

Principals of Bee- Centric Beekeeping

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Treatment Free

No chemicals, miticides or antibiotics. Some natural beekeepers use powdered sugar treatments. Some use organic treatments. I avoid all chemical treatments even if organic.

Minimal Feeding

Do not feed bees sugar unless in an emergency. Sugar upsets the PH balance in a bee's stomach and weakens their immune system. Feed bees locally sourced honey syrup from healthy hives (make sure they have no disease such as AFB).

Natural Comb Building

Do not put plastic or wax foundation in the hive. Allow bees to build naturally with their own wax.

Natural Materials

Build hives out of natural materials. Avoid any plastic or metal inside the hives.

Minimal Intervention

As hive develops there is less of a need for hive inspections. Only open a hive if it is truly in service to the hive, and not the beekeeper.

Minimal Use of Smoker

The smoker calms the bees, but also causes a stress response. Use smoker sparingly. It's better to mask your own scent with the smoker than smoke the bees too much.

Respect the Queen

No mutilation of queen (cutting wings), no artificial insemination. Do not regularly replace the queen once a year. Allow the bees to raise their own queens.

Minimal Honey Harvest

Bees need honey to survive not just this winter, but the next few years. There is never really surplus honey. Take honey sparingly.

Breed for Strong Genetics

Allow open mating of your queen to help breed strong local stock.

Leave bees in one place

Do not move your hive unless you must.

Natural Reproduction

Allow swarms to happen, or preform splits. Do not suppress swarms.

Allow Drones to Exist

Do not regularly cull drone comb unless it is part of a one time mite control tactic. Locate hives in a pesticide free zone and plant for pollinators

Talk to your bees and listen to what they say.