



## **ANY BEEKEEPER CAN RAISE QUEENS**

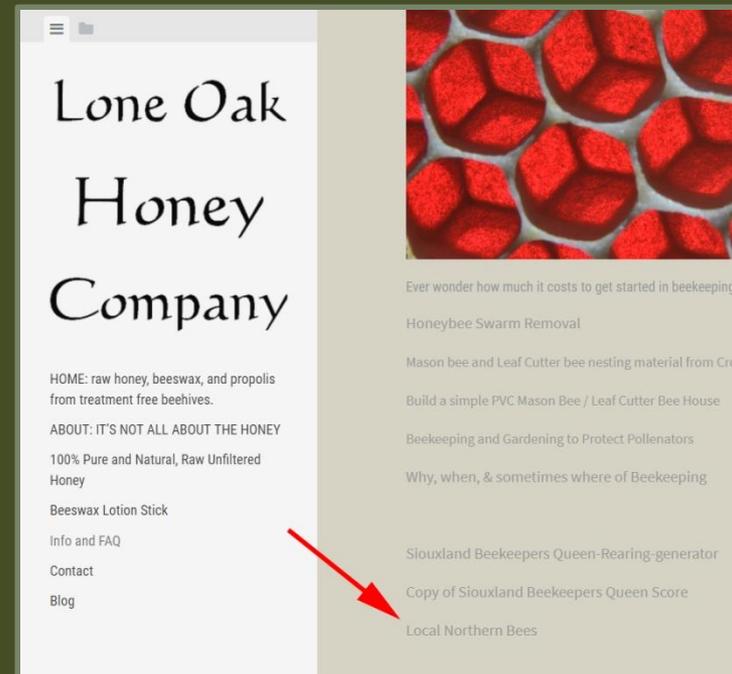
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A COPY OF THIS PRESENTATION IS AVAILABLE  
ONLINE AT:  
**LONEOAKHONEY.COM/INFO-AND-FAQ**



Or you can go to  
**[www.LoneOakHoney.com](http://www.LoneOakHoney.com)** and click on  
“Info and FAQ” then find “Any  
Beekeeper can raise Queens” in the list.

## Every beekeepers **should** raise queens!



Don't be intimidated by grafting. You do not need to graft to raise queens on a hobby or sideliner scale. You can use the simplest method, the walk-away split, and potentially double your number of hives. With a few minor adjustments you can more than double your total number of hives without much more work than walk-away splits.

**I am going to talk about 3 ways you can raise queens without grafting and without a ton of work:**

- Walk-away splits
- Start as walk-away split, finish with capped queen cells split into multiple new hives
- Remove the original queen and let the whole hive raise new queens.



## WHY YOU SHOULD RAISE QUEENS:

- To incorporate local genetics into your beeyards.
- To replace your older queens.
- To improve your odds of having a queen in an emergency.
- To save money since you won't need to buy queens.
- To make money selling queens if you end up with extras.
- To increase your total number of hives.

## WHY YOU SHOULD RAISE QUEENS:

- To overwinter some resource hives (4 over 4 NUCs) to replace your dead outs come next spring.





The best time to raise queens is during the honey flow (June).

Swarm season comes before the main flow and can work also, if temperatures stay up. (Daytime temps must reach 69F for queen's mating flights.)

## How to make a walk-away split:

- When there are bees in both 10 frame deep brood boxes, just split by the box. You do not need to find the queen, she will end up in one box or the other.



## How to make a walk-away split:

- The box that ends up without a queen will raise a new one.



## How to make a walk-away split:

- You will potentially get better queens if you split by frames instead of by the box and set up each split to have an equal number of bees and frames.



Otherwise, if your boxes were not of equal strength you could end up with the smaller population of bees trying to raise the new queen and she won't be as good a queen.





- **Walk-away split equals:**
- Easy
- Lots of work and resources for the bees to make many queen cells but **results in only one queen**



