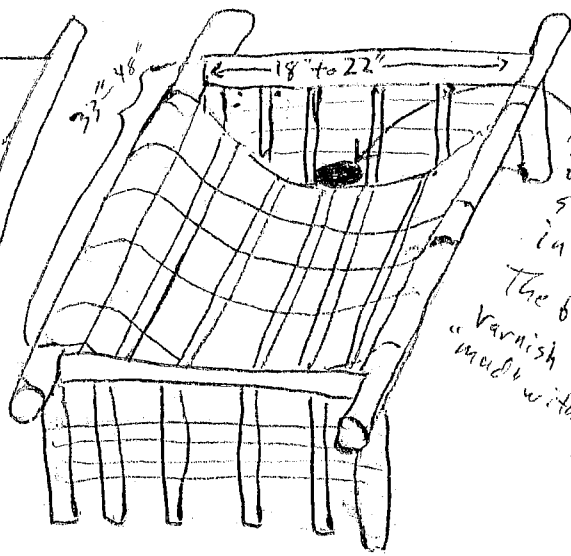
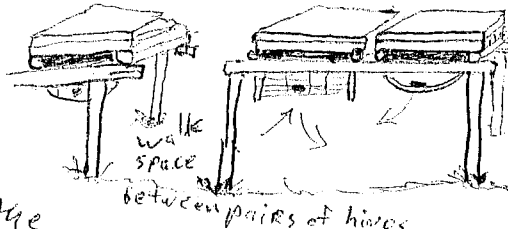
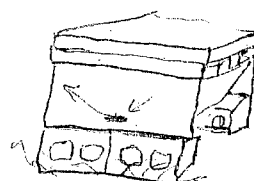


hickory or salt cedar poles loosely woven together with willow and all but a small doorway mudded in with straw soaked in a clay slip. The bees will varnish over the mud with propolis.

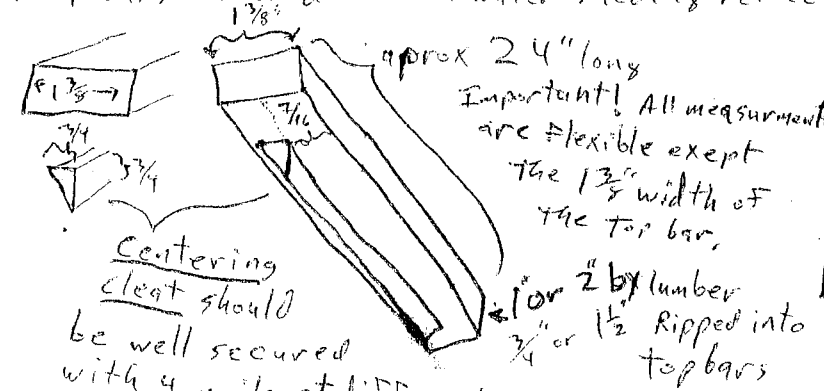


3 1 or 2 by 10 boards form the bottom and two sides

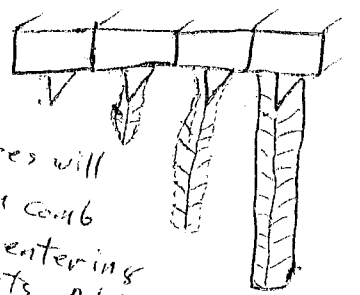
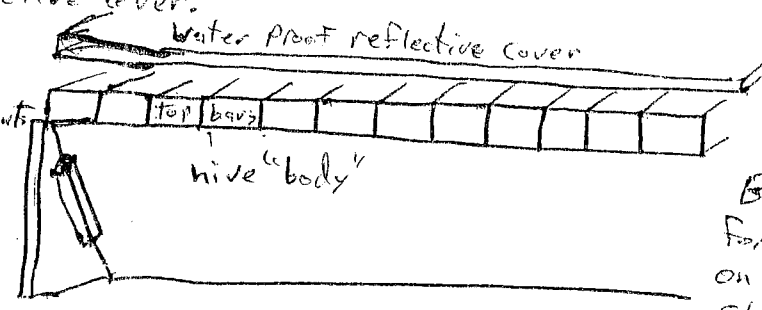


Many hives on poles for easy working. Bees prefer being off the ground.

