

Hive Inspections



Beekkeeping

Management of of honey bees

Honey bees lived just fine until man came along and began to capture them. This is called keeping bees and managing them. In the wild they are just wild feral bees.



Hive Inspections

Get your smoker lit - Smoke is a great help in controlling honey bees. However, don't use too much.

Good fuel to use in your smoker.....

Wood shavings

Burlap

Pulk wood (decaying wood)

Wood pellets

Pine needles



B.C.



Hive Inspections



- First, make sure all is ready.
- You work the hive from the side or back.
- Blow a little smoke toward the entrance.
- Remove the top cover.
- Use your hive tool to remove the inner cover.
- Once the inner cover is off the top bars of the frames in the top box (super) are exposed.
- A few bees may become air borne and fly about you. Ignore them.



Hive Inspections

- **What you will see...**
- When the hive is opened the bees will investigate and begin coming to the top of the frames.
- If the hive is very strong, the entire top will be covered with bees.
- This is the time to use a gentle blast of smoke directly to where the bees are coming up.
- **Don't get the smoker too close!**



Hive Inspections

Work your hive from the side or back, not the front of the hive.

A few puffs at the entrance and a little on the top bars is enough.

Too much smoke will cause the bees to begin to run out of the hive.



Hive Inspections

- Move slowly when working the bees. Fast rapid movement causes the bees to react to your actions.
- Work bees during the mid day in good weather.
- If the hive becomes uncontrollable, close the hive and wait for a better time of day.



Hive Inspections

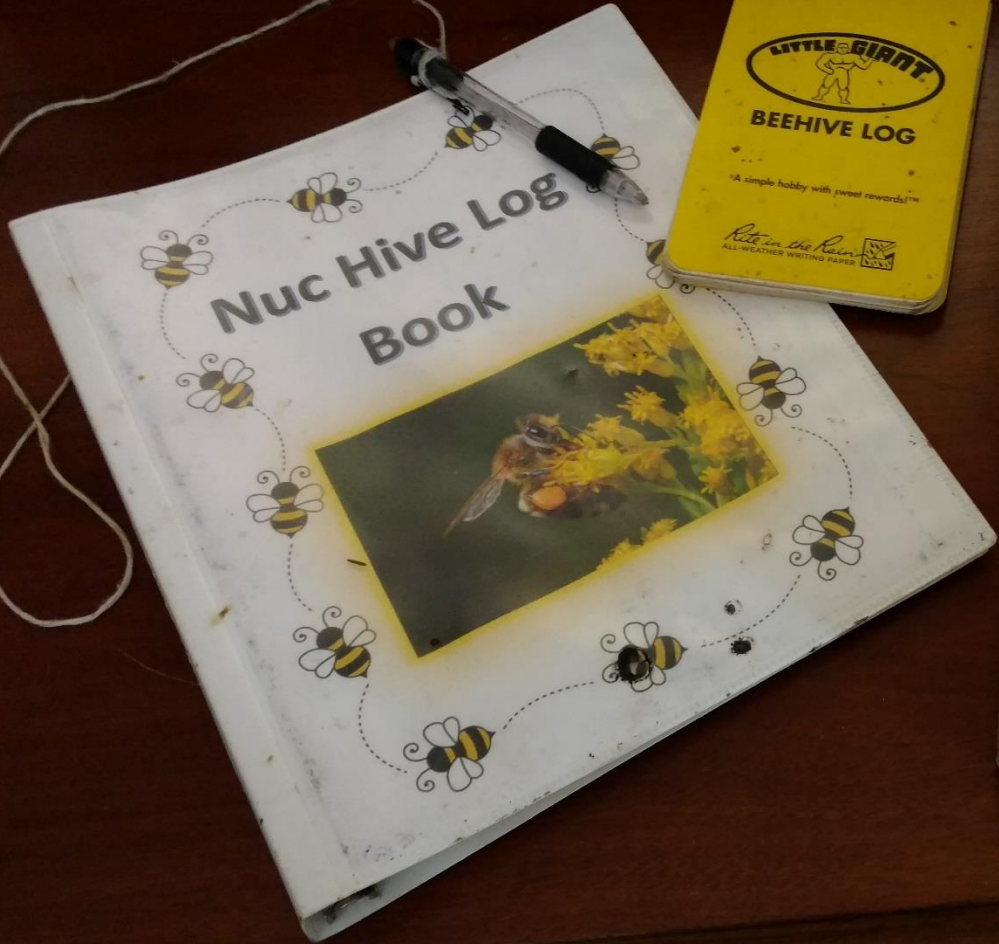
- Your hive tool is used to pry off the top cover, inner cover and separate the hive bodies. It is used most often to get frames out of hive bodies.
- The hive tool is held in the hand ready for use.



