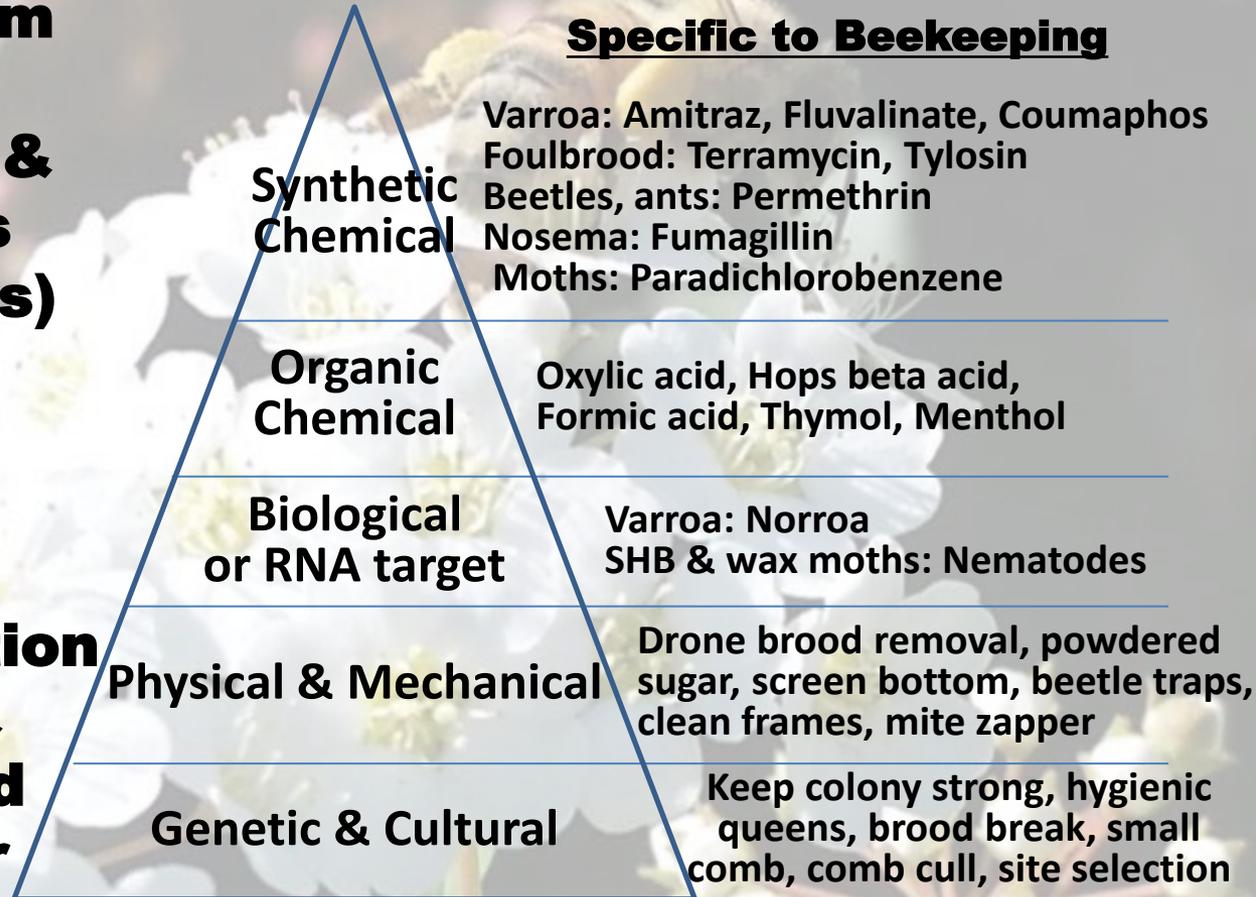
# Integrated Pest Management

## • Objectives:

- **Solve pest problem**
- **Reduce risks to people, property, & environment (less harmful chemicals)**
- **Long-term sustainable**
- **Reduce costs**

