



The Managed Mentoring Program on getting started in beekeeping.

Managed Mentoring



Managed Mentoring

From Two Boxes to Three or More

Lesson | Building Above the Brood



What is Covered in this Module

Building Above the Brood Nest

Progressing the Buildout

9-Frame Concept

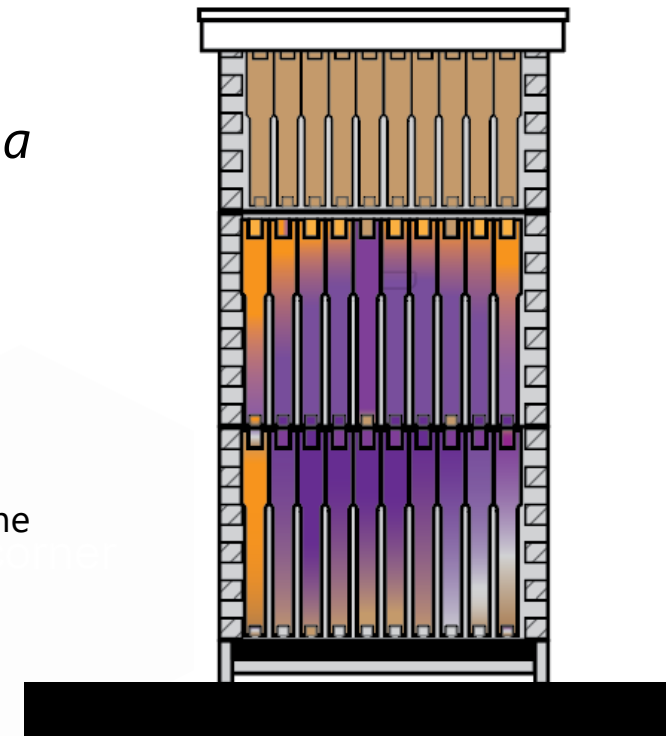
Build Now for the Future



Building Above The Brood Nest

□ Building Medium Supers

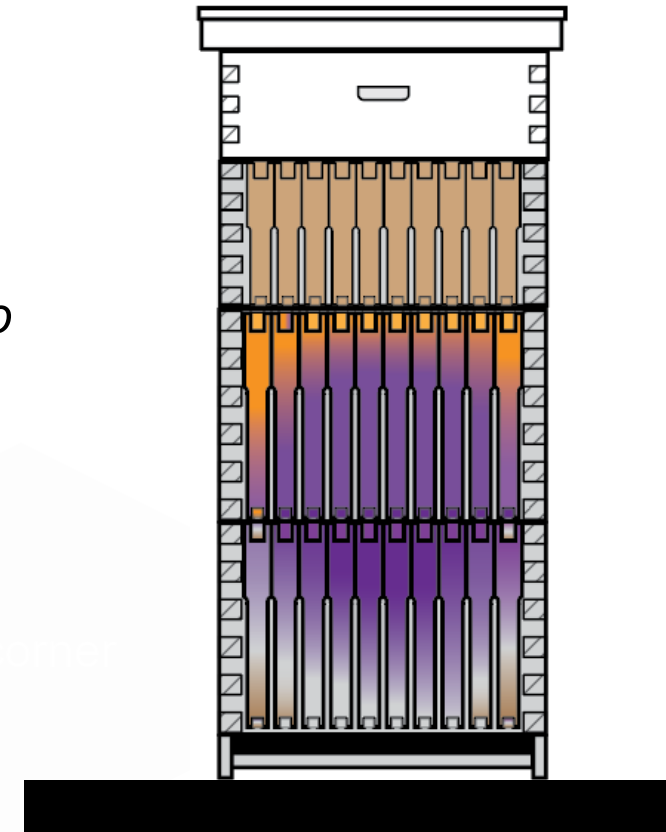
- *When the first two boxes are finished, and you have a full-sized colony*
 - It is time to get some honey supers built out.
 - Building out supers – 10 Frames (unless of course you are using 8F equipment)
 - It may seem obvious that you would put 10 frames in a 10-Frame box, but there is a point to be explicit, as we will tell you about using only 9-Frames for collecting honey later in the lesson.
 - 10-Frames, set shoulder to shoulder, close together, centered between the walls of the box, just like building deeps.



