

BEEHIVE INSPECTION CHECKLIST



WHY INSPECT BEEHIVES?

The only way to know exactly what is going on in a beehive is to actually take a peek inside.

DATE/TIME OF DAY:	HIVE 1	HIVE 2	HIVE 3	HIVE 4	HIVE 5	HIVE 6
GENERAL HIVE APPEARANCE						
Are the bees actively entering/exiting the hive?						
Are the bees bringing in pollen?						
Are there signs of robbing?						
Are there signs an animal has been disturbing the hive? <i>(Chew or scratch marks from skunks, raccoons, etc.)</i>						
Are the bees calm when you open the hive? <i>(An agitated or disorganized colony can indicate: queenlessness, poor weather/inspection timing, or a recent intruder.)</i>						
REPRODUCTION						
Is the brood pattern good? <i>(A quick look can indicate the presence of disease or an unwell queen.)</i>						
Are larvae healthy, white, and shiny?						
Is royal jelly present in cells with larva?						
Is there brood in capped and uncapped cells?						
Is there one egg or larva per cell?						
SIGNS OF PESTS						
Mites test results <i>(A visual inspection is insufficient – proper testing is the only way to get an accurate estimate of the mite population.)</i>						
Are ants present?						
Are wax moths present?						
Is there an unusual number of dead bees?						
Is there an odor? <i>(Could be foulbrood.)</i>						
CAPACITY						
How many frames are "covered" in bees? <i>(Some say counting "seams of bees." Look down into a box and see how many seams between frames are full of bees.)</i>						
How many frames are being fully or almost fully used for brood?						
If in a nectar flow, do my bees have space to store nectar? <i>(Do the bees have empty comb and/or new frames to build comb where they can store nectar OR do I need to add a super?)</i>						
WEATHER CONDITIONS						
Temperature/Precipitation						
Has there been a substantial change in total population since the last inspection?						