

Smichinski's Northern Bred Bees

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### **Caring for your new nucleus hive.**

#### **\*\*\*Disturb your nuc as little as possible...**

from time of purchase to transport home to its permanent hive stand.

If bees are disturbed, they might kill the queen and you will have to purchase a new queen to replace her.

**\*\*\*Remove the screen** from the entrance by **standing behind and reaching around to the front, hold the screen firmly and remove it quickly allowing it to fall to the ground.** The next day after the bees flying has slowed down (usually early evening), while **wearing your veil and gloves** you can pick up the screen.

**\*\*\*Do not disturb the bees other than placing the feeder on the hive, feeding** the following day and **refilling** syrup container each day. Do not remove any frames for two week.

**\*\*\*After two weeks, if you remove frames and see eggs, the queen is in there.** There is no need to keep looking for her. If you find queen cells, do not puncture them unless you see eggs or the queen. If you do not see eggs or the queen let the queen cells develop.

### **Feeding your new nucleus hive.**

I cannot stress enough how important it is to feed your new nucleus hive. It directly determines the development of the hive. Feeding the bees will give them a greater chance of drawing out the new foundation, conveys to the bees there is a nectar flow and encourages the queen to rapidly lay more eggs to strengthen and develop the hive.

Start feeding the following day.

Nucleus hive will consume about a quart of syrup a day.

### **Preparing feeding syrup.**

The best food to start your bees off on is sugar syrup made with pure cane sugar.

A mixture of 5 - 6 quarts of water for 10 pounds of sugar is easy to make.

In a large pot start by bring water to a boil that can not be stirred down. Remove from heat and add sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved.

You will need to feed your new nucleus hive about 20 pounds of sugar.

When you see two more additional frames of comb are built up or covered with bees, it's time to add a shallow super, a second deep super and your queen excluder. Place the shallow super directly over the existing deep super and the deep super on top of the shallow super. Place your queen excluder above all three supers and just under the inner cover.

Continue feeding until three to five frames in the shallow super are partially filled with nectar. You may now stop feeding.

Place the top deep super over the lower deep super. Shake the bees of the shallow frames, into the deep supers. Place the queen excluder over the deep supers and the shallow super with its frames over the excluder. Place another, new shallow super above everything there and under the covers. When the lower shallow super is about half way filled, reverse the shallow supers.

\*\*\*If you have a problem with your nucleus hive within 30 days, please call and let me know. I will do whatever we can within reason.