## • Principles:

- **Minimal intervention**
- **Start at bottom & move up if needed**
- **Monitor & test for effectiveness**
- **Adapt & adjust**



**Rotate Methods to Reduce Resistance**

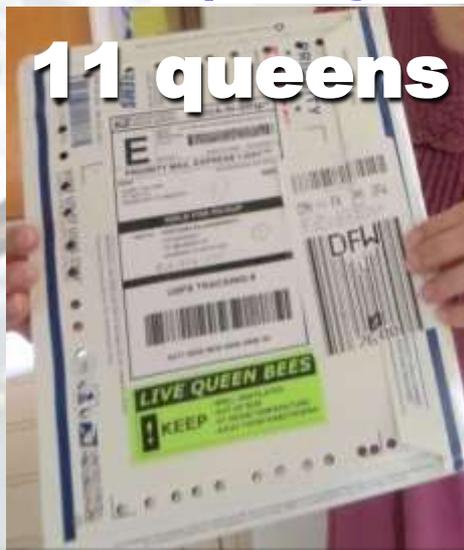
# Where Did We Get Bees?

- **Local beekeeper**
  - Nucs (nucleus hive)
  - Queens
  - Complete hive
- **Through the mail**
  - Queens, Packages
- **Catch a swarm**
- **Rescue unwanted established hive**
- **Splits**



**9 Nucs in our car**

**• 200 bees flying free (Everything leaks) We are fully suited**



**11 queens by mail**



# How Do I Get Bees?

	Swarm	Package	Nuc (Nucleus)	Established Hive
What's Included?	Bees & Queen	Bees, Queen in cage, can syrup	Bees, accepted Queen, Brood	Bees, Queen, Brood, Food Stores
Brood	None	None	Yes, faster buildup	Yes
Honeycomb	None	None	Yes, drawn	Yes, drawn
Mites, Pests	Variable, test	Variable, test	Variable, test	Variable, test
Feed	Feed!	Feed!	Feed!	Inspect! Feed?
Queen quality	> 1 year	Young, ask seller	Young, ask seller	Ask seller
Honey Harvest	≥ 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	≥ 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	≥ 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Possibly 1 <sup>st</sup> year
Survival	Variable	Good success	High success	High
Cost	Effort	~\$170	~\$220	~\$350+
Source	Local	Can ship	Local	Local

