

## Notes from Joe Lewis' – "Sustainable Beekeeping thru Nucleus Colonies"

Presentation to AABA on Wednesday, Feb 17, 2016

1. Keep 3 hives or more
2. Make nucs
3. Raise your own queens
4. Catch swarms
5. Plant bee friendly trees
6. Do the 3 essentials:
  - Control Varroa Mites, Re-queen, Feed if required (fondant after Nov)

Recipe for making 5 frame nucs in April and May:

1. Pull 2 frames of brood, in all stages but including capped brood
2. Pull 1 frame of honey, 1 frame of pollen (or combo of honey, pollen or brood)
3. Gently remove bees (brush or shake) & place above excluder in a box.
4. Close it up and wait a few hours or the next day.
5. Remove frames of brood, honey, and pollen and place in nuc, add frame of foundation or drawn comb. Move nuc 2 miles away.
6. Add new queen in JZ-BZ cage or add q. cell. 5 days later, check for queen cells

Modified recipe for making nucs -- after May (or the main nectar flow): (I call this: Doolittle Plus 5)

1. (use steps 1 – 3 above, plus) Leave brood above the excluder for 5 days – all viable eggs will hatch and be unacceptable for making an emergency queen cell. Bees are more likely to accept introduced queen or your queen cell.
2. Remove frames of brood, honey, and pollen and place in nuc, add frame of foundation or drawn comb. Move nuc 2 miles away.
3. Add queen in JZ-BZ cage or add queen cell.

To learn how to make Nucs go to:

<https://www.youtube.com> NWNJ Beekeepers - Landi Simone – Nucleus Hives

Joe's articles at Susquehanna Beekeepers website, "Sustainable Beekeeping thru Nucs" video on Youtube: search for Joe Lewis Beekeeping, look for the picture of Michael Bush and Michael Palmer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74-nx8IUg9U>

Main ways to control mites:

Drone larva / comb removal, Break the brood cycle with splits and nucs

Screened bottom boards and chickens or guineas

Soft treatments: Thymol, Formic Acid, Oxalic Acid

Api-Life-VAR, MAQ strips, OA vaporization

Cornell Univ E.F. Phillips Beekeeping Collection – 38,000 volumes

<http://bees.library.cornell.edu/b/bees/index.html>

Eight Issues for Successful Beekeeping (from Randy Oliver, [www.ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://www.ScientificBeekeeping.com)):

1. Winter wind protection
2. Avoidance of pesticides
3. Parasite management
4. Vigorous queen
5. Springtime pollen
6. Adequate brood nest size (& size of winter cluster)
7. Nutritious fall pollen
8. Adequate winter stores (honey)

Other resources: The Beekeepers Corner podcast, and North West New Jersey Beekeepers Assoc