Feeding Option

❑ Feed if Needed

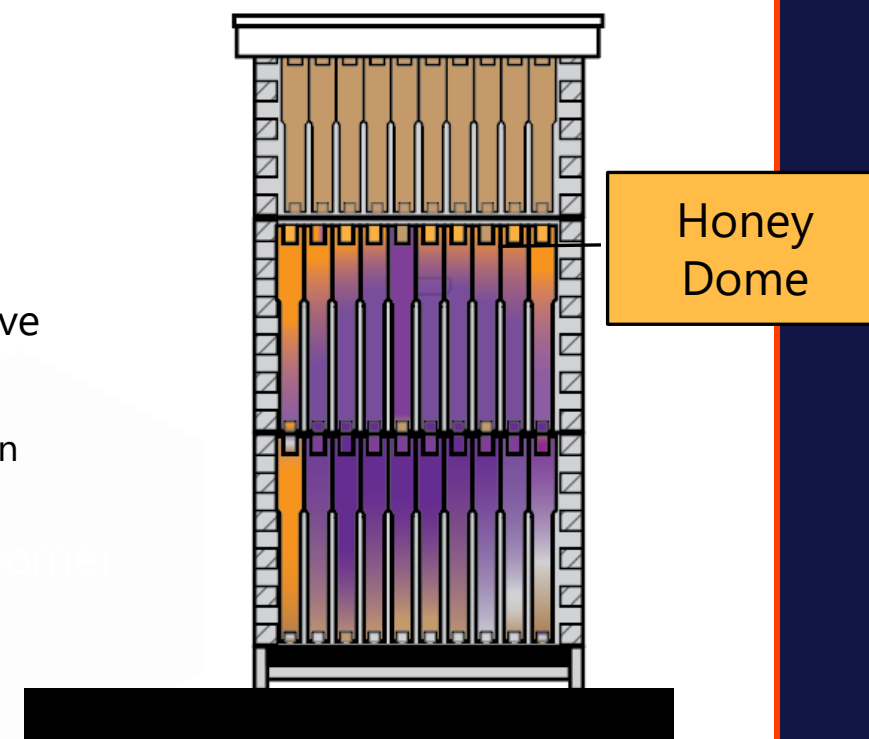
- *If you are in the nectar flow, and you have a large population of bees still emerging, bees can sustain to build out the wax needed*
- *If the forage season is tapering off, and new bee production is slowing down you may be able to sustain comb development by feeding*
 - This can stimulate brood rearing just a little long into the season and provide nectar for wax making bees



Queen Excluders?