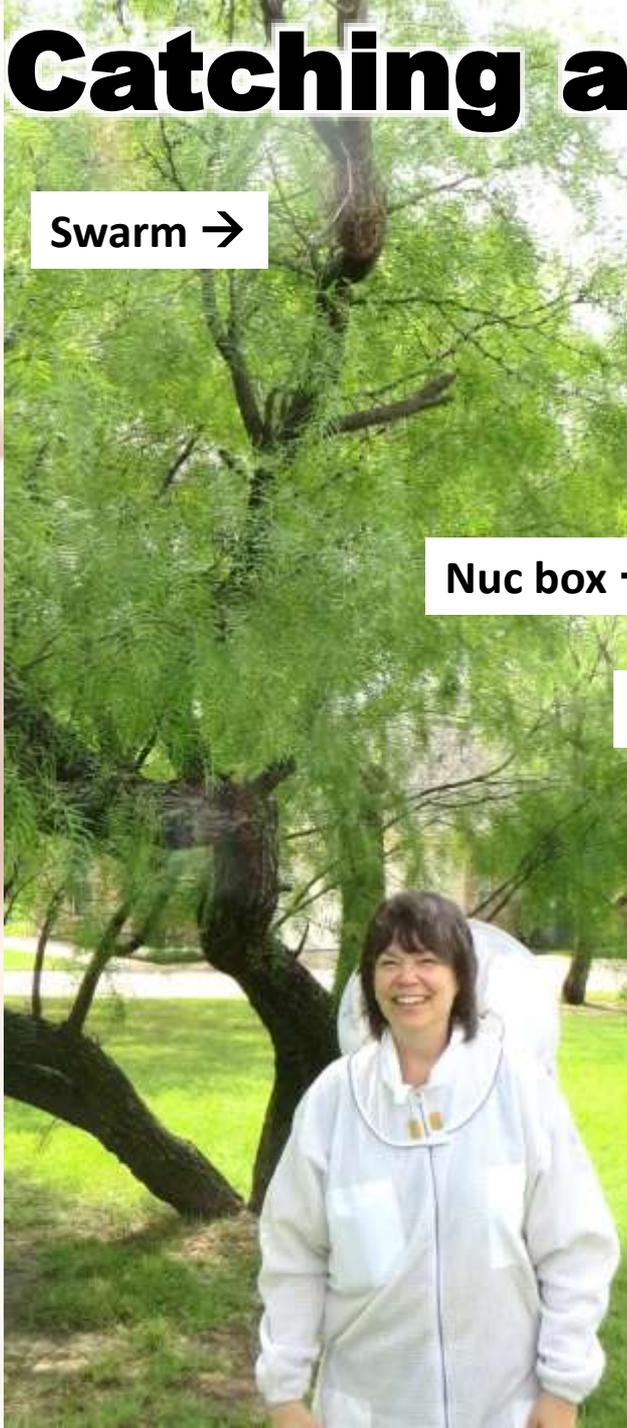


- **Swarm can be captured or bees can move into a swarm-capture box**
- **Or leave a small hole in your eaves (You know that's a joke, right?)**
- **Inspect all colonies & test for mites**



# Catching a Swarm

- **Be Prepared**
  - **Clothing**
  - **Nuc box w/ frame(s)**
  - **Ladder?**
  - **Brush**
  - **Syrup spray**
- **Mist cluster with syrup**
- **Brush bees into nuc box**
- **Make sure queen is there**
- **Time for bees to gather**
- **Close up**



Swarm →

Nuc box →



Brush →

Syrup spray →

10 ft ladder →

# Swarm vs Hive

Swarm 22

- **Swarm**
  - Bees looking for new home
  - No wax, brood, or stores
  - Calm, almost always
- **Hive**
  - Bees have built a home, wax comb
  - Brood & stores to protect
  - Varying temperament
- **Request Bee Removal at [metrobeekeepers.net/bee-removal](http://metrobeekeepers.net/bee-removal)**



Hive

# Harvesting: at the Hive

- **Choose day, July - Sept when field bees away & neighbors not just over the fence**
- **Gather equipment to apiary**
- **Smoke before opening**
- **In top box, inspect each frame**
  - **If ready to harvest, brush off bees, put in empty box in blue bin, replace lid**
- **When finished with that box, move it to table with top cover, & proceed to next box**
- **When finished with all boxes, add empty frames to fill boxes**
- **Roll heavy covered blue bin inside for next step**