Face entrances south or east or out of prevailing wind. These hives will be covered over with a row of "top bars" and the top bars covered with a water shedding reflective cover.



Centering cleat should be well secured with 4 nails at different angles or even screws as the weight of the combs will be hanging on them.

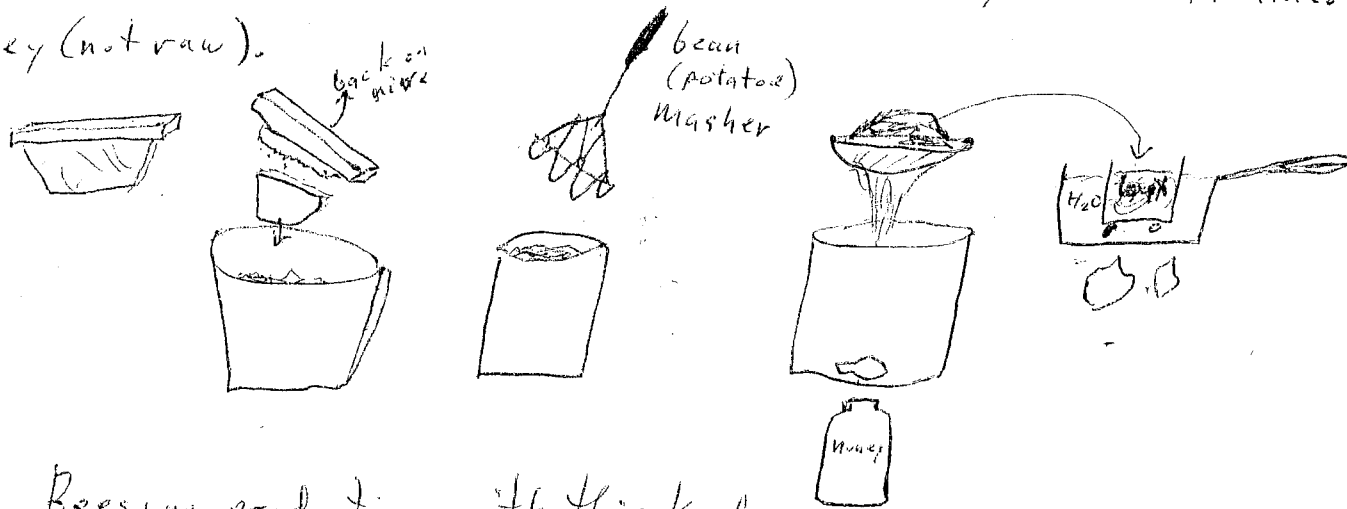


ONCE you have a few straight combs you can put empty combs between the full ones and they should build the new combs straight.

Bees will form comb on centering cleats. At first it may take a little pushing the combs around by hand every week to get them to make the combs.

The bees build their own comb (their own size, which may be helpful to them) on each topbar. ~~At~~ To harvest honey we brush the bees off the comb with a soft weed. We cut the combs off the topbars (below the centering cleat) onto trays (for comb honey) or into a clean bucket with a cover. The combs in the bucket are thoroughly crushed and the honey/wax mass is poured into a strainer over a tank/bucket/bowl. In a warm place most of the honey drains into the tank in 24-48 hours (The topbar is put right back onto the hive when the comb is cut off)

The wax with some honey is scooped out of the strainer and melted (150° in double boiler). The liquid wax is poured through a cotton cloth over water or into molds, candle dipping vats etc. Don't pour the last of the wax or the last impurities or the honey into the cloth. ~~But~~ As the heated wax/honey cools the wax will solidify on top of the honey. Peel it off to clean & melt it later. The honey can be strained & sold as baker's honey (not raw).



Bees wax production with this kind of hive is better. Less honey is produced. Bees wax is a very valuable product!