Economics of Beekeeping

or

“If you will listen to me, the world will be a better place”

What is the most logical way to spend my beekeeping dollars……

Overall Cost to Start Beekeeping

- Veil 15.00
- Smoker 25.00
- Hive Tool 5.00
- Brush 5.00
- Hive 150.00 You should get two
- Total $200.00 $350.00
- But this is only the beginning……..

Acquiring Bees

Acquiring Bees Package Bees w/ Queen

- 3 lb. package... $60 - $70
- Hive body, Bottom board, Top... $28-$35
- 10 frames w/ foundation... $16 - $21
- Shipping and/or Sales Tax... $10 - $20
- Approximate Total... $114 - $146

Acquiring Bees Purchasing a Nuc

- Purchase a Nuc... $75 - $90
- Hive body, Bottom board, Top... $28-$35
- 10 frames w/ foundation... $16 - $21
- Shipping and/or Sales Tax... $10 - $20
- Approximate Total... $129 - $166

Acquiring Bees Purchasing a Complete Hive

- A complete hive will sell for approximately $140 - $165...
- This is based on this years pricing...
### Acquiring Bees

- **Package Bees**: $115 - $145  
  Results take the longest and require the most attention.
- **Purchasing a Nuc**: $130 - $165  
  Faster results. You have 4 or 5 frames of foundation the bees can build on.
- **Purchase a Hive**: $140 - $165  
  You are now a beekeeper. Downside is that complete hives are sometimes hard to locate.

### What about a Honey Flow

- When you purchase Supers, go in w/ a friend to save money. Frames and Foundation are always cheaper for 50 or 100 or more.
- Never purchase just one Super... You will always need two, three or four... Hives grow and apiaries expand rapidly....
- Whenever a Honey Flow begins, I always add at least two supers.

### Extracting / Bottling

- **Used Extractor vs. a New Extractor**  
  Manual vs. Mechanical  
  Un-capping tray... $55 - $425  
  Make one from Rubbermaid box and valve  
- **Bottling Bucket**  
  Store bought $25 vs. Homemade $12  
- **Capping Knife, Pick, etc....**  
  Garage Sales – Thrift Stores

### Storage

- **Closet vs. Shed vs. Barn vs. Warehouse**  
- Build the largest storage area you can afford or can get away with....  
- Consider Mortgaging your house and buying the lot next door.....
- Interest rates are down and most of your friends think your crazy anyway....
- You neeeeed the space....