

Beekeeping Biosecurity & Best Practices Checklist

Audit Conducted by _____ Date _____

Apiary Owner & Contact Information _____

Apiary Address/GPS Coordinates _____

Recommended Best Practices	In Place	In Progress	Not In Place	Comments
Training				
Complete training/maintain current knowledge of beekeeping through CE (beekeeper and employees)				
Possess knowledge of and be able to recognize all exotic and endemic threats to honey bee health in all hive locations				
Know current regulations and disease reporting requirements for all hive locations				
Record Keeping/Traceability				
Document completion of all training programs for beekeeper and employees				
Maintain current contact information for State Apiary Inspector/State Department of Agriculture for all hive locations				
Record number of apiaries and number of hives within each apiary				
Record any introduction of new stock, including source				
Record migratory hive movements, including routes taken and dates				
Record date, origin, and type of feeding supplements administered				
Record date, origin, dose, and use of any natural or medicinal treatments administered				
Record date, origin, and use of any chemicals or cleaning products used on hive equipment				
Record findings of all hive inspections conducted throughout the season including normal/abnormal findings, suspected/diagnosed diseases, mortalities, colonies affected				
Mark all colonies and apiaries with unique identification				
Mark all queens according to international color code				

Apiary Placement				
Ensure easy, yet controlled, access to apiary				
Ensure apiary/surrounding area is well maintained				
Ensure hives are protected from inclement weather/other hazards to the extent possible				
Ensure presence of diverse, natural food sources				
Ensure presence of good quality water supply				
Possess knowledge of nearby farming practices, including pesticide use				
Possess knowledge of nearby colonies and management practices utilized				
Sourcing				
Purchase queens/bees from trusted sources and ensure they are pest-free to the extent possible				
Choose appropriate honey bee strain for regional environment of hive location/potential pathogen exposures				
Isolate recovered wild swarms from apiary until thoroughly inspected/miticides applied (if needed)				
Purchase hive equipment from reputable source made with appropriate materials				
Clean and disinfect any borrowed/secondhand equipment before use				
Maintain hive boxes/frames/foundations over time including removal of dark wax combs and replacement of hive frames every 3 years				
Minimize exchange of frames and supers between colonies and apiaries to the extent possible				
Remove all empty hives from apiary immediately				
Store equipment in well-ventilated/chemical free area and store hive boxes in crisscross pattern				
Obtain supplementary feed products from trusted source and store/handle appropriately				
Ensure supplemental feed is appropriate for needs of colony and time of year (winter/early spring = candy; late spring/fall = syrup; honey sourced only from colony/apiary in which hive is located)				
Hive Inspections				
Conduct routine hive inspections				
Observe and document the following during inspection: queen status, activity of bees outside and within hive, brood patterns, pollen/honey storage, signs of disease/pests				
Implement and document presence of an integrated pest management program				

Isolate any diseased colonies from apiary that can be saved (as allowable by law)				
Humanely euthanize any weak hives or those that pose danger to other colonies				
Sanitation/Hygiene				
Disinfect all small tools/clothing between inspection of different apiaries and after inspection of any apparently diseased colony				
Ensure that all workers/visitors/vehicles are clean before entering and leaving the apiary				
Display signage at apiary/property entrances with apiary owner's name/contact information and a request to obtain permission before entering				
Migratory Colonies				
Minimize movement of hives to the extent possible				
Contact destination State Department of Agriculture/Apiary Inspector prior to any hive movement to determine health certification requirements				
Move hives only at night/early morning				
Feed colonies carbohydrate supplement prior to moving				
Possess knowledge of all established/exotic pathogens and disease reporting regulations in region to which hives are being moved				
Cover and secure hives/equipment prior to moving				
Assess any potential disease threat due to poorly managed hives near new location				
Keep accurate records of all hive movements				
Follow all transportation regulations				