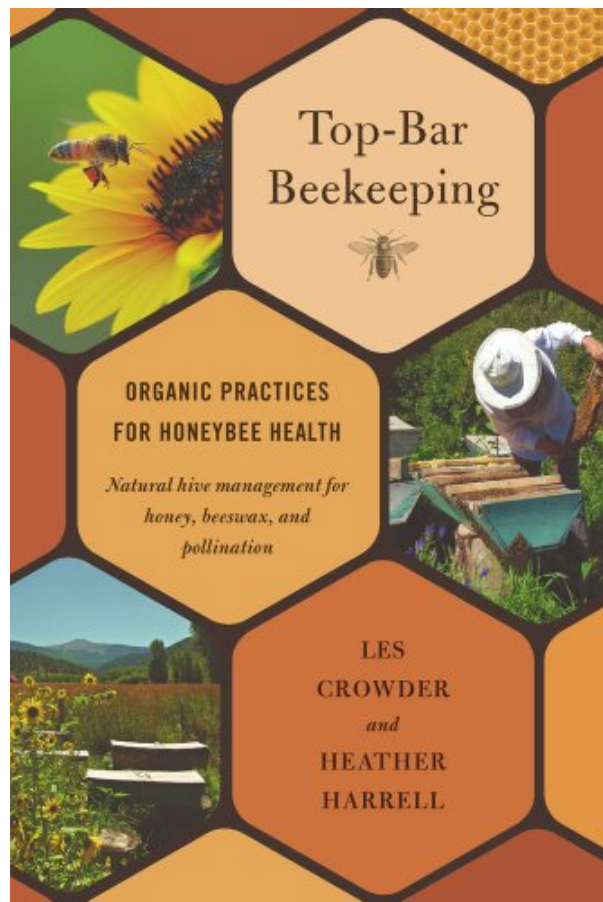
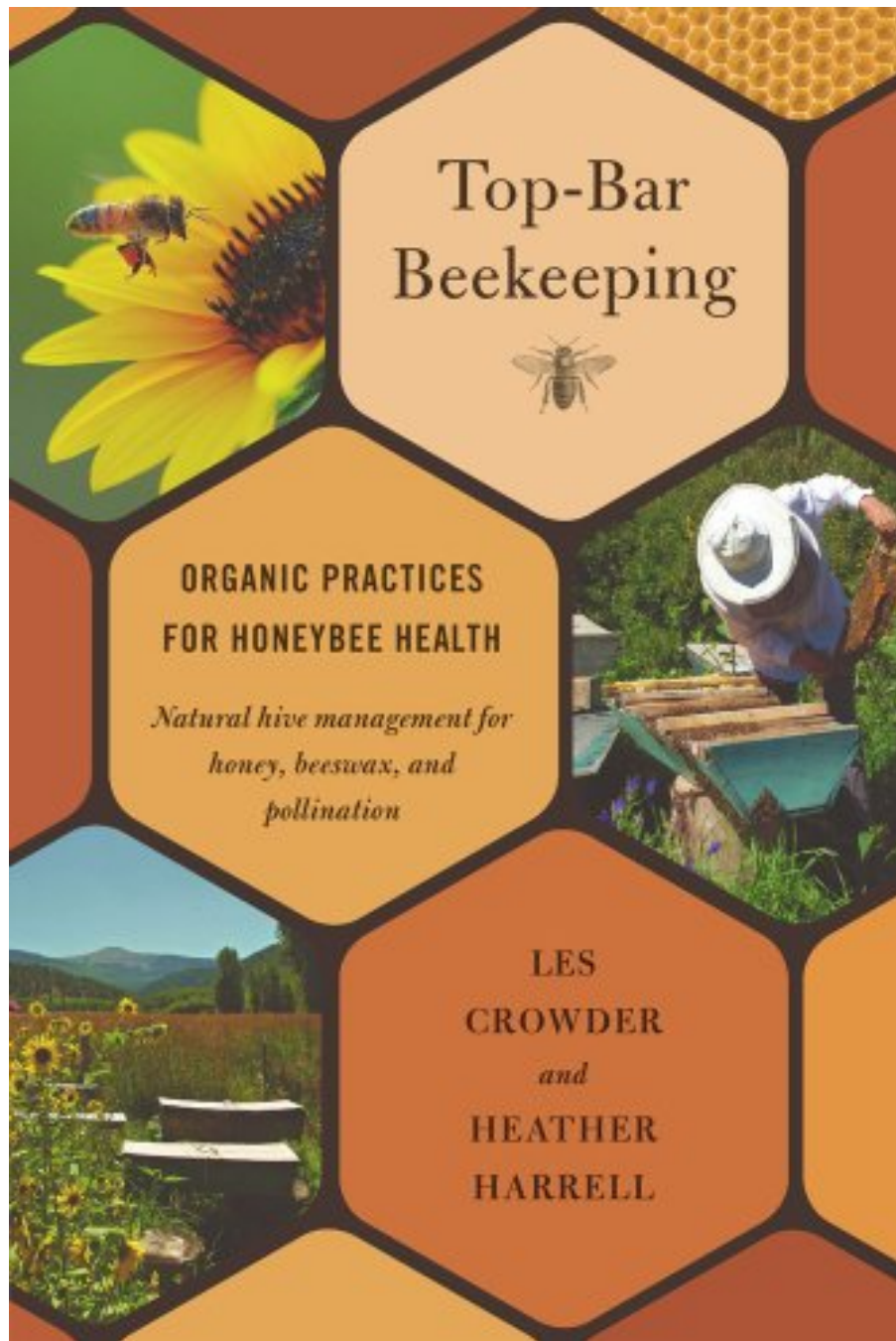