## **Start as walk-away split but finish with capped queen cells split into multiple new hives**

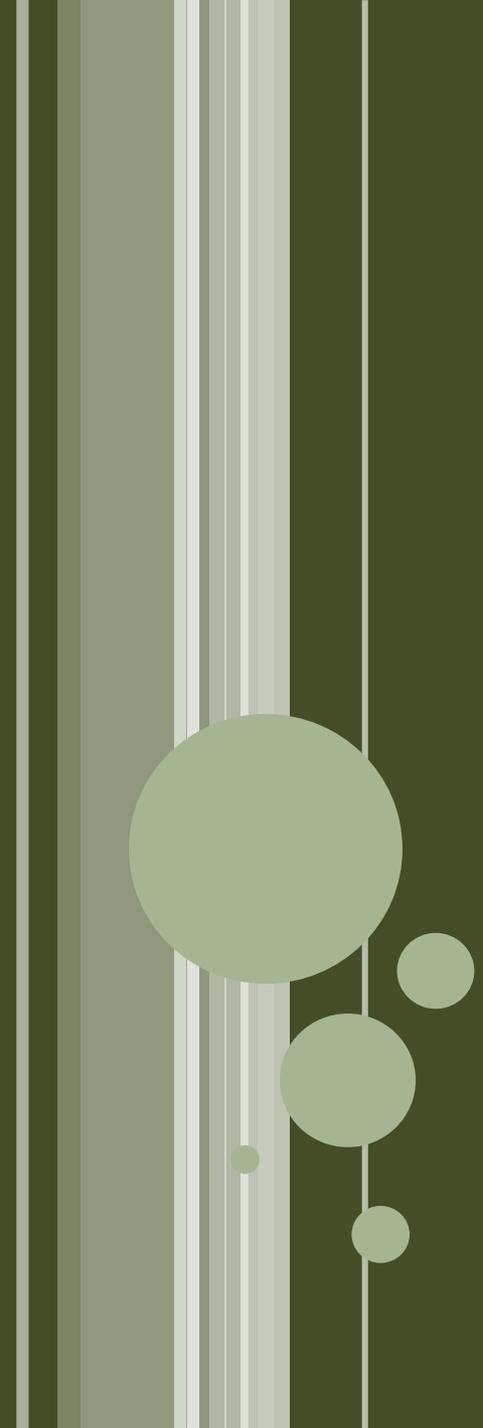
- Still easy for the beekeeper
- Same amount of work and resources for the bees to make queens
- Results in many new queens not just one.
- Increaseses your odds of getting mated queens.
- Recombine any splits that do not end up with a mated queen



## **How to Start as walk-away split, finish with capped queen cells split into multiple new hives:**

- When there are bees in both 10 frame deep brood boxes split by frames, or just split by the box. You do not need to find the queen, she will end up in one box or the other.
- Same as above except on day 11 you open the splits, find the one that raised queen cells, and make a new mini split with each frame that has capped queen cells.
- You made the split on day one. Ten days later, on day 11, it is safe to move the queen cells.
- They are sensitive before day 11.
- They will emerge on day 13. So don't wait too long!
- The number of additional splits you can make depends on the number of frames with capped queen cells. One frame of bees with a capped queen cell, plus at least one other frame with bees, is all you need to make a split. This is the minimum and depending on time of year you may need to feed them. So if you can you should use more frames with bees per split.





THE BEST QUALITY QUEENS COME FROM HIVES THAT ARE HIGHLY POPULATED.

YOU SHOULD NOT MAKE SPLITS UNTIL YOU HAVE 12 OR MORE FRAMES OF BEES AND BROOD. THAT WILL LEAVE 6 FRAMES RAISING QUEEN CELLS

- **Only strong colonies can raise quality queens!**
- To get better quality queens don't make walk-away splits.
- With a hive that has 12 frames of bees and brood or more, find the queen and remove her. You can put her in a NUC with a frame of bees and capped honey if you want to save her for later use.
- Let the remaining bees raise queen cells.
- Since the hive is at a higher population you should get better queens. It is really about twice the population and could make a big difference in the quality of the resulting queens!
- On day 11 when the cells are all capped, you can make a split with each frame that has a queen cell.



- **Only strong colonies can raise quality queens!**



If you use wax foundation or foundation-less you can even cut out queen cells and make more splits.



- **Only strong colonies can raise quality queens!**
- Some information I came across recently suggests that you will get better queens by transferring a frame with all the queen cells on it. Don't remove or cull any cells. This allows the healthiest queen to emerge first and gives the bees a chance to tear down any cells that they detect have inferior queens. There is evidence that the bees can detect this and will remove inferior queen cells.
- Young Regality - A day in the life of a young Honeybee Queen minute 11:45 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EynQxLn7d60&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3GEMyxrLzHlNjaOT1eCFVvz6RiIFlR4hx87gvEvRVRx-Hwsc44p-NfHNk>
- Sam Comfort queen rearing video at hr1:02:30 - <https://youtu.be/hisnSeLN9zk?t=3458>
- Recombine any splits that do not end up with a mated queen



- Link to my Queen Rearing Calendar:  
<http://www.loneoakhoney.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Siouxland-Beekeepers-Queen-Rearing-generator.xlsx>
- Queen Rearing Calendar is also on SiouxlandBeekeepers.org under Resources.
- This calendar will help you determine when you should check your new splits and what you should be looking for.