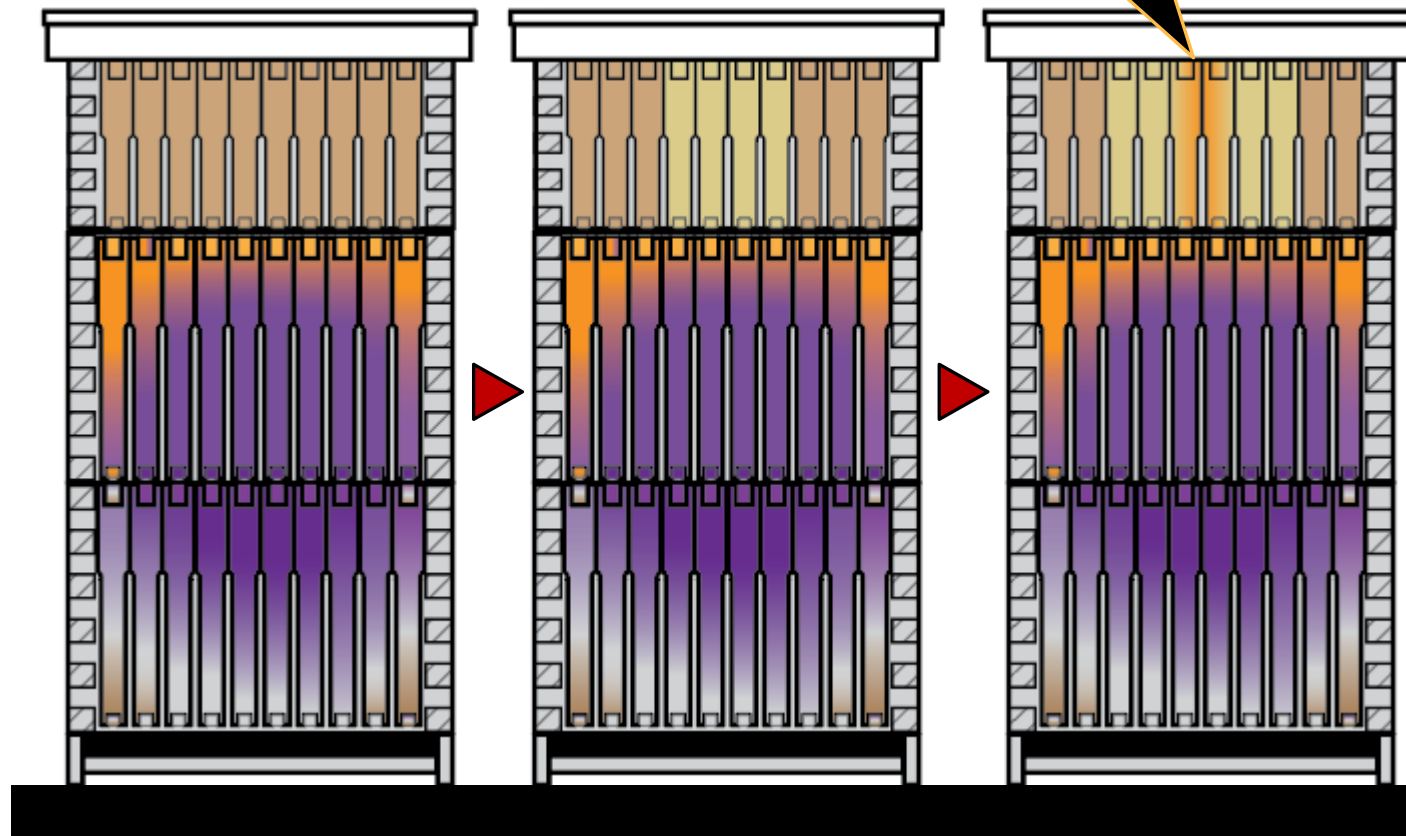
❑ Not Really Needed

- *Queens usually stay below the honey dome*
 - As the season tapers off, queen production slows
 - The queen will go back into areas of comb where bees have emerged, and focus laying there
 - ❑ They can, but it is rare, go north to honey boxes. However when comb is not fully drawn, they will like not go there.
- *Queen Excluders > Detrimental to Progress*
 - They really are a barrier and get in the way of bees passing through; slowing progress



