

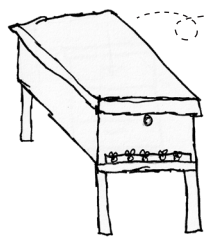
THE BUZZ about our research!

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The Center for Rural Affairs recently undertook a project to research different designs of bee hives, their practicality in Nebraska, their weights, and honey production.

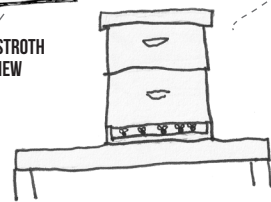
The goal of the project is to strengthen the specialty crop industry in the state, and honey is a specialty crop.

Using the Langstroth hive as our standard, we are trying to find the easiest to handle hive (the least amount of weight lifted) that works best in our climate, and that produces a good amount of honey.



LONG LANGSTROTH HIVE

- > Uses Langstroth frames, but the hive is oriented horizontally instead of vertically.
- > No need to lift boxes off the hive to inspect the brood area.
- > Can hold anywhere between 20 to 30 frames depending on how long they are.
- > Some beekeepers will add supers on top, generally in the middle of the hive.

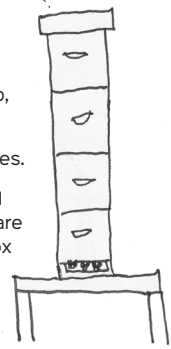


TRADITIONAL LANGSTROTH HIVE

- > Has not changed much in 100 years.
- > Each box is called a “deep.”
- > Uses 10 frames per deep.
- > Deeps typically house the queen and the brood.
- > Frames are a standard size.
- > Honey “supers” are added above the deeps.
- > Each deep weighs between 40 and 60 pounds depending on time of year.

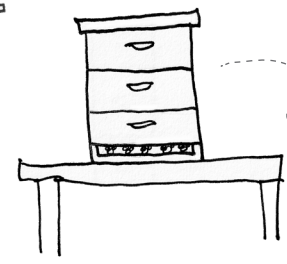
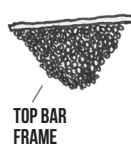
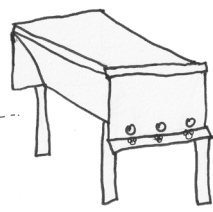
NUC HIVE

- > Pronounced “nuke.”
- > Half as wide as a traditional deep, only holding five frames.
- > Uses traditional Langstroth frames.
- > Traditionally, “Nuc” hives are sold in spring to start a colony. They are usually in a plastic, temporary box and consist of five frames. We use more permanent wooden boxes in our research.
- > Can weigh between 20 and 40 pounds, depending on the contents—brood or honey.



TOP BAR HIVES

- > Oriented horizontally, with sloped sides.
- > Typically produce cut comb.
- > No need to lift boxes to inspect the hive.
- > Takes bees longer to grow the hive since they have to draw out all of the comb from scratch, rather than having a template or drawn out frames (like in a traditional Langstroth hive).
- > If bars are not spaced correctly, bees will build cross comb that needs removal prior to inspection.



USING SHALLOWS AS A HIVE

- > A type of honey supers.
- > These are about half as tall as a deep box.
- > Traditionally, shallows go on top of deeps for honey production, but can also be used in place of deeps.
- > Each super can weigh between 30 and 40 pounds. Weight varies between honey storage and brood storage. Brood is lighter than honey.