Bin(s) with lid  
& empty boxes

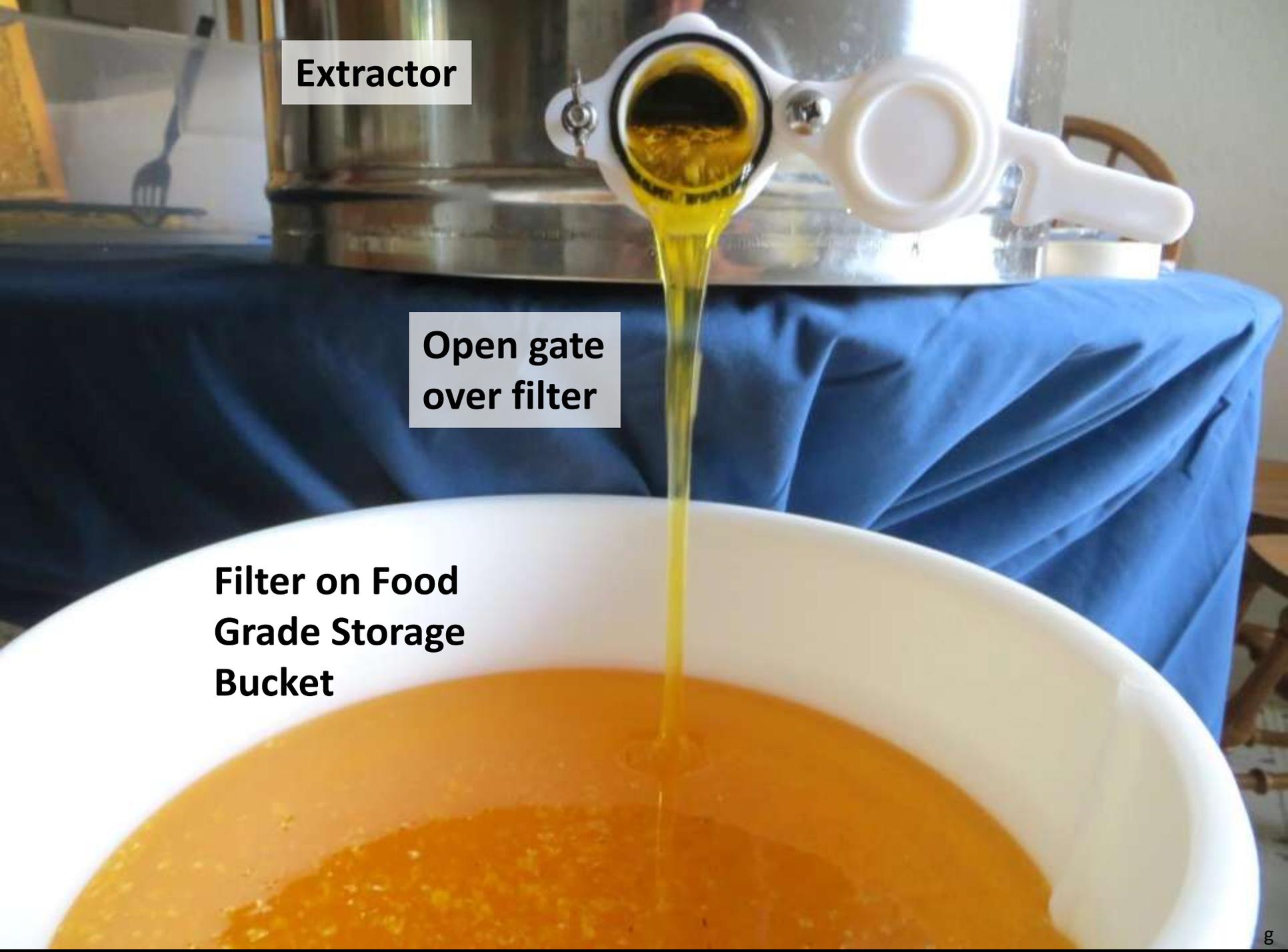


Buckets  
w/ Lids

# Harvesting, Inside

- Clean all equipment
- Remove bees
- Put box on tray
- Uncap 2 frames
- Spin frames in extractor
- Drain thru filter
- Have fun





