

❖ “Natural” Beekeeping?

❖ Means practicing conscientious management:
acknowledging and complimenting Mother Nature's own cycles

❖ Natural does not equal “hands off” or simply having bees

❖ Maximizing Mother Nature's own cycles while respecting
health of honeybee livestock

❖ If opposed to supplemental feeding, then it is responsibility of
beekeeper to move their colonies to suitable forage .



❖ Timely management is recommended

❖ If bees fall ill, responsibility of beekeeper
to research and implement
safe methods for control

*Care should be taken to neither ignore nor
contaminate your honeybee livestock;
to not compromise their nutrition and to
not contaminate their hive products.*



Role and Chosen Responsibility of Beekeeper:

*Understand our role, and our limitations
while respecting natural cycles .*

Practice Pro-Active Management
Keep Researching, Reading and Sharing

Become true Bee-Stewards

❖ "Organic" Reality?

- Location
- Equipment
- Environmental and Industrial Factors



While we keep our bees in as many "Organically Certified" farms as possible- We do not claim our honey to be "Organic". We have control over what we add to the bees. Yet, we have we do not have complete control over where they fly. So, unless one is completely isolated and there are no environmental contaminants in the air, on the plants and in their

hive- then the term "Organic" should not apply.

However, the term "Natural" definitely does.

❖ Integration:

• Attitude:

• Many Paths, Many Teachers

Mother Nature, the Honeybees themselves and other beekeepers

• History and Research

Past-Present-Future

The Langstroth system is over 150 years old. What is modern is our thinking. Once again, regardless of container, the way we manage and respect the organism contained is what is vital. Let us work together to become true Bee-Stewards within both systems.

• Circumstance

• Personal Preference

THE MELTING POT

True beauty is
in our diversity.



Being a *Purist* is negotiable-each has their own definition, whether you agree or not.

While perpetuating simple methods, it is also pure to promote efficiency rather than redundancy

Holistic management defines itself as:

relating to or concerned with wholes or with complete systems rather than with the analysis of, treatment of, or dissection into parts (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

Many Spices- ONE MAIN INGREDIENT



The state question in **New Mexico** is, "**Red** or **Green** chile?"

Some opt for one or the other and then there are those of us who request both (also termed as "**Christmas**")

Beekeeping is a creative art in that there are many paths of this animal husbandry. Finding a mode of operation that works for you and your bees will be unique. Like most things, success through moderation does apply. By not boxing yourself into one type or kind of system and management, and remaining flexible and open and inspired, interchange and exchange can occur.





Sangre de Cristo Beekeepers

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Welcomes All Beekeepers:

Top Bar, Langstroth,

Newbees, and Experienced

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Practicing pro-active supplementation can enhance the immune systems of honeybees while also providing balanced nutrition.

Many of us take vitamins or herbs to supplement our diet- the same principles can be applied to animal husbandry.



A home recipe pollen patty was given to the bees along with a Coconut grease patty containing essential oils in the bottom of a Top bar hive.



Top bar hive body with screen bottom for Varroa Mite control and ventilation





Mechanical Varroa Mite Control Method in TB

The DOWDA method

Application of Powdered Sugar with the use of a screened bottom.

❖ One can use a sticky board underneath to get a mite count. The screened bottom can then be sealed or diminished in size by closing off with a piece of wood (from underneath) to avoid drying of brood (arid climates) and in winter.

❖ We use a mix of 4:1 powder sugar to garlic powder



❖ Space Top Bars apart and shift enough powdered sugar to fully coat all the bees

❖ This method of Varroa mite control does not control mites in sealed brood.

❖ This can be used when needed and also as part of routine Fall/Spring management.



Top Bar "Nursery" in a Langstroth Box

- box courtesy of Rosy Verdille,
Christ in the Desert Monastery

*Recycled pieces of Duragild and Pierco used
Adds to straightness and sturdiness of the comb
built for ease of transport
and for strengthened brood frames.*

The recycled pieces are attached to 19" l x 1/2" w wooden top bars in halves so as to accommodate their removal and re-attachment to diversely sized top bars and top bar hive bodies.

The recycled Pierco strips are screwed into the top bar and can be unscrewed



The recycled duragild is attached with beeswax to the Pierco strip to extend the comb "guide"