

Double B Apiary

# **Beginner Beekeeping**

# About Us

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What started as a couple of Honey Bee Hives and a small garden six years ago has expanded into thriving apiary of over 200 Hives at Double B Apiary & Farm. Over this time, the 2 sisters, Parker & Kennedy have learned to love the art of beekeeping through experience and continuing education.



**Without support from their community, the girls could never accomplish what they have in such a short period of time. We thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts.**

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# Double B Gives Back

Provide FREE Classes on Honey Bees and Farming

Donates tens of thousands of dollars worth of produce to various food pantries, nonprofits and deserving individuals

## Available

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## Nucs & Queens for Sale

- ★ Contact Double B Apiary &  
Farm to Reserve
- ★ [fb.me/FarmDoubleB](https://fb.me/FarmDoubleB)
- ★ [FarmDoubleB@gmail.com](mailto:FarmDoubleB@gmail.com)

## Corporate & Personal Beehive Sponsorship

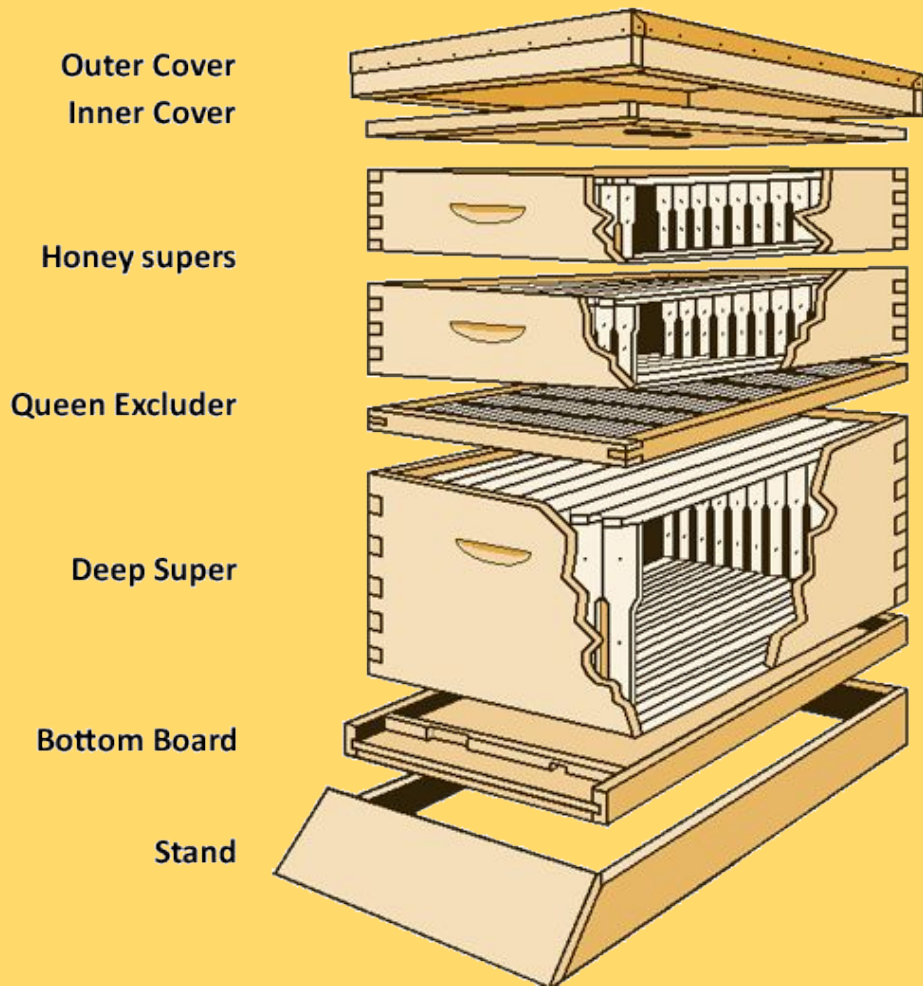
- ★ Online Marketing
- ★ Honey
- ★ Pollination Option
- ★ Saving the Honey Bees!

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# Getting Started

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How to Start Your Backyard Apiary



smoker



Hive tool

*bee suit*



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# Hive Location

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Location, Location, Location!



# Pick Your Location Wisely!

Here is What We Recommend

**SOUTH FACING &  
MORNING SUN**

**SHELTERED  
FROM WIND &  
ANIMALS**

**HARD SOIL WITH  
LITTLE  
VEGETATION**

# **Remember!**

**Less than 2 feet or more than 2 miles**

## Package vs Nuc



**PACKAGE BEES**



**NUCLEAR HIVE**

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# Hive Smoker

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## Hive Smoker

Used to calm hive before inspections

Bees think there's a forest fire & gorge themselves with honey





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# Feeding

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# Feeding Your Hive

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New Nucs and Packages should be fed continuously  
with  
1:1 sugar water solution

