

Appendix B

Beekeeper's Checklist

Use this simple checklist every time you inspect your bees. It's okay to photocopy it. Be sure to date copies and keep them in a binder for future reference and comparison. Use one form for each of your hives. For more details on what to look for during inspections, be sure to read Chapters 8 through 13. Happy beekeeping!

Hive number/location _____

Date of this inspection _____

Date queen/hive was established _____

Observations	Notations
<input type="checkbox"/> Observe bees on the ground in front of the hive. Do they appear to be staggering or crawling up grass blades and then falling off? If yes, this may be an indication of a virus or tracheal mites. Take steps accordingly.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Observe bees at entrance. (Look for dead bees or abnormal behavior and appearance.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you see significant "spotting" of feces on the hive? (If yes, the bees may have Nosema and need to be treated.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> What is the condition of your equipment? (Note any needed repairs that have to be made or replacement parts to order.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> How's the brood pattern? (It should be compact and plentiful during the brood-rearing season.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check appearance of brood cappings. (Cappings should be slightly convex and free of perforations.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate your queen based on her egg-laying ability. (Do you need to replace her with a new queen?)	
<input type="checkbox"/> How do the larvae look? (Larvae should be a glistening, snowy white.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the colony healthy? (You should find lots of active bees, healthy-looking brood, a clean hive, and a nice sweet smell.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you see eggs? (You should find only one egg per cell.)	

(continued)

Observations	Notations
<input type="checkbox"/> Can you find the queen? (Is she the same “marked” one you introduced?)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check for swarm cells. (Take swarm prevention steps, if needed.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check for supercedure cells. (May be an indication that your queen is underperforming and needs to be replaced.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you see evidence of Varroa mites (on bees or on sticky board)? If yes, take corrective action accordingly.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Do the bees have food? (They need honey, pollen, and nectar.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> How much capped honey is there? (Is it time to add a queen excluder and honey supers to your Langstroth hive?)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Do the bees have an adequate water supply?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is it time to feed? (This usually is done in spring and autumn, depending on where you live.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check ventilation. (Adjust based on weather conditions.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean off propolis and burr comb that make manipulation difficult.	
<input type="checkbox"/> What did you do for hive manipulations?	

Action Items (What to do between now and the next inspection):
