

Three Rivers Beekeepers

Nuc & Queen Initiative Guidelines for the 2011-2012 Season

N&Q Initiative Goals:

- Eliminate our dependency on the importation of southern nucs and queens.
- Facilitate instruction in sustainable resource management techniques, including summer and spring nuc and queen production.
- Facilitate sales and distribution of Initiative nucs to TRB beginning beekeeping students and members.

N&Q Initiative Guidelines:

1. It is the objective of this Initiative to coordinate the availability and sale of at least 100 nucleus colonies for distribution in May, 2012.
2. Each Initiative participant will commit to the availability of a certain quantity of nucs. Some may only be able to commit to one, others can provide many. It all adds up.
3. Nucs can be either 4-frame or 5-frame deeps or mediums.
4. Nuc pricing is at the discretion of the nuc supplier. However, the recommended pricing is \$100 for a 5-frame nuc, and \$85 for a 4-frame.
5. All sales revenues go to the nuc provider.
6. All nucs will be available first to TRB beginning beekeeping class students, then TRB club members, then open availability.
7. It is the intention of this Initiative that all queens be of local stock and locally mated. In order to meet these requirements, a successful queen rearing education program needs to be implemented. This will probably not be in place until the summer of 2012.

Thus, for the 2011-2012 season in order to meet the Initiative demands, we are waiving local queen requirements as long as all mated queens originate from **ABOVE THE 36th PARALLEL** ("Rule of 36").

For a map showing the 36th parallel, go to: www.threeriversbeekeepers.com/images/36th.jpg

An exception to the "Rule of 36" is the acquisition of queen cells or virgin queens from below the 36th parallel, as long as those queen cells and virgin queens originate from instrumentally inseminated breeder stock. An example would be queen cells purchased from Dave Miksa in Groveland, Florida. Miksa's queen cells are all grafted from the eggs of instrumentally inseminated breeder queens.

8. All nucs must contain new or like-new frames with fully drawn foundation
9. All nucs must contain a minimum of three (3) frames of brood covered with bees with a healthy laying queen. A minimum of two (2) frames of brood is required for a 4-frame nuc.
10. Although Three Rivers Beekeepers may schedule, plan and coordinate a "nuc pickup day", or days, ultimately the delivery of nucs is the responsibility of the nuc supplier and arrangements for delivery must be worked out between the buyer and supplier.