OUTLINE: EXTRACTING HONEY 101

- Before using a PSBA Extractor
- PSBA Extractors and Proper Use:
  - Renting From PSBA – Extractor Overview
  - Extracting accessories included in rental
  - Extracting Process
  - Cleaning equipment (IMPORTANT!)
Before Using a PSBA Extractor:
Assess Honey Stores
Harvest only ripe Honey
Use appropriate frames
Did you know a leading cause of colony death over winter is *starvation*?

Before harvesting – Assess Honey Stores

✓ Leave enough honey for your bees to live off of over Fall/Winter
✓ A hive in the PNW needs between 60-80 lbs of honey. Each medium frame holds about 4 lbs of honey when full
Before You Extract

Harvest only frames which are all or 90% capped like the frames in this picture. Else what you extract will not be consumable as honey – it will ferment.
Don’t contaminate honey:

✓ Do NOT harvest or move frames exposed to chemicals into the honey supers. Mark frames used in the brood area to avoid mix-ups/contaminating honey.

✓ Do not harvest frames which were in the hive while feeding the bees sugar syrup.
Is your equipment appropriate for the extractor?

- Western or Deep Frames can be used in extractors
- Frames must be securely constructed and intact
- Wired Foundation or Plastic Foundation will prevent “blow outs” of comb into the extractor
Extracting Equipment and Proper Use
PSBA Extractors

https://www.pugetsoundbees.org/extractor-rentals

- Queens, Bees and Nucs
- Extractor Rentals

- (2) Hand Crank Extractors – holds 4 frames
- (1) Motorized Extractor – holds 12 frames
EXTRACTING ACCESSORIES

Included in rental:

➢ Uncapping Tank
➢ Uncapping Knife or Plane
➢ Capping Scratcher
➢ Bottling Bucket
Uncapping Frames:

✓ Remove only top layer of wax – just enough to expose honey

✓ Frames can be uncapped horizontally or vertically

✓ Avoid overheating electric knife/plane – turn off/on as needed
Loading the Extractor:

- Beware of Moving Parts
- Balance the load
- Start slow and ramp up speed
EXTRACTING PROCESS AND USE OF GEAR

Getting the honey out

➢ Let the basket come to a rest.
➢ Turn the power off and unplug extractor if using electric model *before unloading frames* (for safety)
➢ Unload frames from extractor
➢ Let honey drain from extractor
Cleaning the equipment – best practices

✓ **Required Reading: PSBA Cleaning Procedures**
✓ Use only water, hot water works best. No Soap!
✓ Keep extractor honey gate **open** when putting water in or axle bearings will be destroyed
✓ Wipe down electric uncapping knife/plane with wet rag and dry them. **Do NOT immerse in water!**
✓ **Do NOT disassemble the extractor to clean**
✓ Questions or problems – contact: extractor@pugetsoundbees.org