

A.B.C Honeybee Co-operative

Brought to you by A.B.C- Apiaries and Bees for Communities

2011



Outline of the 2011 Honeybee and Equipment Co-operative
Coordinated by A.B.C- Apiaries and Bees for Communities

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Summary:

A.B.C- Apiaries and Bees for Communities Beekeeping Co-op (the “Co-op”) is an unincorporated/unregistered group of individuals who desire access to local honeybees and honeybee keeping equipment. This Co-op is open to the public. Individuals who apply and that are accepted as Members are informed and aware individuals who assume full responsibility and all liability associated with their honeybees’ welfare and care.

Reasons for joining the Co-op span the spectrum from ideological to utilitarian. The Co-op has been organized to follow the values of the Co-operative model:

Cooperatives are based on the cooperative values of "self-help, self-responsibility, democracy and equality, equity and solidarity" and the seven cooperative principles.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

The following document is organized into sections, each section pertaining to the seven cooperative principals.

Definitions:

Brood: A general term used for all honeybees in egg, larval or pupae stage.

Brood chamber: A section of the beehive where the queen lays her eggs.

Co-op Coordinator: The individual who plans meetings and co-ordinates product research and purchasing.

Co-op Volunteers: Individuals who choose to help with product research for the benefit of the co-op.

Hiving: The act of placing bees within a beekeeping apparatus ex. Langstroth hive, Top-bar hive, Warre hive.

Nuc: A nuc, synonym for nucleus, is a small hive of bees made at the beginning of the beekeeping season to expand a beekeepers colony. These are often sold to other beekeepers as new hives or replacements. The A.B.C co-op nucs include 4 Langstroth foundation-frames: 2 of honey and 2 of brood.

Co-op Objective:

Voluntary and Open Membership

A.B.C has an open-door policy for membership, and is eager to invite urban and rural members of the community. Membership is available for the year and payable anytime between January and March 22, 2011. All cheques must be made payable to Eliese Watson. Membership fees are \$20.00 annually and is non-refundable.

Democratic Member Control

Co-op meetings are organized and chaired by the *Co-op Coordinator*. These meetings are an open-table format with an organized agenda set for each meeting. The *Co-op Coordinator* will send out the agenda before each meeting to co-op members and potential co-op members. At each meeting the proposed product choices will be shared and the products merits and faults will be considered. A vote on the primary products will be taken and a purchasing plan will be made. All individuals are expected to have cheques available at the meeting for the purchase of their equipment.

Member Economic Participation

The surplus proceeds procured by the Co-op are allocated to the development and management of the *Co-op Coordinators*, venue rental, and marketing of the co-op, which is strictly sourced from the annual Co-op Membership fees. The Co-op is not organized to maintain a surplus account of funds annually, and all products purchased through the co-op by co-op members are at the base costs invoiced by the supplier, and no service fees or added costs will be added on behalf of the Co-op.

The co-op members who choose to take part in the purchasing of equipment and or bees will share the costs of transportation/shipping of the products evenly, even if the individual purchases less than other members.

All membership fees are non-refundable.

Members can join anytime throughout the year, but membership must be renewed every March-April of the following year.

Autonomy and Independence

All members of the Co-op are responsible for the choices that they may make in the use and treatment of the products purchased through the co-op. The Co-op member is responsible for registering their honeybees with the province and for the management and care of the honeybees procured through the co-op. It is the discretion of the beekeeper of how he/she chooses to define their management practices, community involvement through mentorship practices, and or organize land and hive shares with other co-op members.

Education, Training and Information

It is the responsibility of A.B.C to ensure that the members participating in the honeybee co-op are responsible and sound in the practices necessary to ensure a healthy hive environment. It is important the Co-op members who access honeybees through the co-op share basic management skills and knowledge of common diseases and treatments. All individuals who choose to take part in the honeybee co-op purchase must therefore pass a simple examination to prove their competence. With the limited number of nucs available to the Co-op, it is important that the members who choose to participate in the co-op are capable beekeepers, beginner or advanced.

A.B.C offers educational programming for all community members in February, March, and April of 2011. The beekeeper whom is unable to pass the examination, but is prepared to register for a course after the honeybee purchasing deadline, will be accepted as a co-op honeybee purchaser.

Once the honeybees have arrived, a single orientation session will be made available to co-op members at a specified location, sharing methods and systems of hiving the newly arrived nucs. This private orientation will be free of charge to all Co-op members. Further support for nuc hiving concerns must be directed to Eliese Watson.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

The choices made by the co-op will be made through consensus. As a co-op member, you are expected to abide by the majorities decisions. If a conflict arises, it is the responsibility of the co-op members involved to resolve the conflict. If the conflict is not resolved and the conflict interrupts the welfare of the co-ops activities, the individuals apart of the conflict may be asked to leave the table.

Volunteering opportunities are available for co-op members who are interested in researching products and pricing for the co-op purchase of equipment. Co-op members who are interested should contact the Co-op Coordinator.

Concern for Community

It is the responsibility of the co-op members to recognize their domestic communities and social communities in their decisions of taking up beekeeping. If the co-op member finds conflict within these communities, it is possible for the individual to seek support from other members of the co-op community in resolving the issue (ex. inviting a more advanced beekeeper to attend a meeting with a concerned neighbor). The co-op community is also there to respond to fellow co-op members who need beekeeping support (seasonal management, vacation care etc.) To manage this, a co-op e-mail list will be made available to those who choose to be a part of the community outreach aspect to the co-op. As mentioned in the *Autonomy and Independence* section of this document, this is not a mandatory part of the co-op, but a respected aspect of creating a co-op community and a side-benefit of becoming a member of the co-op.

I hereby agree to the above rules and considerations of the A.B.C Honeybee and Equipment Co-op, and relieve A.B.C of any responsibility of my beekeeping practices.

Name

Date

Payment of Co-op Membership Fees \$20.00 made to A.B.C- Honeybee Co-op

Member Information

Name
Phone Number
Address
E-mail

What quadrant of Calgary and Area do you live?	NW	NE	SW	SE
What Community or township do you live in?				
Are you interested in connecting with others in your community apart of the co-op?	Yes	No		
Have you taken an A.B.C Level One Beekeeping Course?	Yes	No		
If No, do you plan on doing so?	Yes	No		
Will you be keeping honeybees this 2011 summer?	Yes	No		
Are you interested in hiving/catching swarms this year?	Yes	No		
Are you interested in having your e-mail and/or phone number made available to other Co-op members for bee related enquiries?	Yes	No		
If yes, please check which you prefer:	Phone	E-mail	Either-Or	
How did you learn of the A.B.C Co-op?				
Do you have an interest in being a mentor for other beekeepers?	Yes	No		
*Mentors are individuals who are interested in sharing their beekeeping experiences with others who may not have the opportunity to beehive or are wanting experience. A mentor does not need to be a professional or experienced beekeeper.				
Do you wish to connect with a mentor?	Yes	No		
Are you interested in volunteering on behalf of the co-op?	Yes	No		