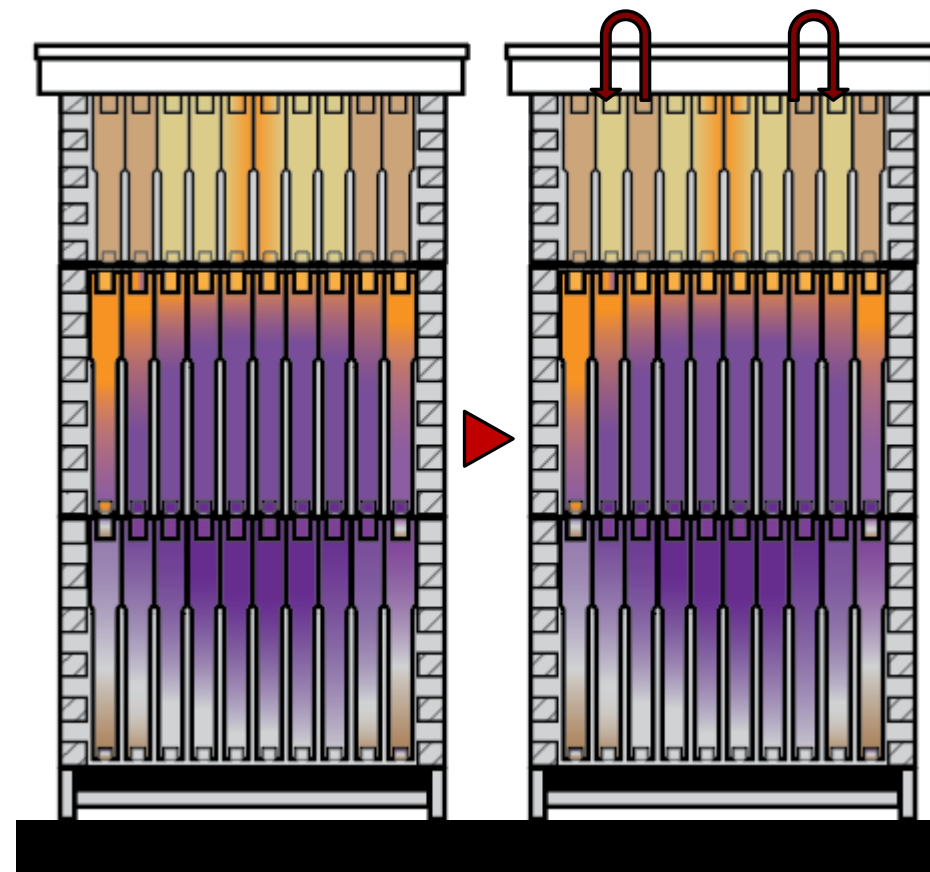
Progressing the Build Out

- Likely Bees will build the center frames to start



Build Progression

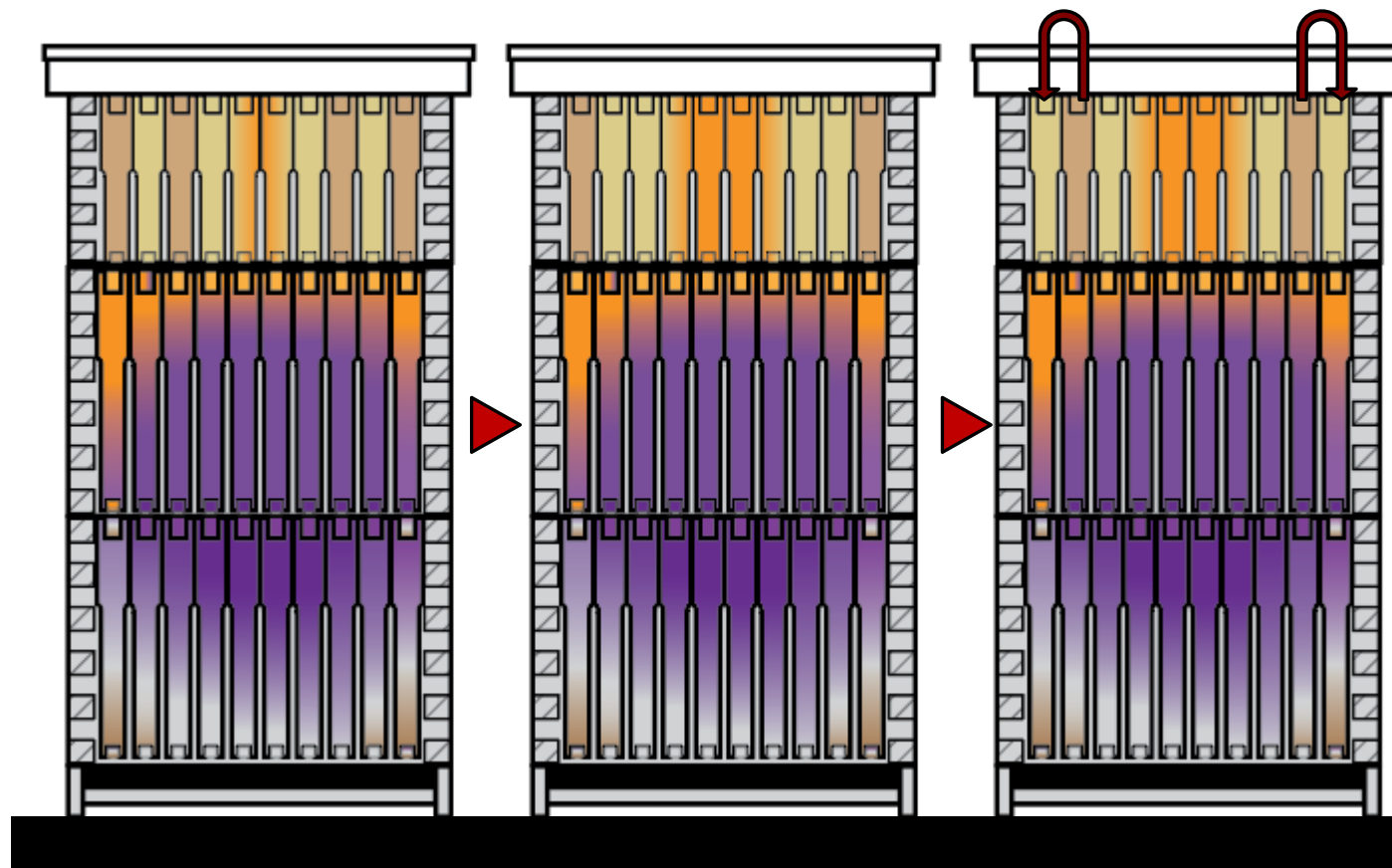
- ❑ When they are getting to the outside...
 - *Switch built frames outward*
 - *Bringing unbuilt frames inside*
 - Placing built out frames to the outside helps to thwart wonky comb buildouts