**Extractor**

**Open gate  
over filter**

**Filter on Food  
Grade Storage  
Bucket**

- **At least 1 day later**
- **Weigh filled jar to know the right level**



# HONEY



## FOR SALE

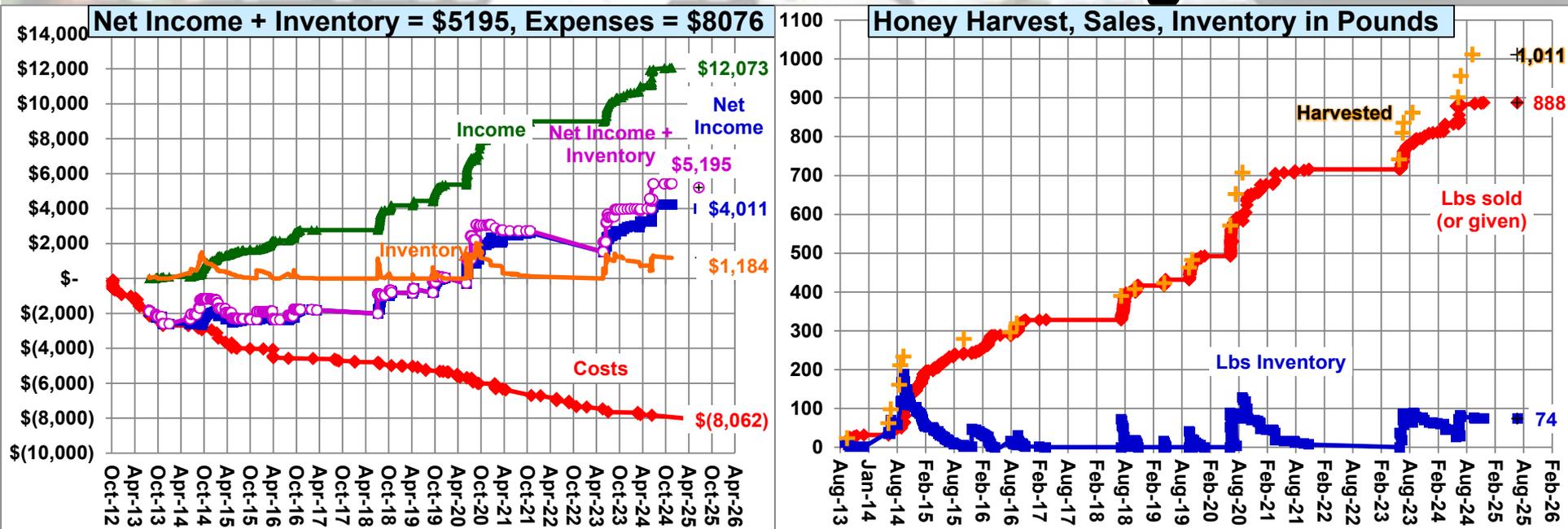


**If selling,  
add labels  
per rules**

**Oh, & clean all the equipment again**

# Costs & Income?

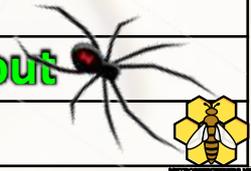
- It depends
- Affected by weather, # of colonies we kept, the time/work we put into it
- Ft Worth backyard, 1 to 3 hives for 13 years
- Spent \$8k & received \$12k, so net +\$4k
- We didn't need all the stuff we bought



- For us, it's not for income, but it was nice to get honey & nice when net income was > 0

# What Could Go Wrong?

Danger	For Adventure	For Less Interesting Stories
<b>Sting, Allergic Reaction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear sweet perfume</li> <li>• Expose lots of bare skin</li> <li>• Thump hive, annoy bees</li> <li>• Swat the bees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with a friend</li> <li>• Wear protective equip, able to call 911</li> <li>• If trouble breathing, Call 911, Epi-shot?</li> <li>• Don't swat bees</li> </ul>
<b>Heat Exhaustion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work long time in heat</li> <li>• Don't drink water</li> <li>• Don't take breaks</li> <li>• Work alone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with a friend</li> <li>• Drink water, electrolytes</li> <li>• Take breaks</li> </ul>
<b>Fire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop smoker, match on tinder</li> <li>• Don't watch the smoker</li> <li>• No water or extinguishers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the smoker, match, flame</li> <li>• Have lots of water on hand</li> </ul>
<b>Muscle Strain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sit still when not beekeeping</li> <li>• Pick up heavy boxes alone</li> <li>• Bend your back, lift &amp; twist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lift with legs, not bent back</li> <li>• Have helper &amp;/or use equipment</li> <li>• Stay square with the load</li> <li>• Limit the weight</li> </ul>
<b>Falls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slick footing on ladder</li> <li>• Climb ladder, lean out to side</li> <li>• No spotter at base</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid footing</li> <li>• Have friend spotter at base</li> <li>• Center on ladder</li> </ul>
<b>Spiders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bare hand blind grab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear good gloves &amp; watch out</li> </ul>
<b>Priority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honey harvest is top priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety First</li> </ul>