This stimulates the honey bees to build comb and the  
queen to lay eggs

**Never feed when honey supers are on!**



## Types of Feeders



### **HIVE TOP FEEDER**

Goes into the hive  
replacing a frame



### **FRAME FEEDER**

Placed on top of the  
hive



### **ENTRANCE FEEDER**

Mason jar set in front of  
the hive

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# **Sugar Water Mixing**

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## The Formula We Use

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- ★ 10 lbs sugar : 1 Gallon Water - Makes about 2 gallons
- ★ Add Apple Cider Vinegar (1 Tablespoon) to slow fermentation
- ★ Add “Honey Bee Healthy” or a drop of each Tea Tree, Lemongrass & Spearmint if wanted

1:1 Sugar: Water -  
Promotes Comb  
Building & Brood  
Rearing

2:1 Sugar: Water -  
Promotes Building Food  
Stores

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# Inspections

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Day to Day Operations

# What to Look For

- ★ Presence of the Queen
- ★ Hive Pests & Disease
- ★ Swarm Prevention

## Beehive Inspection Checklist

DATE/TIME OF DAY:	HIVE 1	HIVE 2	HIVE 3	HIVE 4	HIVE 5	HIVE 6
<b>GENERAL HIVE APPEARANCE</b>						
Are the bees actively entering/exiting the hive?						
Are the bees bringing in pollen?						
Are there signs of robbing?						
Are there signs an animal has been disturbing the hive? (Chew or scratch marks from skunks, raccoons, etc.)						
Are the bees calm when you open the hive? (An agitated or disorganized colony can indicate: queenlessness, poor weather/inspection timing, or a recent intruder.)						
<b>REPRODUCTION</b>						
Is the brood pattern good? (A quick look can indicate the presence of disease or an unwell queen.)						
Are larvae healthy, white, and shiny?						
Is royal jelly present in cells with larva?						
Is there brood in capped and uncapped cells?						
Is there one egg or larva per cell?						
<b>SIGNS OF PESTS</b>						
Mites test results (A visual inspection is insufficient — proper testing is the only way to get an accurate estimate of the mite population.)						
Are ants present?						
Are wax moths present?						
Is there an unusual number of dead bees?						
Is there an odor? (Could be foulbrood.)						
<b>CAPACITY</b>						
How many frames are "covered" in bees? (Some say counting "seams of bees." Look down into a box and see how many seams between frames are full of bees.)						
How many frames are being fully or almost fully used for brood?						
If in a nectar flow, do my bees have space to store nectar? (Do the bees have empty comb and/or new frames to build comb where they can store nectar OR do I need to add a super?)						
<b>WEATHER CONDITIONS</b>						
Temperature/Precipitation						
Has there been a substantial change in total population since the last inspection?						

## 3 Types of Bees



### **DRONE**

The only males in the hive. Unlike the queen and the workers, drones don't have stingers



### **WORKER**

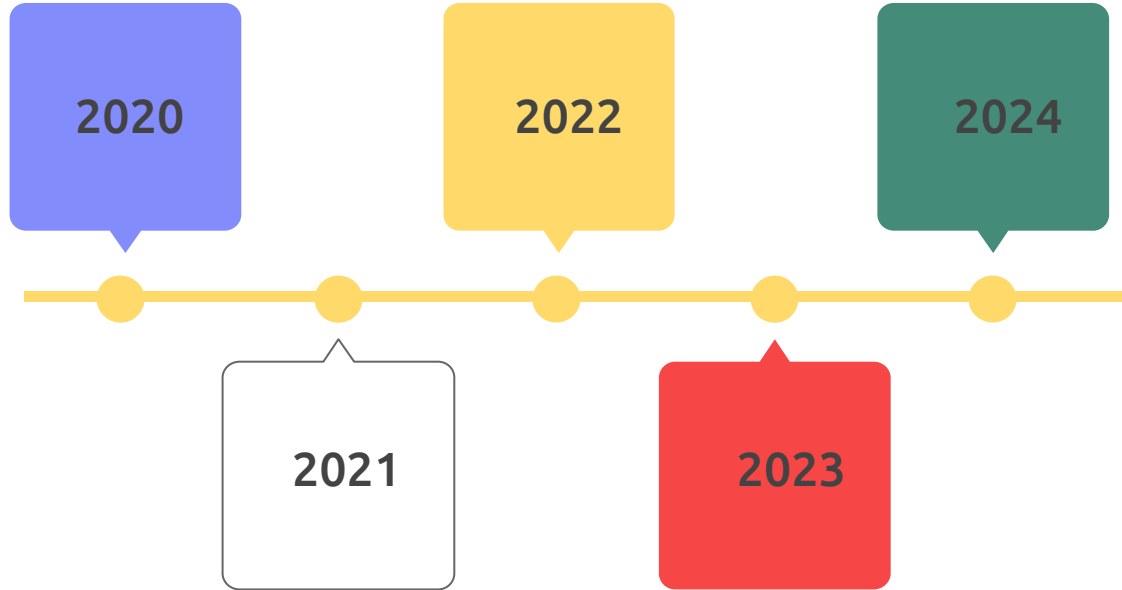
All worker bees are female. Their role is to collect food and water, care for the larvae and guard the hive