Hive Inspections

- What should we be looking for when we begin to work the hive?
- First, a beekeeper's job is to do the least amount of damage to the bees.





HIVE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---|---|---|---|
| HIVE NUMBER #4 | Dates: | 3/21/08 | | | | | |
| Temperature | | 72 | | | | | |
| Traffic at Entrance: High Med Low | | H | | | | | |
| Bees Crawling on the Ground? | | N | | | | | |
| Bees Bringing in Pollen? | | Y | | | | | |
| Hive Beetles on the Lid? | | N | | | | | |
| Feeder in Place? | | Removed | | | | | |
| # Frames of Sealed Brood / % V | | 6 / 90% | | | | | |
| # Frames of Open Brood | | 2 | | | | | |
| Any Sign of Brood Disease? | | N | | | | | |
| See Small Larvae? | | Y | | | | | |
| See Eggs? | | -- | | | | | |
| See Open Nectar in Combs? | | Y | | | | | |
| Total Frames of Bees | | 12 | | | | | |
| Total Frames of Brood | | 8 | | | | | |
| Total Frames of Honey | | 3 | | | | | |
| # Deep Boxes | # Medium | 2 / 1 | / | / | / | / | / |
| # of Bad Combs | | 3 | | | | | |
| See the Queen? | | Y | | | | | |
| See Queen Cells? | | N | | | | | |
| See Drones? | | Y | | | | | |
| Temperament: Calm Avg Bad | | C | | | | | |
| Medications Added or Removed | | | | | | | |
| Apistan | A R | Add | R-May 2 | | | | |
| Check-Mite | A R | | | | | | |
| Terramycin | A R | | | | | | |
| Mite-A-Thol | A R | | | | | | |
| Fumagilin | A R | | | | | | |
| Formic Acid | A R | | | | | | |
| Bottom Board: Clean Avg Dirty | | Avg | | | | | |

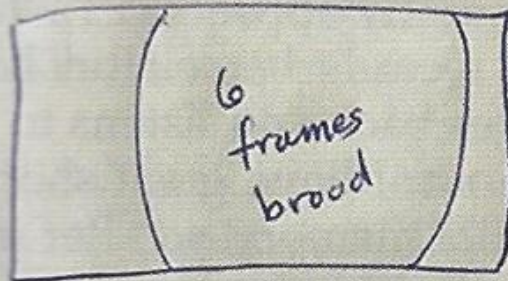
COMMENTS: Date, Actions Taken, What's Blooming? Next Inspection Date? Action Needed?

3/21/08 - Population growing OK, Several frames with open nectar. Need to work at removing bad combs

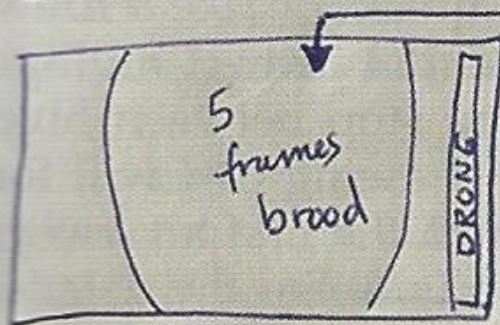
Queen looks fat and energetic!

