



# 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





## Before You Extract

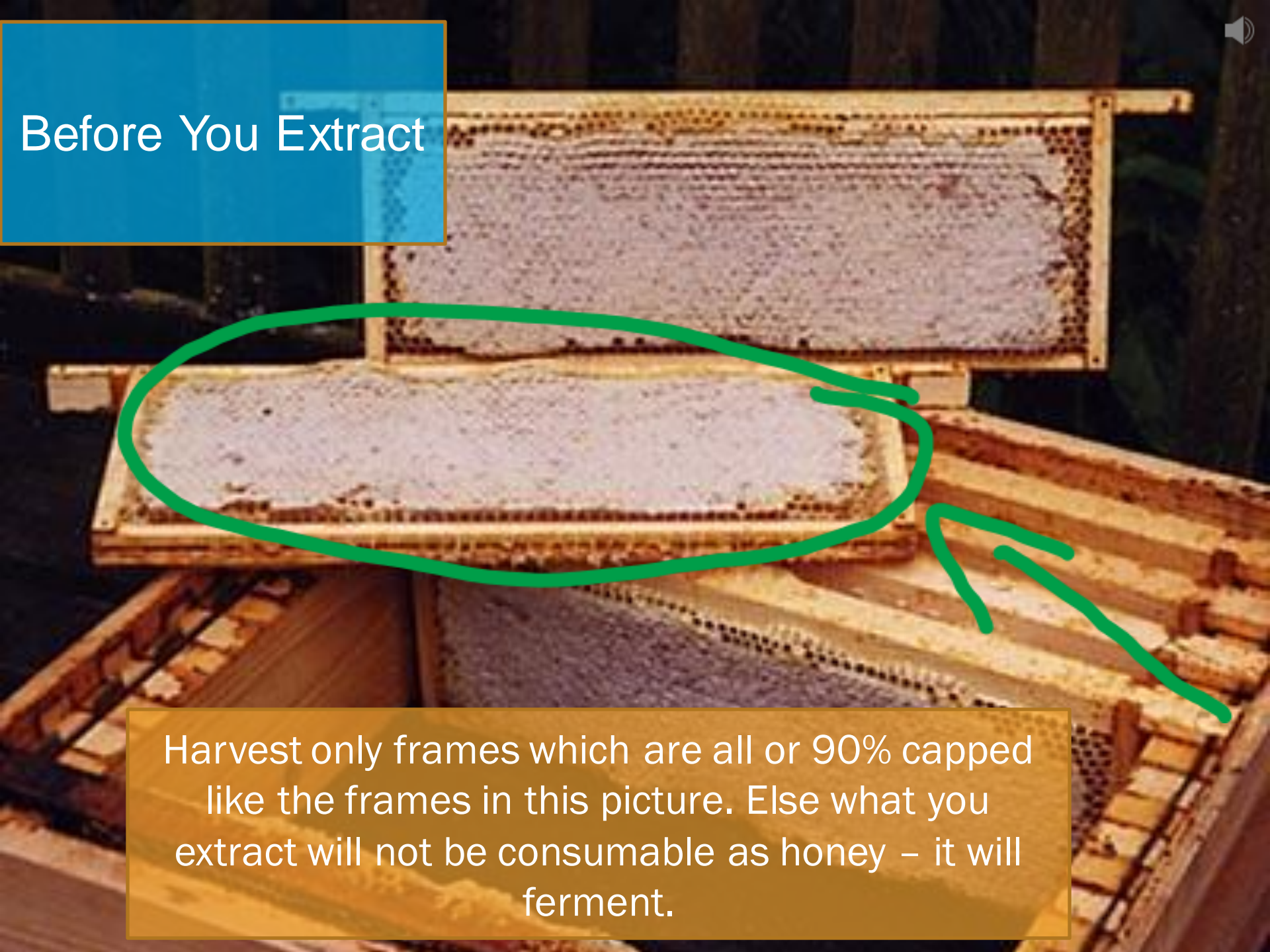
Did you know a leading cause of colony death over winter is starvation?

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 4lbs 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.



## Before You Extract

### 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.



## Before You Extract



### 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>



PSBA

- Queens, Bees and Nucs
- Extractor Rentals

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





# EXTRACTING ACCESSORIES

Included in rental:

- Uncapping Tank
- Uncapping Knife or Plane
- Capping Scratcher
- Bottling Bucket



Combcapper®





# EXTRACTING PROCESS AND USE OF GEAR

## 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





# EXTRACTING PROCESS AND USE OF GEAR

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





# EXTRACTING PROCESS AND USE OF GEAR

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](mailto:extractor@pugetsoundbees.org)