Progressing the Build Out

□ Switch exterior frames

- *Continue to rotate unbuilt frames inward until all frames are fully drawn*

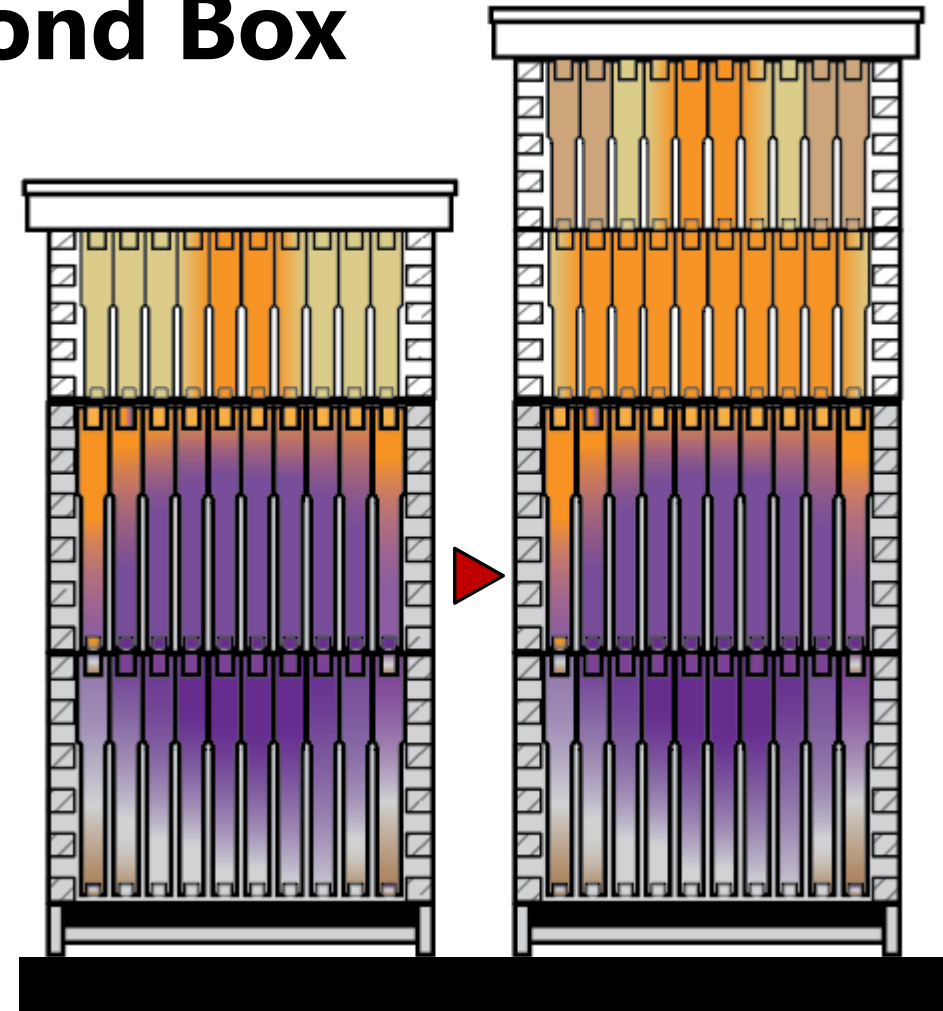


Do the Same for the second Box

□ When the first super is mostly drawn out...

● *Add the second box*

- As long as they keep going, add boxes and get foundation drawn out
- Consider moving some drawn comb up to entice the bees to build up
- They will store nectar in available comb for as long as the flow is going



How far into the summer will they build?

□ It depends

- *Bees will build comb if they can sustain the **formula** to do so*
 - **[Bees of the Right Age] + [Carbohydrates] + [Warm Conditions]**
 - Some colonies will keep building into summer
 - And some seem to stop when the nectar flow tapers off.
- *Keep feeding them – it stimulates more bees, and it provides fuel*
 - This can prolong the time that bees would be able to 'manufacture' wax
 - Without it the upper boxes may sit untouched



Running Nine-Frames

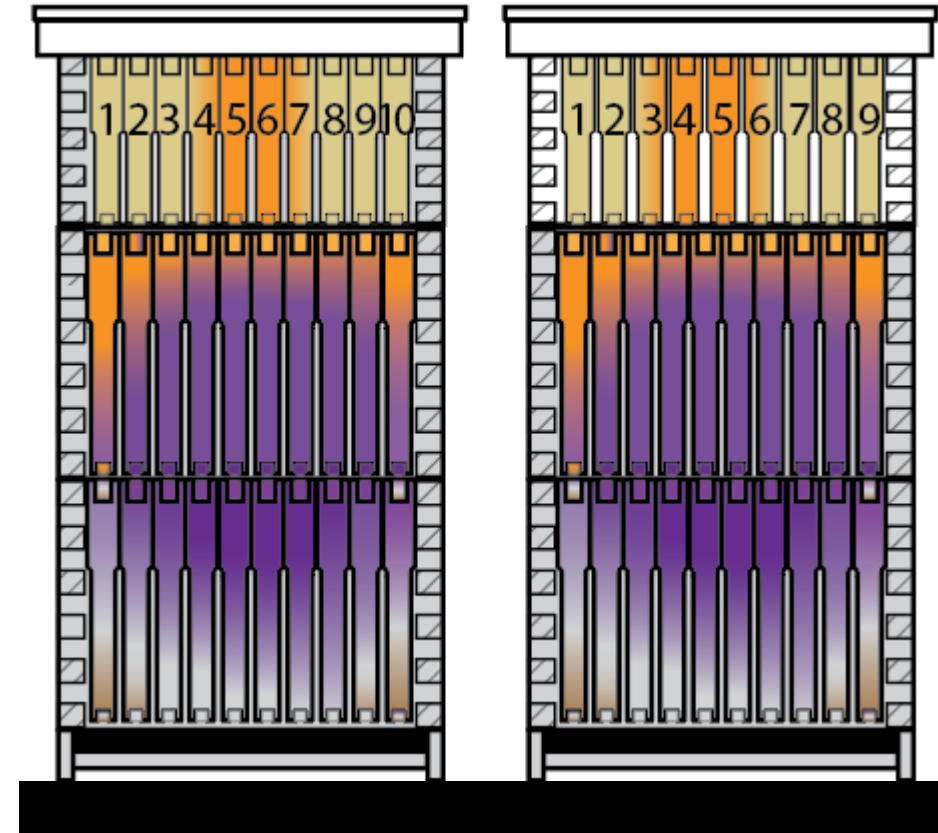
Running 9-Frames in Honey Supers for Easier Extraction



