



WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A HIVE INSPECTION

COMB	Are bees building straight? cross comb? burr comb?
	Colour? Dark? – Must it be cycled out/replaced? (On empty comb light should reflect through the wax)
	Is there sufficient room for egg laying?
BROOD	Is the queen laying? What is the pattern like? (Queen lays in pattern, starting in centre of frame and centre of brood box)
	Is there one egg per cell?
	Condition of larvae? Pearly white? Discoloured?
	Are cappings uniform in size and colour?
	Perforations? Sunken caps? (Do a match stick test for roping)
	How much drone brood?
NECTAR & HONEY	Stored in an arc above brood? Entire comb face? (Honey bound?)
	Is watery nectar present (sign of nectar flow – lasts 1-3 weeks)
	Sufficient honey for hive? (Roughly 1 cell honey per bee)
POLLEN	Below arc of honey towards top of frame? each cell $\frac{3}{4}$ filled?
	Different colours of pollen (variety of food)
	Sufficient pollen for hive? (Roughly 1 cell pollen per bee)
QUEEN	Moving around normally on face of comb?
	Abdomen is enlarged? (full of eggs)
	Has retinue of attendants? (check for petal formation around her)
Cups	Queen cups present on frames?
	Empty? No need to remove.
	Filled? What action? (refer Queen Cells)
Cells	Peanut shaped cells? How many?
	Sides and bottom of frames – swarm cells – intervention required to prevent swarming (may be too late already)
	Centre of frame – supersedure – no action required
	Anywhere on frame, but small/odd shape – emergency cell – consider intervention – bees are in crisis
BEES Appearance	General health?
	Wings – deformed? Odd angle?
	Do bees have hair?
	Greasy, lethargic?
	Strength of numbers?
Sound	'roar'? (possibly queen less)
	Flighty, aggressive? (check for pests/adequate food)
	Gentle hum?
Smell	Warm wax and honey smell is normal
	Fermented aroma?
	Fishy odour? (Check for AFB)