

# 10 Things Every Beekeeper Should KNOW



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Items 1, 2 & 3:

# Purchase and/or Rear Superior Queens

No amount of care and feeding  
can overcome  
inferior queens!



Items 1, 2 & 3:

## Superior Queen Qualities

- A. Great layer - quantity & quality
- B. Even-tempered honeybees
- C. Bee qualities - diversity, hive sanitation, mite resist
- D. High honey production

Items 1, 2 & 3:

## Superior Queens

### *Beekeeper Skillset:*

- ✓ Queen performance assessment
- ✓ Colony quality assessment
- ✓ Hands-on of replacing queens
- ✓ Raising (or procuring) superior queens

Item 4:

# Manage Mite Levels



Varroa Mites are public enemy #1!

Item 4:

## Manage Mite Levels

### *Beekeeper Skillset:*

- ✓ Mite load testing
- ✓ Colony assessment
- ✓ Mite treatment(s) knowledge
- ✓ Hands-on treating of mites

Item 5:

# Choose Apiary Locations Wisely



Item 5:

## Apiary Location

A poor location will always be a poor location - regardless of what the beekeeper does.

Wants: Sun - forage - water



Item 5:

# Apiary Location

## *Beekeeper Skillset:*

- ✓ Honeybee needs
- ✓ Location assessment
- ✓ Relationships w/ farmers & their crops – know their pesticides!

(See Presentation on JCBA site)

Item 6:

Use Good Comb



Item 6:

## Use Good Comb

Old comb is a storage for pesticides and pathogens.

Comb cells become smaller over time – cramping brood.

✓ Rotate comb every 3-5 seasons.

Item 6:

## Use Good Comb

### *Beekeeper Skillset:*

- ✓ Pay attention to old comb
- ✓ Track comb / date frames
- ✓ Notice colony differences
- ✓ Be disciplined and replace

Item 7:

# Keep Records



Item 7:

## Keep Records

With just a few hives it is easy to forget:

- Queen heritage
- Honey production
- Treatment schedules
- Actions needed

Item 7:

## Keep Records

### *Beekeeper Skillset:*

- ✓ Maintain logbook
- ✓ Make decisions based on fact – not memory
- ✓ Plan your beekeeping



Item 8:

Assess Hives > Quarterly





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At least 4 times per year a  
FULL assessment of bee and  
colony health needs to be  
performed.

Item 8:

## Assess Hives > Quarterly

### *Beekeeper Skillset:*

- ✓ Colony assessment
- ✓ Queen performance
- ✓ % of types of brood
- ✓ Signs of infection
- ✓ Resource analysis

Item 9:

Buy (or make) NEW  
Equipment



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Old equipment is a good way  
to spread disease and promote  
health problems.

Item 9:

## Buy (or make) NEW Equipment

*Beekeeper Skillset:*

- ✓ Never buy used equipment
- ✓ Replace old equipment
- ✓ Standardize on equipment

Item 10:

# New Beekeepers Max 'Frame-Time'



Item 10:

## New Beekeepers Max 'Frame-Time'

Books, presentations and discussions are rewarding – but nothing can build good beekeeping skills like being in the hive.



Item 10:

## New Beekeepers Max 'Frame-Time'

*(Basic) Beekeeper Skillset:*

- ✓ Learn what you are seeing
- ✓ Find the queen
- ✓ Identify bee & brood problems
- ✓ Learn to spot early warning signs



Bonus Item:

Don't do stupid things



# Questions