### **QUEEN**

There is only one queen in the hive. Her job is to lay eggs and preside over the hive

## Marking Colors



# Worker Bees

## 1-2 DAYS

Clean the cells & keep the brood warm

## 3-5 DAYS

Feed older larvae

## 6-11 DAYS

Feed the youngest larvae

## 12-17 DAYS

Producing wax, carrying food, building comb and having undertaker duties

## 18-21 DAYS

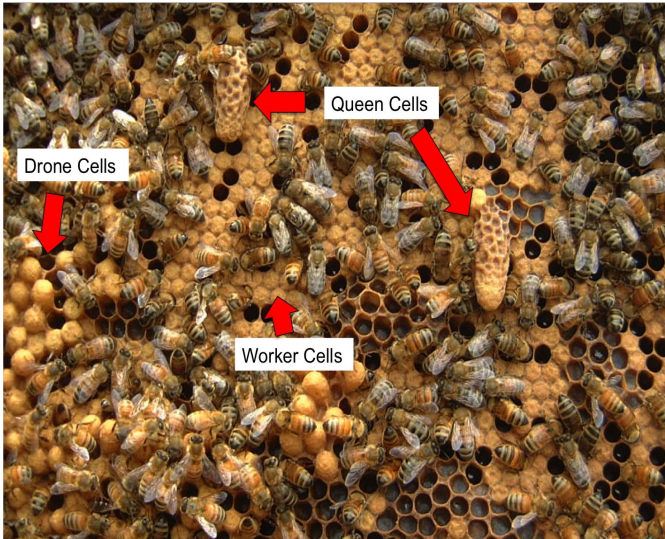
Protecting the hive entrance and have guard duty

## 22- END OF LIFE

Fly from the hive and collect pollen, nectar, water, etc



# Frame Inspection



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## Hive Issues

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During inspections we sometimes running problems in the hive that need to be addressed

# Varroa Mite

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The varroa mite is considered by many to be the most serious issue currently affecting honey bees. It now occurs nearly worldwide. This external parasite feeds on the hemolymph (blood) of adult bees, larvae, and pupae.

Varroa Mite Management is one the the most critical issues to address as a beekeeper. Your goal is to keep mite populations below 1% at all times. Testing and treatments are critical to maintain a healthy hive throughout the year. Treatments can include Oxalic Acid (Organic Compound), Apivar, Mite Away Quick Strips, Hop Guard among others



## SMALL HIVE BEETLE



The small hive beetle, North America's newest beekeeping pest.

The adult beetle is small (about one-third the size of a bee), black or brown, and covered with fine hair. The larvae are small, cream-colored grubs without prolegs.

## LARVAL GREATER WAX MOTH



The small hive beetle, North America's newest beekeeping pest.

The adult beetle is small (about one-third the size of a bee), black or brown, and covered with fine hair. The larvae are small, cream-colored grubs without prolegs.

## AMERICAN FOULBROOD



American foulbrood (AFB) is an infectious brood disease. It is the most widespread and destructive of the brood diseases, afflicting queen, drone, and worker larvae alike. Adult bees, however, are not affected by AFB. This disease occurs in two forms: vegetative (rod-shaped bacterial cells) and spores.

## CHALKBROOD



Chalkbrood, a fungal brood disease of honey bees, is caused by a spore-forming fungus. Worker, drone, and queen larvae are susceptible. Spores of the fungus are ingested with the larval food.

## DEFORMED WINGS



Adult bees with deformed wings and bodies are common in honey bee colonies with varroa mite infestations. These deformities most likely are caused by varroa mites feeding on the bees as they develop, a virus (deformed wing virus), or perhaps a combination of both.

## NOSEMA



Nosema disease is caused by a spore-forming protozoan that invades the digestive tracts of honey bee workers, queens, and drones. Nosema spores are ingested with food or water by the adult bee. The spores germinate and multiply within the lining of the bee's midgut. Millions of spores are shed into the digestive tract and are eliminated in the feces.

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# Winter Preparation

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Helping Your Bees Get Through The Winter

## What to Look For

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## Here's Our Fall Chore Checklist

- ★ Check and Treat for Varroa Mites.
- ★ Feed hives honey slurry or thick sugar water (2:1) at least twice a week in early autumn.
- ★ Open Feed Pollen Substitute.
- ★ Check the Queen
- ★ Finally, pack each hive with enough honey to feed the colony all winter long (amount varies by region, we leave 70 lbs).



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# Winter Preparation

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Helping Your Bees Get Through The Winter

## What to Do

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- ★ Open Feed Sugar Water
- ★ Open Feed Pollen Substitute
- ★ Provide Fresh Water
- ★ Combine Weak or Failing Hives
- ★ Ensure Hive has Adequate Ventilation

# Thanks!

**Does anyone have any questions?**

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DoubleBApiary@gmail.com  
DoubleBApiary.com  
fb.me/FarmDoubleB