Beekeeping in SA

Danny Le Feuvre
Australian Bee Services
Ardrossan, SA
Life before bees

Bayer, Mt Gambier
• GM Canola breeding agronomist

Ag Consulting Co, Ardrossan
• Research agronomist
• Farm business consultant

Why Bees
The problem – failure beans
Corporate structure
Ambitious goals – 100% pollination
Established in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Mainland</th>
<th>Kangaroo Island</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bought hives in late 2007</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split split split</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012'ish</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>300</td>
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- 14 loads of 96 + nucs
- (400 share farmed)
Hard Lessons Learnt

Processes
• Getting the systems right

Efficiency
• Labour / hive
• Hives worked / day
• Moving hives

Staff
• Finding guys that give a f**

Sharpening the pencil

4 – 6 Seasonal staff
Honey 1 labour unit per 400 hives
Pollination 1 labour unit per 800-1000 hives
Our original goal

- **Honey**: 10%
- **Pollination**: 90%
Trying to find some profits

Current balance
We Pollinate

- Beans
- Almonds
- Apples
- Blueberries
- Cherries
- Vetch
- Clover
- Oranges
- Avocado
- Lucerne
- Canola
- Carrot seed
- Pears
### Businesses current aims

- 100kg /hive equivalent
- Max 3-4 pollination jobs/hive/season
- Biggest honey crops are Citrus and Lucerne

### Diversification

- R&D
- Manuka
- Packaging
- Exporting
Manuka
Thank you

Danny Le Feuvre
0409 699 980