

BEEKEEPER CLIENT HEALTH FORM

Date: _____

Yard Location: _____

Beekeeper name: _____

of hives in yard: _____

Recent treatments: _____

Reason for visit: _____

	Cluster size	Queen status	Mite count (%)	Clinical signs (brood/adult)	Notes
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Assessment (suspected diagnosis / differentials): _____

Recommended treatments: _____

Follow-up plan: _____

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Form Field Descriptions

- **Yard Location:** record GPS coordinates and the beekeeper's yard name (i.e., "Home yard", "Collins yard"). This may be useful for follow-up communications with the beekeeper when discussing specific yard locations.
- **Hive numbers (1-10):** Because colonies are frequently split, combined, or requeened, individual hive identity often changes. Inspecting a subset of up to 10 colonies in a yard generally provides a representative assessment of overall yard health.
- **Cluster Size:** Reflects colony strength. Estimate the number of frames fully covered by bees (i.e., "6.5 frames"). Categorize as small, moderate, large if preferred.
- **Queen Status:** Verify queen status by checking for eggs. Shorthand examples: **QR** (queenright, eggs seen), **QL** (queenless), **QNS** (queen, eggs, young brood not seen but appears queenright), **V** (Virgin queen). *Eggs provide a more definitive indicator of queen activity than seeing the queen herself*; record QR even if the queen is not seen.
- **Mite Count:** Use alcohol wash (preferred) or sugar roll. Record the mite percentage. Thresholds: >2% in summer or >1% in spring and late fall may warrant treatment.
- **Clinical signs (brood/adult):** Record visible abnormalities. Record severity with brief descriptors (i.e., "10+ deformed wings seen", "<10 twisted larvae").
 - **Brood:** spotty pattern, sunken/perforated cappings, twisted or yellowed larvae, scales
 - **Adult:** deformed wings, K-wing, stunted abdomens, dysentery
- **Notes:** Record hive or yard history, previous treatments, environmental stressors, or anything relevant to differential diagnosis.

Inspection Tips

- Review beekeeper concerns before opening hives.
- Clarify what information you need to collect.
- Take abundant photos for later diagnostic confirmation since many honey bee ailments can be visually diagnosed.
 - Extension can assist with photo-based diagnostics.
- If you are unsure of a diagnosis, collect larvae and/or adult samples for laboratory diagnostics.

Additional Resources

- Michigan State University's honey bee medicine website: www.BeesNeedVets.com
- Honey Bee Health Coalition: www.honeybeehealthcoalition.com
- USDA Honey Bee Research Laboratory for free diagnostic services: www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/beltsville-md-barc/beltsville-agricultural-research-center/bee-research-laboratory/
- AVMA's Honey Bee Guidance: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/one-health/antimicrobial-use-and-antimicrobial-resistance/honeybees-101-veterinarians>