46	37	Monday	6/10	First day you should expect capped brood from new queen.
47	38	Tuesday	6/11	
48	39	Wednesday	6/12	
49	40	Thursday	6/13	
50	41	Friday	6/14	Check nucs for larvae: Larvae found? If so evaluate laying pattern and queen to see if she is <u>sellable</u> .
51	42	Saturday	6/15	Re-queen if no eggs or larvae found
52				
53	49	Saturday	6/22	First day brood from new queen could emerg.



## AFTER THE SPLIT:

- You made the original split on day 1.
- You divided the frames with capped queen cells into many splits on day 11.
- On day 15, any cell that has not emerged is not any good. If you only put one capped cell in the split you now can discard it and add the frames of bees to one of the other splits. Check for queen cells they may have started and remove them first.
- Look for eggs around day 24. There will not be many at first so you may have to look again in a few days.

## AFTER THE SPLIT:

- Day 30 would be a good time to treat for mites since there is 0 capped brood in the splits as of this day. Any eggs that were in the frames used to make splits would emerge by this day. Treat sooner if using a timed release method. **PERFECT TIME FOR OXALIC ACID DRIBBLE!**
- First day there could be capped brood is day 33.
- Evaluate the laying pattern on day 37. At this point there should be eggs, brood at all stages, and enough capped brood for you to evaluate the new queen's laying pattern.

- **Things you can do to improve your odds for success:**
- Make sure the hive raising queens has pollen, capped honey and open nectar.
- Feed 1 to 1 sugar syrup to the hive that is raising queens.
- Give the hive that is raising queens a sponge of water.



- **Things you can do to improve your odds for success:**



Make it easier for the bees by adding 1 or 2 frames of wax foundation or foundationless frames 5 or 6 days before removing the original queen. This way the queen can fill up a brand-new frame and there are no cocoons in the cells so the bees can easily tear down the cell walls to make queen cells after you remove the queen.

OR – The same day you remove the queen, find 12 to 24 hour old larva and notch out the bottom cell walls so the bees can easily raise queens in those cells.





**RESOURCE HIVES  
FOR  
OVERWINTERING**



The red arrow points to a center divider in the lower box. These are really two hives that share a center divider.

There are 4 frames on each side of the divider in the bottom box.

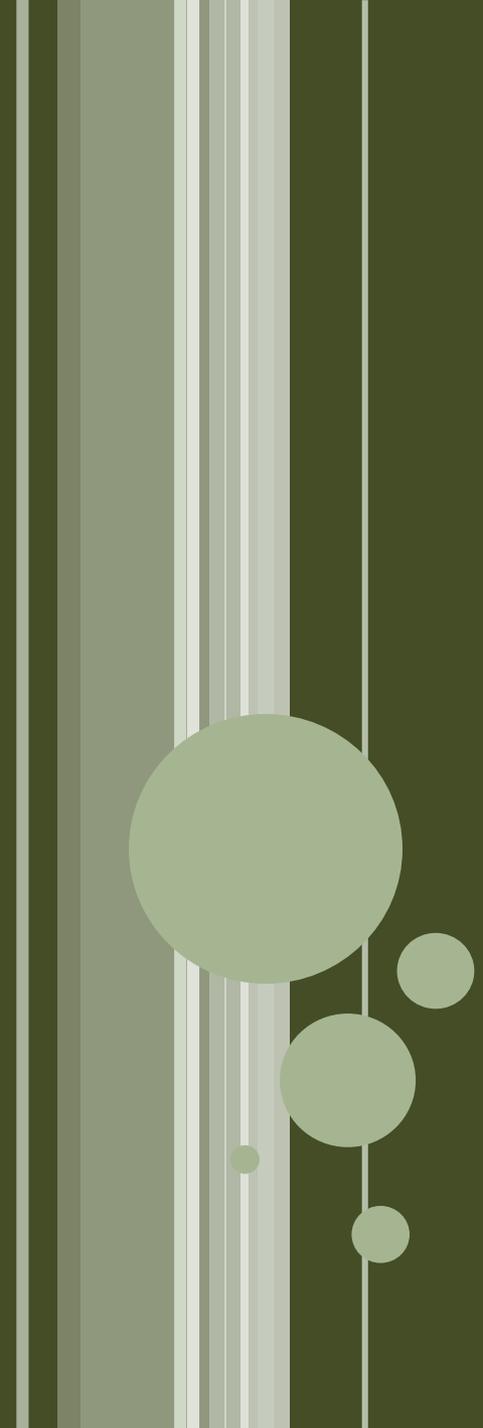
There are 4 frames in each of the upper boxes.

There is nothing in-between the bottom box and the upper boxes.

The blue lines represent frames in one hive, the green lines represent frames in the second hive.

The main advantage is both colonies share the heat through the center divider and survive our winters better than 8 frames in a box by themselves.





# THANK YOU.

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