

Disease Inspection Check List

Equipment and clothing

- Soda bucket
- Clean hive tool and tweezers
- Queen cage
- Clean bee suit and gloves
- Well-lit smoker
- Matchbox or like to collect sample

Approaching the hive

- Check area around the hive for dead/dying bees
- Note if bees walking away from the hive
- Are bees being refused entry to nest?
- Signs of dysentery
- Signs of hive damage; wax moth, woodpecker or other pests

Open the hive

- Place roof to the side behind the hive
- Place supers on the roof
- Crown board on top of supers
- Remove the queen excluder and place to the front of the hive to allow adhering bees to return to the nest
- Do not look into the supers

Survey the colony

- Number of frames of bees
- Health of bees on the top bars

Make space

- Remove the dummy board and the first frame and place to the front of the hive
- Assumption is first frame does not contain brood
- Swiftly move to the first frame of brood

Frame inspection

- With bees adhering look for signs of:
 - Varroa
 - Chronic bee paralysis
 - Deformed wing virus
- If queen found, pick her up and make her safe
- Shake the bees off the frame and examine the brood for:
 - Brood healthy pattern
 - Sealed digestive biscuit colour and slightly domed
 - Open brood, concentric rings of eggs/larvae of similar age
 - Larvae segmented, pearly white laying in the centre of the cell
 - Signs of unhealthy brood; pepper pot pattern, perforations at edges of the cell, bald brood (genetic or wax moth),
- Looking for foul broods
 - For EFB, look down into the open cells, scanning systematically
 - For AFB, check the sealed cells for signs
 - Hold the frame at an angle, with sun coming over a shoulder and scan the open cells for scale in the cell gravity bottom
 - Scale appears shiny

Investigations

- If foul brood suspected stop the inspection, close the hive with a narrow entrance, do not go into any other hive and call the bee inspector, when bees stop flying close the entrance
- If suspect (non-foul brood) cells or larvae, remove the larva/pupa and have a closer look
- Put any debris into the smoker to be incinerated

Taking a sample of bees

- Ideally older bees on the outer edges of the nest
- Open matchbox 75%, place over bees and close up the matchbox, ideally require 30 bees

Finishing the inspection

- Return the dummy board, frame and queen excluder
- Return the super(s), crown board and roof
- Clean tools and gloves