

OBA Survey of Bee Purchases and Installs in 2020

Survey overview

This is a survey about the success of bees introduced locally in 2020 by Olympia Beekeepers Association members and others.

The purposes of this survey are to evaluate:

1. Bees purchased in 2020.
2. The vendors that supplied bees in 2020.
3. The purchasing processes used at OBA to date.
4. The success of bees newly introduced in 2020 by means other than purchasing, e.g. own nucs.

Instructions for the survey

What to evaluate:

Include in your survey response(s) the nucs, packages, and queens that you newly installed in 2020, i.e. those that you purchased and any that you newly installed from your own apiary. You are welcome to take this survey even if you did not use OBA's process in your 2020 purchases. Also, your input about the vendors and the purchasing process will still be valuable even if you did not complete a purchase in 2020.

Please use a separate survey form for each distinct purchase, e.g. if you bought from more than vendor you would use a separate form for each vendor; likewise, if you bought both nucs and packages from one vendor. This distinction will help us accurately summarize the responses.

How to evaluate:

In the evaluation sections below, where the form asks for a SCORE, please assign a value of 1 to 5 in the space provided for each assessment item. 1 is lowest quality or value, 5 is the highest. After each item, please describe your reasoning for assigning the number that you did.

I. Your General Information

1. Your name _____
Your email _____
Other contact information _____
2. How many colonies do you generally try to keep? Mark the box after the number that applies.
Five or fewer Six to twenty More than twenty

II. Identifying the product you are evaluating

1. Enter, below, the quantity of nucs or packages or queens that you are evaluating on this survey sheet.
Number of Nucs _____ or Number of Packages _____ or Number of Queens _____
2. Mark the box next to the vendor or other source of the bees that you are evaluating.
_____ Beeline of Washington, Harold Weaver
_____ Dolce Bella Bees, Andy Matelich
_____ Rainy Day Bees, Peter Nolte
_____ Robbins Honey Farm, Harvard Robbins
_____ Schaffer's Honey Bee Farms, Charles Schaffer
_____ Tarboo Valley Gloria Neal
_____ Wood's Bee Co., Alan Woods
_____ Other: Please identify. _____
3. What special, inherent characteristics do the bees you are evaluating here have? Check all that apply.
_____ Old Sol bees
_____ Golden West Bees (Randy Oliver & Sons)
_____ Russian stock
_____ Established Sue Cobey hygienic stock

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- _____ Kona Stock (Hawaiian)
- _____ Created from locally raised stock
- _____ Generic California or Oregon stock
- _____ Other. Please describe.

III. Colony Quality Evaluation

1. Initial condition of the bees as delivered, e.g. Full measure delivered, healthy, strength.
SCORE (1 - 5): ____ Comment: _____
2. Spring Condition Consider colony build-up, health, adaptability during the first month or so.
SCORE (1 - 5): ____ Comment: _____
3. Summer condition in about late July. Consider colony size, health, honey stores, brood pattern, etc.
SCORE (1 - 5): ____ Comment: _____
4. Autumn condition and readiness for winter, e.g. stores enough, mite control, colony strength.
SCORE (1 - 5): ____ Comment: _____

IV. Mite Control. Please check each Varroa mite treatment you used for these bees

1. ____ Oxalic acid 2. ____ Formic acid 3. ____ Hopguard 4. ____ Apiguard 5. ____ Other specify) _____
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V. Evaluation of Source: vendor, broker, or other source with whom you did this acquisition.

1. Ease of doing business. E.g. readily and promptly communicates; answers questions fully; clearly describes the products offered; makes up for any deficiency.
SCORE (1 - 5): ____ Comment: _____
 2. Status of Product as delivered: e.g. Delivered what was ordered; in good shape or road weary.
SCORE (1 - 5) ____ Comment: _____
 3. Delivery: e.g. Arrived on time; at the expected place; smoothly transferred the product to the buyer.
SCORE (1 - 5): ____ Comment: _____
 4. How likely would you be to recommend this vendor to other beekeepers? (5 = highly likely.)
SCORE (1 - 5): ____ Comment: _____
 5. Please add comments regarding factors that caused you to choose this vendor.
Comment: _____
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VI. The OBA Bee Purchasing process

1. How helpful was the OBA process to you in your purchasing or acquisition?
SCORE (1 - 5): ____ Comment: _____
2. Timely? Was the information about purchase options provided in time for you to make your decisions?
SCORE (1 - 5): ____ Comment: _____
3. "Bee Faire". Is the "Bee Faire" style of presenting purchase options useful and worthwhile?

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SCORE (1 - 5): _____ Comment: _____

4. Did the OBA process provide an adequate level of information to help you make your buying decision?

SCORE (1 - 5): _____ Comment: _____

5. Please provide your ideas of how bee purchases at OBA can be improved, including during this pandemic.

Thank you for completing the survey. Your input is helpful to your fellow club members, and to the betterment of Olympia Beekeepers Association itself by helping to meet these organizational objectives:

1. To promote the general benefit that club membership offers.
2. To educate OBA members and the public about types of honey bees that show adaptability to the local environment.
3. To simplify the bee purchasing process on behalf of the OBA members.
4. To be diligent in providing OBA's individual members with the particular benefit of the club's organizational scale.