

# 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
  - 1 egg at bottom of cell
  - 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?	<a href="https://metrobeekeepers.net">https://metrobeekeepers.net</a>					
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

Inspector name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Hive name \_\_\_\_\_

Activity level                      **High**                      **Med**                      **Low**

Pollen going in                      **Yes**                      **No**

<b>Box # (from top)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b># Frames of Bees</b>				
<b># Frames Honey</b>				
<b># Frames Brood</b>				
<b>Brood pattern?</b>				
<b># Frames Empty</b>				
<b>Queen cells, cups?</b>				
<b>Varroa mite count</b>				
<b>Actions</b>				

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<b>Varroa mite count</b>				
<b>Actions</b>				