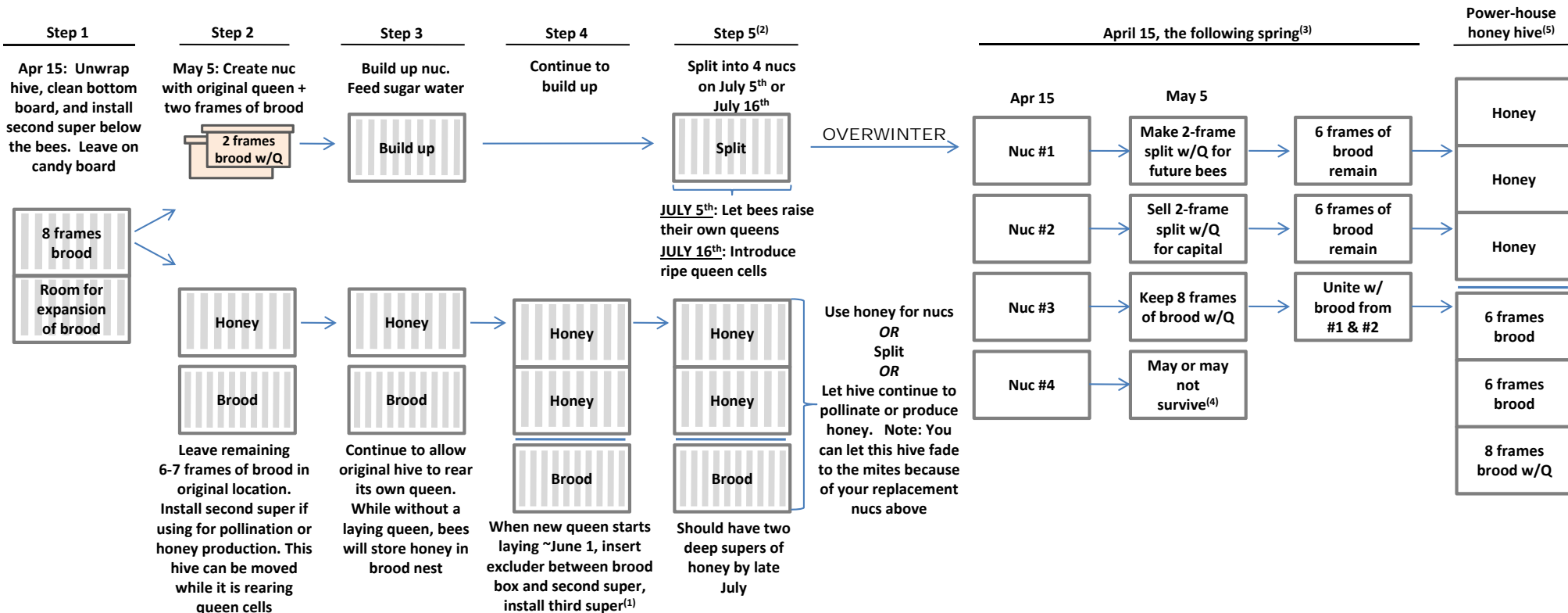


# ACHIEVE PRODUCTIVE HONEY AND POLLINATION HIVES WITHOUT MEDICATION THROUGH FLEXIBLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE NUC MANAGEMENT



In order for you to raise healthy hives without medication, you must strictly operate within the limits of the system as Doolittle demonstrated so long ago, or you risk working against the current of nature. The system is flexible as long as it adheres to the bees' nature. For example, introducing a newly-mated queen in the Fall will almost surely result in failure whereas a queen cell in July will break the mites' breeding cycle and this queen will go on and outbreed the mites favoring a successful overwintering if provided with enough stores and pollen

Footnotes:  
 (1) Make sure that the newly-mated queen is positioned in the bottom box before installing the queen excluder because a virgin queen that isn't mated yet can be small enough to slip through the queen excluder to the upper supers  
 (2) I observed that when the bees superseded their queen after June 20, the solstice or "change of days," those bees survived the mites because they broke the mites' breeding cycle and the new queen then outbred the mite going into Fall  
 (3) In this presented scenario, it is expected that you will have an overwinter success rate of at least 75%. I have thoroughly documented this success rate for several years among many beekeepers using the same system. I strongly believe that the success rate could reach near 100% if the system is properly implemented with splits made at the right times, new queen cells initiated, and proper pollen and feed stores given upon winterization  
 (4) If this nuc survives, which is quite possible, you can unite it with 6 frames of remaining brood from nuc #1 or #2. In this event, the 6 frames of remaining brood would still be united with nuc #3. This would leave you with two honey hives that each contain 14 frames of brood  
 (5) What options do you have for the future of this hive?  
 • Although this hive will appear to be very strong, it is actually loaded with mites and will perish. Some beekeepers will simply let this hive fade since it has already been replaced by the split created from nuc #1 and then harvest the honey just as a farmer sends the old cow to market and keeps its calf as replacement. If you wish to save this hive, you have a couple of options: You can make July splits with queen cells and then sell them as fall packages or overwinter them for your own increase. It would not be cost effective to invest \$20 worth of medication to halt the mites and then have to expend 60 lbs of honey to overwinter this honey hive, as is. Since I don't approve of medication, if I want to save this hive I would make July splits