Tis the Season for BEE-cisions
– May 2017 –

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Co-First Vice President
Beginning Observations

- **Challenge:** Make Precise Decisions in an Imprecise World
  - Beekeeping Adage – No One Right Answer (i.e. “Ask 10 beekeepers …)
  - Mark Dykes (Chief Apiary Inspector – Texas Apiary Inspection Service)
    
    “There Usually Is One Right Answer, We Just Don’t Have Enough Data To Know What It Is”
  
- **Data, Decisions, Alternatives**
  - Can’t Cover All Possibilities
  - Beekeeper Experience and Judgement Critical – Collaborate! Use Mentors
  - Hopefully Can Provide A Structured Approach To Help

- **Flow Chart Method**

**Doing Nothing Is Always An Option – Often The Best 😊**
Some Definitions

• **Split** – Divide one hive into two hives

• **Increase** – Take 4 or 5 frames from one hive and put into new full size brood box with remaining frames of drawn comb or new foundation

• **“Nuc”** – Take 4 or 5 frames from one hive and put into “Nuc” box
Hive Resources
- One 10-Frame Brood Box -

Queen, Young Nurse Bees, Older Nurse Bees, Foraging Bees, Brood, Pollen, Honey

1. Old Nurse Bees (Wax and Guard) + Foragers
2. Young Nurse Bees (Clean & Feed)
3. Old Nurse Bees (Wax and Guard) + Foragers

Honey/Pollen/Brood
Honey/Pollen
Honey
• Brood Frames Fall Into Two Important Categories
  - Open Brood With Eggs and/or 1 Day Old Larvae (Egg Frames)
  - Open Brood With Older Larvae and Capped Brood (Brood Frames)

• Don’t Forget the Drones
  - Flying Drones Critical to Creating New Mated Queens

• And, Don’t Forget The Wooden Ware
  - You Have To Have The Equipment To Do The Action
Resource Summary

• Bees
  - Queen
  - Young Nurse Bees
  - Old Nurse Bees
  - Foraging Bees
  - Flying Drones

• Frames In Your Hives
  - Open Brood With Eggs and/or 1 Day Larvae (Some Honey & Pollen)
  - Brood (Older Larvae and Capped) (Some Honey & Pollen)
  - Honey/Pollen
  - Honey

• Equipment (10 Frame, 8 Frame, “Nuc” Sizes)
  - Bottom Boards
  - Boxes
  - Lids
  - Feeders
  - Queen Excluders
  - Entrance Reducers
  - Queen Cell Cups
Hive “Type”

1. If the hive has overwintered:
   - Yes: Producers
     - Honey or Bees? → Honey Hive
     - Bees → Brood Hive
     - Goal: Maximize honey production
     - Queen rearing, brood frames, drawn frames, etc. beyond today's scope
   - No: New Hive

2. If the hive has not overwintered:
   - New Hive
   - Goal: Grow into strong hive

- Existing Hive
Hive Types

• Three Types
  - New
  - Honey – Produce Honey
  - Brood – Produce Bees

• Initial Designation – Can Always Change

• One Additional – “Swarm” Hive
  - Presence of Queen Cells
New Hives

- **Swarm Hive**
  - **Yes**
  - **Swarm Cells?**
    - **Yes**
      - **Utilizing two Outermost Frames?**
        - **No**
          - **Should They Be?**
            - **Yes**
              - **Remove Box/Super if Present**
            - **No**
              - **Do Nothing**
        - **Yes**
          - **Evidence of Queen?**
            - **Yes**
              - **Possible Weak Hive**
            - **No**
              - **Recourses To Make Queen?**
                - **Yes**
                  - **Create Queen**
                - **No**
                  - **Add Queen**
          - **Add Honey Super**
    - **No**
      - **Double Deep?**
        - **Yes**
          - **Add Deep**
        - **No**
          - **Add Deep**
- **No**
  - **Add Deep**
    - **Yes**
      - **Strong Brood Pattern?**
        - **Yes**
          - **Do Nothing**
        - **No**
          - **Add Queen**
    - **No**
      - **Strong Brood Pattern?**
        - **Yes**
          - **Do Nothing**
        - **No**
          - **Add Queen**
  - **No**
    - **Add Deep**
      - **Yes**
        - **Add Deep**
      - **No**
        - **Add Deep**

