Easy Horizontal Beekeeping to source your own Unfiltered, Raw Honey
Nathalie B.
Certified Master Beekeeper
Past HCBA President, AABA VP & TBA Director
Real Texas Honey Director
MBA, The Ohio State-University
Engineering Background
Top-Bar Beekeeping

ORGANIC PRACTICES FOR HONEYBEE HEALTH
Natural hive management for honey, beeswax, and pollination

LES CROWDER
and
HEATHER HARRELL

Les Crowder
Expert Beekeeper, Biologist, Philosopher
What we will discuss

- Products of the Hive
- Bee Biology
- Beekeeping philosophies
- Main Hive Types & Pros Cons
- Commercial beekeeping
- Backyard Beekeeping
- Building Hives
- Apiary Setup
- Tools & Gear
Nutritional and anti-inflammatory value

Theaapeutic Properties of Honey

Honey as a therapeutic agent

Partly due to:
- high osmolarity, low pH,
- hydrogen peroxide, non-peroxide components,
- polyphenols etc.

Antimicrobial
- Antifungal
- Antiviral
- Anti-Inflammatory and immunomodulatory
- Anti-Oxidant Activity
- Natural Immune Booster
- Remedy for Diarrhoea
- Cure for gastritis, gastric and duodenal ulcers
- Cure for Dermatitis
- Anti-diabetic Agent
- Anticancer and Antitumor
- Wound Healing

• https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/67503
Liquid Honey
Creamed Honey
spun
whipped
Comb Honey
Chunk Honey
Hive products
Beeswax / Honey SOAPS
Foodwraps
BEE BIOLOGY
What is a Superorganism?

It is an organism consisting of many smaller organisms

It is a social unit of animals, with:

- Division of labor
- A single reproductive female
- Collectively care for the young and food collection
- No individual survival
The Superorganism
Castes of the Honey Bee

Drone: 2-3 months
Queen: 5-6 years
Worker: 4-6 weeks
Winter Bee: 3-5 months
Occupants of the Hive

1 Queen

Up to 50,000 Workers

Up to 15,000 Drones
All honey bees come from eggs and go through metamorphosis.
Jobs performed by the Worker Bees over time

- Cleaners
- Nurses
- Wax workers
- Guards
- Food handlers
- Climate controllers
- Foragers
- Undertakers
SWARMING = colony reproduction
CHOOSING THE RIGHT HIVE FOR YOU
Main Hive Styles

Frames vs. frameless

LANGSTROTH

HORIZONTAL TOP-BAR
Commercial Beekeeping

COMMERCIAL POLLINATION ROUTES

Because bees normally forage no more than one to three miles from their hive, commercial beekeepers move bees from one place to another in order to pollinate different crops during their bloom time. This map shows three different possible routes of a commercial beekeeper.
FRAME BEEKEEPING

- Telescoping Outer Cover
- Inner Cover
- Shallow Super
- Medium Depth (Western) Super
- Queen Excluder
- Standard Brood Box
- Screen Bottom Board
- Hive Stand
Heavy
Shallow Super 45 lbs
Medium Super 60 lbs
Deep Super 90 lbs
Expensive

- Low end: $150
- Average: $300
- High End: $800
Expensive in Money AND Time
Storing Supers and Frames off season
BEEKEEPER CATEGORY DISTRIBUTION

94% BACKYARD / SMALL SCALE

5% SIDELINER

0.9% COMMERCIAL

Fewer than 1 in 10 beekeepers are commercial.
Back Breaking Work
Expensive Investment
HORIZONTAL FRAMELESS HIVES

(i) b

(i) c

(iv)

(v)
Better for the Bees, and the Beekeepers Back & Budget
Horizontal Expansion
Beekeeping With A Smile
GO HORIZONTAL!

2hrs, $50, 2 colonies!

The LES-IS-MORE Horizontal Hive® Plans

BASIC DESIGN: Single LES-IS-MORE Horizontal Hive®

This hive requires a rain cover, such as corrugated metal

FREE PLANS @ Bee-Mindful.com/plans

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The LES-IS-MORE Horizontal Hive® Plans

Assembly

Tools required:
- Circular Saw
- Hammer and nails or power drill and screws
- Table Saw (optional, but nice to have)
- 3/8in paddle bit or drill bit

Unless otherwise specified, all angled cuts are at 30°

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ENTRANCE:
A neat or slot cut in the end of the long board For double hive, repeat on the opposite side of the plan

HAPPY BEES, NATURALLY
MATERIALS & TOOLS

Power drill
Screws
ASSEMBLY
BEEKEEPING WORKSHOPS

Bee-Mindful.com/workshops
BeeMindfulHoneyFarms@gmail.com

Nov. 2023
Mar. 2024

Check out the upcoming Les Crowder Workshops for Beekeeping Training!

- Les Crowder is a legend of Natural, Treatment-Free Beekeeping, a trained biologist, and the author of the world renowned book "Top-Bar Beekeeping: Organic Practices for Honey Bee Health". An avid beekeeper since 1971, he’s been successfully treatment-free since shortly after the arrival of the mites in the US in 1987 (for over 35 years!), and is the pioneer of Horizontal Beekeeping in the US.
- Les Crowder Workshops are designed for Beginner to Advanced beekeepers looking to learn how to successfully keep their bees Simply, Naturally and Sustainably, without the use of pesticides or treatments, while reconnecting with and respecting the essence of this amazing animal.
- Les’s methods are mindful of the bees and the beekeepers, and are designed to be inclusive and accessible to aspiring beekeepers of various walks of life and physical abilities, as they do not require upper body strength, a large budget, or off season storage. We often joke that his methods are Better for the Bees and the Beekeeper’s Back and Budget (BBBBB).
- These amazing certificate-based workshops will take place several times in the Fall and Spring each year, so if a particular workshop is sold out, try another one or register well in advance!

Details and Registration at www.Bee-Mindful.com/workshops
Apiary Setup

- Good Forage
- Shade
- No flooding zones
- Hives off the ground
- Water source
- No more than 20-30 hives per apiary
- Good equipment
- Good Bees
WATER SOURCES

Safe Landing

30ft+
Getting Bees
Trapping Swarms
Baiting traps
Catching Swarms
SPLITS

Split strong colony before swarming

New queen or cell
Young bees and most of the brood

Queenless split

Colony ready to swarm
Old queen

Split into two hives

+ 2 sealed brood
CUTOUTS

• Leave it to the professionals!

• Permits
• Liability Insurance
• Special equipment
• Time
• Mad Skills
• Repairs
Buy Bees

- **AVOID** Italian or treated bees from commercial operations
- **LOOK FOR** Treatment-Free, Russians, Swarms
TOOLS & GEAR
Basic Equipment Checklist

- Veil or Jacket/Suit with Veil
- Hive tool
- Smoker
- Gloves
Tools and Gear