


Hive Inspection CHECKLIST

DATE: _____

No	TASKS	
1	Approach the hive calmly and observe the entrance for foraging activity and signs of distress	
2	Light your smoker and puff a small amount of smoke at the hive entrance and under the lid.	
3	Remove the outer and inner covers carefully, using your hive tool to break the propolis seal.	
4	Inspect the top box or honey super: check for honey stores, comb building, and signs of the queen.	
5	Set aside the top box and work your way down to the brood chamber, one box at a time.	
6	Use your hive tool or frame grip to remove an outer frame first, then proceed inward.	
7	Inspect brood frames for eggs, larvae, and capped brood. Look for a healthy, consistent brood pattern.	
8	Check for signs of pests or disease: wax moths, small hive beetles, chalkbrood, foulbrood, and Varroa mites.	
9	Look for the queen or evidence of her (fresh eggs, developing brood).	
10	Assess food stores: check for honey and pollen in arcs around the brood area.	
11	Evaluate the colony's temperament and population strength.	
12	Look for queen cells or swarm cells, especially during late spring and early summer.	
13	Inspect the condition of comb, woodenware, and overall hive structure.	
14	If necessary, add supers, feed the colony, or take other action based on what you observed.	
15	Return all frames and boxes in their original order and orientation	
16	Close the hive gently and replace covers. Use a final puff of smoke to guide bees down.	
17	Record your observations in your notebook or digital log for future reference.	