Optional 9-Frame Switch (Recommended)

□ Running 9-Frames

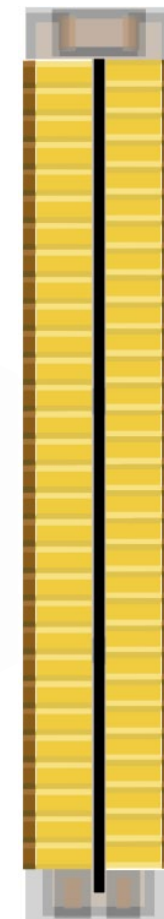
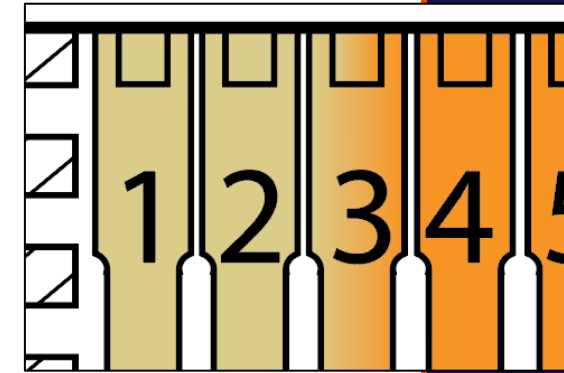
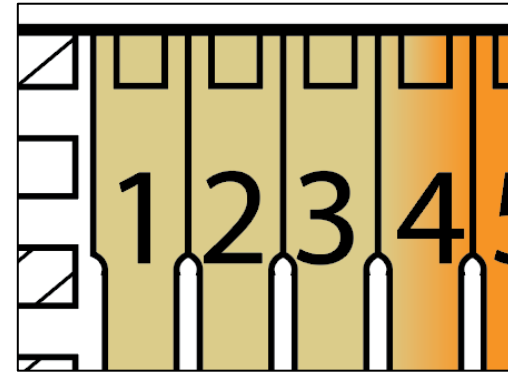
- *It is very customary to switch honey supers to 9-Frames*
 - This is an intentional ploy that results in bees building deeper cells
 - Bees will build out to the adjacent frame face and fill the gap
 - This causes the capping on the face to out past the frame face, thus making it easier for beekeepers to carve off the capping for honey extraction



Point of Order

□ An Odd Notion (9-Frames)

- *Thus far we have been professing that you keep your 10 frames tight – shoulder to shoulder*
 - In the case of running 9-Frames in a 10-Frame box, it also changes the pathway and airflow in the hive from top to bottom.
 - Anomalies aside, this is a tried-and-true practice
 - It is truly a time and effort saver when it comes to uncapping comb when the comb face proceeds past the frame edge
 - It makes cutting off the comb face exponentially easier when performing honey extraction work



Given extra space, bees will build deeper cells

This places the capping out from the frame edge



A word about extra boxes

□ This is a quick footnote

- *If things go well, you can use the remainder of a nectar flow to get ahead of building out comb for future use*
 - Even if you do not collect honey in spring/summer, there might be honey available for your region for a fall nectar flow
- *We are eventually going to tell you to take these extra boxes off the stack*
 - Saying it out loud now, so you can expect this for later... We will be going into winter with two deeps only (3 mediums for all medium hives)
 - We will compact boxes down to usable (optimal) space for overwintering

More to come on this later this year



Closing Comments

- **Customary Close**
 - Where we stand, where we are going...
 - *This lesson reviewed building out additional honeycomb in boxes beyond the brood chamber*
 - *Our next set of lessons focus on summer and fall management:*
 - Summer and fall feeding
 - Preparations for a fall nectar flow
 - Ensuring your queen is viable through the seasons
 - Avoiding/Handling Robbing Events



Q&A

- **What Questions did we not anticipate?**
 - If you have feedback, you can leave a constructive comment; but be nice.
 - You could also send an email to comments@managedmentoring.com
 - *Please refer to this video in the subject so we know what the reference is.*