Pictograph Journal

6/10/18 Bled



$\frac{2}{3}$ rd full of bees

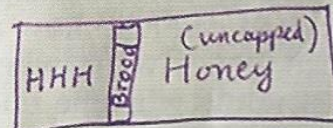
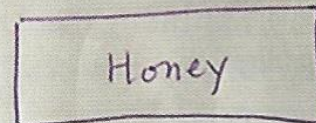


saw queen

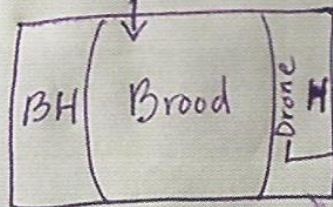
Very full of bees

Next Steps: Added 6/17
Add super box
Cut out drone frame

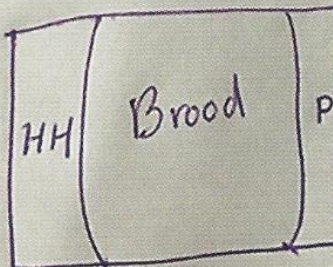
7/5/18 Bled Mites = 2



saw queen



Cut out drone frame



Next Steps:
Add Super box
Make Nuc

Pictograph Journal

7/5/18 Bled Mites = 2

Added super 7/8

Made Nuc 7/11

saw queen

Cut out drone frame

Next Steps:
Add Super box
Make Nuc

6/10/18 Bled
newly drawn out More Detail

Just drawn out

Hive Inspections

- Honey and Pollen?
- Cells with pollen
- A hive needs food to survive during all times during the year. It is critical during times of brood rearing.



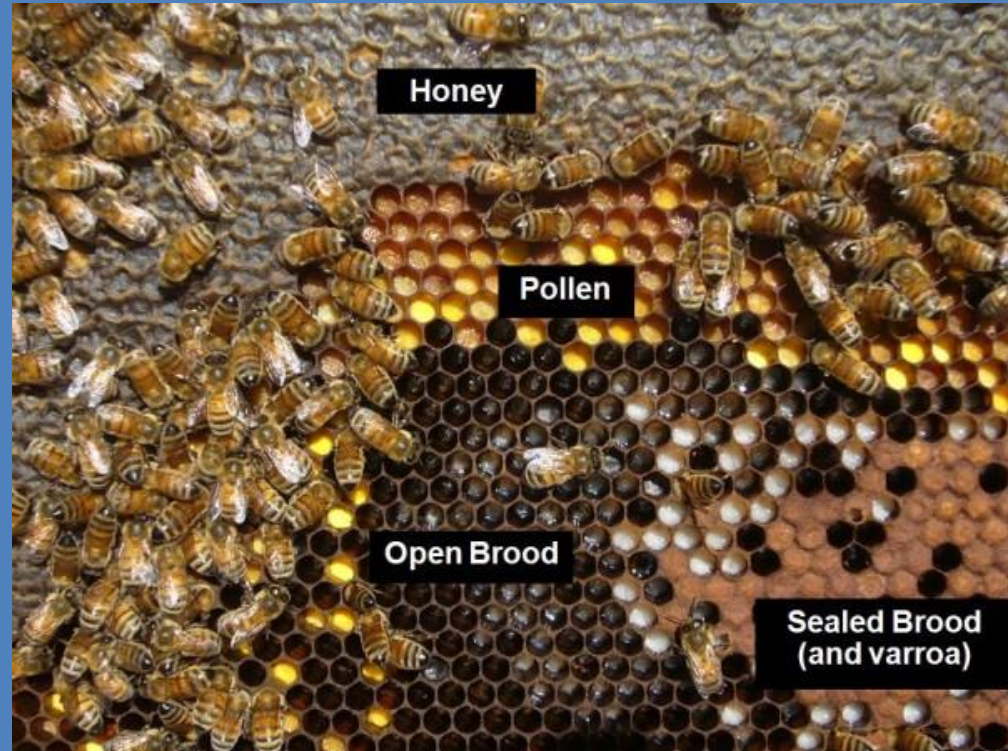
Hive Inspections

You should see:

