A person wearing a white protective suit and gloves is shown working with a wooden crate containing dark soil. The person is leaning over the crate, and their hands are visible as they handle the soil. The background shows a green field and a blue sky with some clouds. The text "HOW TO INSTALL A NUCLEUS COLONY" is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

# **HOW TO INSTALL A nucleus COLONY**

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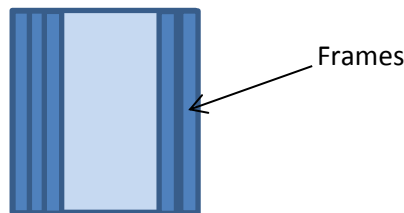
## INSTALLING A NUCLEUS COLONY

- Call your nuc supplier in the early spring to ensure that you are on the list to receive one.
- Pick up your nucleus colony
- When you arrive home with your nuc, place the box in the very same spot, with the entrance facing the same way, as you will be placing your hive box.
- Remove whatever has been used to block the entrance
- Give them a day or two to acclimate in their new home.

**\*NOTE:** Some of the bees will do an orientation flight and fly up to 3-5 miles to find pollen and nectar sources. They will return to the colony and report back to the rest of the bees where the food sources are by doing a “waggle dance”.

- In the meantime, check your bottom board, hive body and hive cover for any repairs that may need to be done.
- Paint or repaint the outsides of your hive to protect the wood and end grains.
- Prepare the hive by placing 3 frames on one side of the hive and 2 frames on the far side as shown below:

Aerial view of hive



**\*NOTE:** Although not mandatory, using frames that have already been drawn out will help the bees and speed up the process of getting them established in their new home.

- Remove the nuc and put in its place the bottom board and hive box.
- Carefully remove the frames from the nuc and put them between the 3 and 2 sets of frames already placed in the hive.
- **REMEMBER TO PUT THE FRAMES INTO THE NEW HIVE IN THE SAME ORDER THAT THEY WERE IN IN THE NUC.**
- Place a pollen patty on top of the frames.
- Place essential oils patty on top of the frames if purchased
- Put the inner cover and the lid in place with a block of some sort on top so the wind doesn't blow off the lid
- Place sugar water feeder
- Check back on the hive later to see if the nuc box is empty and remove it from that location
- Allow the bees several weeks to get settled into their new home before checking on them again