# Can I Hire a Beekeeper? Yes!

- **Hiring a beekeeper has big benefits**
  - Tax savings for Ag Valuation
  - Improve gardens, plants, environment
  - Honey harvest
  - Learn beekeeping
  - Enjoy fascinating bees
- **Labor, Costs, & Knowledge are substantial**
  - Bees, Boxes, Equipment, Clothing, Tools
  - Setup, Inspections, Maintenance, Replacements
  - Know warning signs
  - Know what to do to help bees thrive
  - Hiring a beekeeper makes it easy for landowner
  - Costs vary based on agreements
- **A good contract is recommended**
- **Contact local bee club**
- **More info: [Hiring a Beekeeper](#)**



# About Metro Beekeepers

## Mission

- **Help each other be better beekeepers**
- **Promote beekeeping**

## What we do

1. **Monthly programs**
2. **Classes, 10 lessons**
3. **Youth scholarships**
  - **Apply by 1 Oct**
4. **Web, free [Resources metrobeekeepers.net](http://metrobeekeepers.net)**

## **Social Media**

- **Main meetings are free & open to the public**
  - **Fort Worth Botanic Garden**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday monthly, 6:30p**
- **Joining MBA has benefits**
  - **1 year \$25 or 2 years \$40**
- **All-Volunteers**
- **Non-profit 501c3**



**METROBEEKEEPERS.NET**

# MBA Beekeeping Classes

- **Everything you need to know to succeed, 4.7/5 stars**
- **2nd Mondays, January thru October, 5:30p**
  - **Fort Worth Botanic Garden & webcast online**
- **Charts, notes, & video are available to download**
  - **All materials from previous year provided up front**
  - **You can go through everything in your own time**
  - **January class is free (in-person or recording)**
- **Field trips**
  - **Several bee yards**
  - **Class gets priority**
- **For MBA Members**
  - **\$125 for 1 person**
  - **\$95 for 2<sup>nd</sup> person (share book)**
- **Past students can audit free, or full participation \$60**
- **Refer a student, get free 1 yr membership**



**Hands-on inspections**

# MBA Online Resources

This Month in the Hive, Inspection Checklist, Presentations

[Beekeeping FAQs](#)

[This Month in the Hive](#)

[Inspection Checklist](#)

[Overview of Beekeeping](#)

[Selling Honey in Texas](#)

[Report Poisoned Bees](#)

[Fort Worth Encourages Beekeeping](#)

[Hiring a Beekeeper](#)

[Plant of the Month Collection](#)

[How to make Fondant for Honey Bees, Terry Leggett](#)

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## Presentations

[Natural Beekeeping](#), Terry Leggett, Aug 2025

[Wax Processing](#), Brent Husted, Jan 2025

[Capturing Swarms](#), Terry Leggett slides June 2024

[BeeSeasons](#), Christi Baughman

[Backyard Beekeeping](#), Gretchen K

[Varroa Mite](#), How to Help Bees, Russ K

[Beekeeping Controversies](#), Russ K

[Inspections](#), Gary Dilling

[How to Kill Your Bees](#) (and how not to), Ryan Gieseck

[Beekeeping in Portugal](#), Angelo & Andrea

[MBA Class Field Trips](#), Gretchen K

[metrobeekeepers.net](http://metrobeekeepers.net) Resources,

This Month in the Hive ... & more

FAQs, Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Can I Be a Beekeeper?

