

Beekeeper's Inspection Checklist



1) OUTSIDE OF HIVE

- # of bees coming & going
- Pollen going in
- Crowded entrance
- Fighting or robbing
- Weight of hive (food stores)
- Spotting (treat for nosema?)
- Dead bees on entrance or ground
- Bees on ground (mites? poison?)
- Equipment (box, stand, weathering)
- Water source (reliable, persistent)
- Neighbor issues?
- Tall grass (pest bridges)
- Sun/shade level

2) FRAME

- Temperament of bees
- # of bees on frames
- # of frames with bees
 - If < 6 frames, combine?
 - If full, split?
- Swarm signs
 - Queen cups, open, empty
 - Queen cells (larvae or closed w/ pupa, bottom of frame)
 - Supersedure cells (on frame sides)
- Brood pattern appropriate
- Larvae in jelly?
- Queen sighting or signs?
- Bees with deformities?

4) BEEKEEPER

- Order ahead of time (bees, queens, equipment, jars, labels, PDB, etc)
- Equipment for supering, harvesting, wintering
- Record keeping
- Learn more (bee club, books, internet, etc.)

3) FRAME

- Honey stores
 - If 80% full, add super
 - If low then feed
 - Have 30 lbs for winter
- Pollen, Bee bread, add sub?
- Feeder status? Add?
- Pests (Small hive beetles, Wax moths, ants, etc)
- Nurse bee behavior
- Drones, drone cells
- Dirty comb (replace after ~5 years)
- Burr comb (clean?)
- Cell Level
 - Eggs at bottom of cells
 - Multiple eggs in cells
 - Slightly convex wax cappings
 - Perforations in wax cappings
 - Color & cond of wax & cappings
 - Mites on pupa?
- 300 Bee Level
- Mite Count
 - Alcohol wash
 - Sugar Roll
 - Sticky board
- Is it time to treat?

Bee Hive Inspection Checklist, Date & Time:



Hive # or name												
Weather (°F, clouds)												
Entrance activity, low, mod, high												
Pollen going in?												
Bees on Ground?												
Robbing?												
Hive weight (light, med, heavy)												
Equipment (stand, boxes, lids)												
Ventilation, screen bottom, shade												
Box #												
# frames bees												
# frames brood												
Brood pattern (solid, spotty)												
Larva present?												
Eggs present? 1 at bottom of cell?												
Brood caps: concave, perforated												
Jelly (dry, moderate, heavy)												
Queen swarm cells, bottom												
Queen cups												
Queen supersedure cells, sides												
# frames drone brood												
Hive Beetles												
# frames capped honey												
# frames nectar (uncapped)												
# frames pollen, # colors												
# frames empty cells												
# frames undrawn foundation												
Hive Temperament												
Excluder (remove by Sept)												
Pest or Disease signs												
Varroa test												
Comments, Actions												

Actions to consider: feed, test, treat, SHB trap, add or remove box, split, combine, report disease or poison

# Frames bees	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Good	7	8	10	14	16	16	13	10	10	11	9	8
Help Needed	4	4	6	7	8	9	8	7	8	8	7	6
Doomed	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	5	5

Help: test, kill varroa, re-queen, add brood, add bees, feed syrup/pollen

Doomed: test, kill varroa, combine

Frames honey: at least 10 full frames both sides by mid-Oct

Frames honey: similar to # frames of brood

Frames pollen: > 1 full frame both sides when eggs or brood present

Spotty brood caused by:

- Failing queen
- Varroa
- Hot dry conditions
- Poor nutrition (cannibalize)
- Not enough space for nectar & pollen
- Chalkbrood
- European Foulbrood