1. A good population of honey bees.
2. Eggs, larva, and capped brood.
3. Honey and pollen.

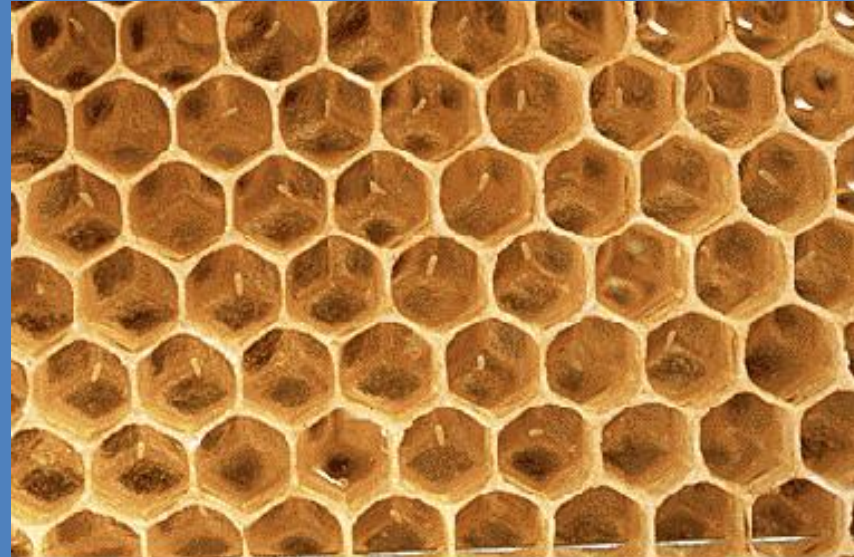
Hopefully you will not see:

1. Disease or poor brood patterns
2. Varroa mite that might be on bees.
3. Queen cells?
4. Other things in the hive such as Small Hive Beetle, wax moths, etc.+



Hive Inspections

- It is not necessary to find the queen each time we open the hive!
- We can tell that she is present if you can see eggs in cells.



Hive Inspections

- A hive should not be open any longer than necessary to do an inspection.
- An inspection consist of looking for things that are not normal within a hive of bees.
- As you gain experience, this will become easier.
- Hold the frame so that the sun is reaching the frame from over your shoulder.



Hive Inspections

- What is a good population of bees?
- If the bees are covering the brood areas of the hive in spring, this is a good sign.



Hive Inspections

- Later in the season, you will expect to find bees in all parts of the hive.
- At times they may even cluster on the front of the hive.



Hive Inspections

What to do if the population is large?

Add honey supers and check for swarm queen cells!

Can you see the difference between these two hives?





Hive Inspections

- **What you should not be seeing.....**
- What happens if you see no eggs, larva, and some capped brood! You do see what looks like queen cells that have hatched.



Hive Inspections

You most likely have a hive with a virgin queen.

What do you do?

- Nothing, just wait until almost all the brood has emerged. About that time the virgin queen will be mated and start laying eggs. Look for eggs and signs the hive has a new queen.



Hive Inspections

All brood emerges and you find no evidence of any egg laying in the hive.

What do you do?

- Order a new queen. Install her in the hive. This hive should have a strong population of bees but with no brood, it may develop a laying worker and eventually die out.
- If you see a frame like this, then you can say, I have a new queen or my new queen was accepted.



Hive Inspections

Queen Cells in a hive...

If you see this then you have some management issues to deal with.