Presentation For May 17 Meeting
‘Honey” Hives

- **Utilizing two Outermost Frames?**
  - Yes
  - No
  - **Should They Be?**
    - Yes: Possible Weak Hive
      - No: **Do Nothing**
      - **Remove Box/Super if Present**
  - **No**
    - **Do Nothing**

- **Swarm hive?**
  - Yes
    - **Swarm Cells?**
      - Yes
      - **Evidence of Queen?**
        - Yes: Strong Brood Pattern?
          - Yes: Add Queen
          - No: Recourses To Make Queen?
            - Yes: Create Queen
            - No: Combine
        - No: Evidence of Queen?
          - **Add Queen**
          - **Combine**
      - No: Evidence of Queen?
        - **Add Queen**
        - **Combine**
    - No: **Swarm hive?**
      - **Add Deep**
      - **No**
        - **Add Honey Super**
        - No: **Has Honey Super?**
          - Yes: **Add Additional Super**
          - **Celebrate!**
        - No: **Add Queen**
          - **Combine**

‘Brood’ Hives
(Continued)

Has Resources To Create Queen?

Yes

- Multiple Nucs With New Queens

No

- Increase With New Queen
- Nuc With New Queen
- Split With New Queen
- Multiple Nucs (create Queens)

Has Resources For Two Hives?

Yes

- Multiple Nucs With New Queens

No

- Add Super

Contribute Frames To Other Hives
- Use As ‘Honey’ Hive?

Celebrate!

Walk Away Split
- Increase (create queen)
- Nuc (create queen)

Presentation For May 17 Meeting
‘Swarm” Hives
- Swarm Cells Already Formed -

Walk Away Split
Increase
Nuc
Harvest Queen Cells
Cull Queen Cells

Double Deep?

Yes

No

Split
Harvest Queen Cells
Cull Queen Cells

Chance For Free Queens or Hive

Hope!

Doing Nothing Is Not An Option 😞
Actions
- Beekeeper Knowledge List -

- Do Nothing
- Add A Second Brood Box (Pyramid)
- Add Honey Super
- Add Second Honey Super (Checkerboard)
- Add Purchased Queen: Eliminate Old Queen (if present) & Introduce New Queen
  - Hive, Split, Increase, Nuc, Multiple Nucs
- Add Ripe Queen Cell: Eliminate Old Queen (if present) & Introduce New Queen
  - Hive, Split, Increase, Nuc, Multiple Nucs
- Create Queen: Add/Ensure Frames of Open Brood With Eggs and/or 1 Day Larvae
  - Hive, Split, Increase, Nuc, Multiple Nucs
- Remove Super
- Remove Brood Box
- Contribute Frames To Other Hives
- Combine: Eliminate The Hive In Question By Using Frames In Other Hives
  - Normally Will Not Use The Queen, If There Is One
- Harvest Queen Cells
- Cull Queen Cells
- Hope
Resource Requirements

• Do Nothing  😊
  - Conviction & Patience

• Add a Second Brood Box (Pyramid)
  - Empty Box & Frames (Usually a Deep, Could Be a Medium)

• Add a Honey Super (Or Additional Super - Checkerboard)
  - Empty Box & Frames (Usually a Medium, Could Be a Deep or Shallow)

• Add Queen
  - Queen (Mated/Caged, Ripe Queen Cell)
  - Young Nurse Bees (Essential) & Old Nurse Bees
  - Frames of Brood, Pollen/Honey, Honey

• Create A Queen
  - Frame(s) of Open Brood With Eggs and/or One Day Old Larvae (Essential)
  - Young Nurse Bees (Essential) & Old Nurse Bees
  - Frames of Brood, Pollen/Honey, Honey
  - Flying Drones

• Combine or Contribute
  - Multiple Hives

• Remove Box/Super
  - Proper Distribution/Storage of Frames

• Hope
  - Hey, You’re a Beekeeper – You Already Got This
## Summary

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<th>Hive Type</th>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Options</th>
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QUESTIONS