TOP-BAR BEEKEEPING: ORGANIC PRACTICES FOR HONEYBEE HEALTH BY LES CROWDER, HEATHER HARRELL



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In recent years beekeepers have had to face tremendous challenges, from pests such as varroa and tracheal mites and from the mysterious but even more devastating phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Yet in backyards and on rooftops all over the world, bees are being raised successfully, even without antibiotics, miticides, or other chemical inputs. More and more organically minded beekeepers are now using top-bar hives, in which the shape of the interior resembles a hollow log. Long lasting and completely biodegradable, a topbar hive made of untreated wood allows bees to build comb naturally rather than simply filling prefabricated foundation frames in a typical box hive with added supers.

Top-bar hives yield slightly less honey but produce more beeswax than a typical Langstroth box hive. Regular hive inspection and the removal of old combs helps to keep bees healthier and naturally disease-free.

Top-Bar Beekeeping provides complete information on hive management and other aspects of using these innovative hives. All home and hobbyist beekeepers who have the time and interest in keeping bees intensively should consider the natural, low-stress methods outlined in this book. It will also appeal to home orchardists, gardeners, and permaculture practitioners who look to bees for pollination as well as honey or beeswax.

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- 192 pages

Features

- Chelsea Green Publishing Company

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Most helpful customer reviews

109 of 110 people found the following review helpful.

The Top Bar reference I've been waiting for arrived!!!

By Amy B. Popkin

By chance I ran into Les and Heather several years ago while on vacation exploring the Santa Fe NM Farmers Market. Les engaged me in a conversation once I explained I was about to become a beekeeper. With conviction he handed me several photo copies on the Top Bar method. After spending hours and hours online I was convinced that this was a path I should explore hands on. Now I have five TB hives and love the simplicity and natural methods Les spoke of.

When I heard Les and Heather were writing a book, I never pre-ordered one so quickly on Amazon. As a TB beek, there are few experts that have the knowledge like this duo. And I'm thrilled to say that this book delivered.

I've used Les's hive design and build them for about \$20 each in my shop each winter. The plans are in the book and are easy to make. I am most excited to finally have an explanation on how to manipulate the topbars throughout the seasons. Up to now, despite a small collection of books on TB beekeeping, I was winging it. But now I have a detailed and strong set of images to explain hive maintenance.

The book covers a large selection of topic and makes a compelling argument on how TB methods are less stressful on the bees and more in tune with a natural feral hive. .

Heather is an excellent writer that is the perfect compliment to Les's experience. There are a lot of photos too to help you.

If you are contemplating top bar beekeeping, this is the best book out there. You too can be part of beekeeping that is both affordable and natural. Thanks to Les's encouragement I have a batch of honey waiting to be bottled in my Pennsylvania kitchen. The joy I've had building my hives from scratch, learning not to be afraid of placing myself in the midst of 30,000 stingers, and now eating the fruits of the hive are --- oh so enjoyable.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

The info I needed

By sdharlow

In becoming a begginner Beekeeper, I chose to use the Top Bar Hive design. The problem is, there are very few around that know how to successfully keep bees this way. They are all invested in the Langstroth Hive method, which to me is pricey, and over rated. This book gave me the knowledge I need to move forward towards my beekeeping goals this Spring.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

"Top Bar Beekeeping" is amazing, constructive, exciting, objective and very top bar hive comprehensive for everyone.

By John T. Petro

Top bar hives are rapidly gaining recognition and I am enjoying considerable success with the "Aunt Bea Top Bar Beehive" (Pat. Pend.) I am currently adding 16 items to the product list on my website and would like to also add the book. One of my greatest beekeeping frustrations is my inability to refer the hundreds of festival attendees that visit my exhibit with numerous and diverse questions relative to TBH beekeeping, to any single source. My best available referral advice to date has been Michael Bush's web site and book, also from Amazon. The subject book is amazing, constructive, exciting and very TBH comprehensive. It can clearly and efficiently serve everyone from the novice to the master beekeeper and those of us who are passionate about the potential of the TBH sustainable paradigm. And, to be candid, I see the book as being a much needed question-answering, anxiety relieving source that will contribute considerably to my commercial interests in a very intelligent and principled manner.

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