- The bees are raising queens. These cells are located near the bottom bar of frames. They are most likely swarm cells.
- The cells are located on the face of the comb higher up. They are most likely Supersedure or Emergency cells.



Summer Management

Robbing:

Honey bees are good at finding nectar/honey sources. If they find any weak hives, they will arrive in large numbers to steal the weak hives honey. A new beekeeper will sometimes assume that the large number of bees indicate that the hive is doing well. Just the opposite is true.

And if you make the mistake of taking off a honey frame and putting it somewhere the bees can get at it, you will discover to your dismay the problem you created. Setting feeders aside can also cause problems.

Notice this bee has pollen on its legs, it is not a robbing bee.



Robbing Screens



Summer Management

What you want to accomplish...

Keep check on the condition of the queen (brood patterns, population size etc.)

Check for diseases and pests.

Keeping a watchful eye for problems like robbing.

Check for equipment needs.

Your goal is to grow your hive to maximum hive strength till the nectar flow ends – for your surplus honey and the bees survival.

But what about those hives that just aren't measuring up?



Getting bees ready for winter

What can the beekeeper do to provide for winter survival?

Starting in late August, early September when any surplus honey is removed...

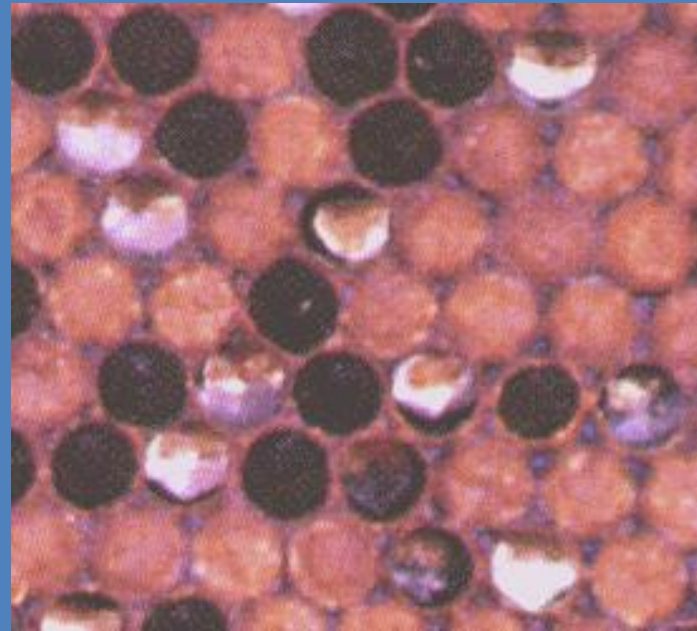
- Check hive for a good laying queen and brood pattern. If she is not doing a good job, now is the time to replace her.
- What is the bee population of the hive? If it is small, you may need to think about combining the hive with a stronger hive or replacing the queen.



Getting bees ready for winter

What can the beekeeper do to provide for winter survival?

- Check hive for diseases. Especially any brood diseases and mites. Then treat for these problems.



Are you ready for winter

Winter weather can be harsh.
Days are gray and possibly
humid.

Temperatures can reach down
to freezing with wind chill
factors below that.

What can the beekeeper do to
provide for winter survival?



Getting bees ready for winter

What can the beekeeper do to provide for winter survival?

Before hard weather arrives....

- Provide for entrance reducers.
- Level hives allowing for a slight slope from the back of the hive to the front to allow water to run out of the hive rather than into the hive.
- Provide the bees with a wind break.
- Provide for an upper entrance and good ventilation.



Winter Management

The management year for established colonies can be said to start with winter

Winter Management Summary



The bees will take care of themselves if you left them enough stores and provided ventilation and wind protection.

Winter Management

Feeding your bees during winter

Feeding your bees during a hard winter with a liquid syrup is most likely not going to help a whole lot.

This is a job that should have been done when the weather would have allowed the bees to move to the syrup and place it in the locations that would have helped them now.

What will help?

QUESTIONS?