- a. [Why Would Anyone Keep Bees?](#)
- b. [Am I Beekeeper Material?](#)
- c. [Will I Get Stung? Safety Guide?](#)
- d. [What Place Do I Need?](#)
- e. [What Are Ft Worth Beek Laws?](#)
- f. [How Much Does It Cost?](#)
- g. [Can I Hire a Beekeeper?](#)

### 2. Getting Started & Setting Up

- a. [What Stuff Do I Need?](#)
- b. [Do I Really Need Suit & Gloves?](#)
- c. [What are the Hive Types?](#)
- d. [What Foundation Should I Use?](#)
- e. [How Many Hives Should I Get?](#)
- f. [How Do I Get Bees?](#)

### 3. Plants & Other Bees

- a. [What are Good Plants for Bees?](#)
- b. [What Plants Are Poisonous?](#)
- c. [Honey Bees vs Native Bees?](#)

### 6. Harvesting

- a. [How Much Honey Can I Get?](#)
- b. [How to Harvest & Sell Honey?](#)
- c. [Types of Honey; Does it Spoil?](#)
- d. [How Do I Melt Wax?](#)
- e. [How Do I Store Frames?](#)

### 4. Working with Bees

- a. [Varieties of Bees & Wasps?](#)
- b. [How Long Do Bees Live?](#)
- c. [What's Involved in Inspections?](#)
- d. [How Can I Find the Queen?](#)
- e. [Why Smoke Bees?](#)
- f. [When to Add or Remove a Box?](#)
- g. [How Do I Split a Hive?](#)
- h. [How Do I Combine Hives?](#)
- i. [How Many Bees in a Hive?](#)
- j. [What If My Bees are Gone?](#)
- k. [What if I Suspect Poisoning?](#)
- l. [What is Natural Beekeeping?](#)
- m. [When Should I Re-Queen?](#)
- n. [How Maximize Winter Survival?](#)
- o. [How Do I Get Bees Removed?](#)
- p. [How Can I Shoo Away Bees?](#)

### 5. Threats to Bees

- a. [What Causes Colonies to Die?](#)
- b. [What are Varroa Mites?](#)
- c. [How To Test & Treat for Varroa?](#)
- d. [Other Pests & Diseases?](#)

### 7. Learning

- a. [What Are the Big Mistakes?](#)
- b. [Where Can I Learn More?](#)
- c. [What's Master Beekeeper?](#)

## **1. Can I Be a Beekeeper?**

- a. [Why Would Anyone Keep Bees?](#)
- b. [Am I Beekeeper Material?](#)
- c. [Will I Get Stung? Safety Guide?](#)
- d. [What Place Do I Need?](#)
- e. [What Are Ft Worth Beek Laws?](#)
- f. [How Much Does It Cost?](#)
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- c. [How To Test & Treat for Varroa?](#)
- d. [What Other Pests Are Threats?](#)
- e. [What Diseases Are Threats?](#)

## **7. Learning**

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- b. [Where Can I Learn More?](#)
- c. [What's Master Beekeeper?](#)

# What We Didn't Talk About

- **Deal with specific warnings in inspections (pests, diseases)**
- **How to do a mite count**
- **Treatment options**
- **Find the queen**
- **Re-queening**
- **Install nucs, packages, new queens**
- **Reducing swarming pressure**
- **Laws about selling honey & products**
- **What to do after a sting. Variety of reactions, even when not allergic.**
- **Colony Losses, Disappointment, Rebuild**
- **Cutouts, Trap-outs**
- **Ventilation**
- **Using Queen excluders**
- **Feeding by season**
- **Dealing with hot bees**

**Most of these are addressed in FAQs**



**Questions?**

**Find the  
Queen**



**Find the  
Queen**

# Find the Queen

