

INSPECTION FORM COMPLETION NOTES

HIVE CHOICE

Previously submitted Varroa counts – Please use the same colonies as before.

Apiary with less than 10 hives – Inspect all hives

Apiary more than 10 hives – Choose your best and worst hives. Choose another 8 hives randomly.

LOCATION

The exact hive location is not essential however please provide the townland if you can.

If the apiary is moved during the year, please provide the **location where it is most of the time or during the greatest period of nectar flow.**

APIARY NAME

Please use a separate form for each apiary if you are testing more than one apiary.

TOTAL NUMBER OF COLONIES

The total size of the apiary at the time of testing

CALCULATION OF MITE INFESTATION

We only require the **number of mites you count in 300 bees** and whether or not brood is present.

Brood present on frame : Number of mites divided by 3 x 2 = **Percentage of mite infestation**

E.g. 3 mites ÷ 3 x 2 = 2.00 % mite infestation

No brood present on frame do not multiply by 2.

E.g. 6 mites ÷ 3 = 2.00 % mite infestation

If the percentage is 2% or less do not treat for Varroa if you are happy to do so.

If the percentage exceeds 2% treat for Varroa as you normally would. Re-queen from low Varroa stock.

QUEEN AGE

Please enter this to the nearest month

WHERE QUEEN WAS SOURCED FROM

Internal – Colony queened from within the current apiary

External – Colony queened from another apiary, even the other apiary belongs to you

BROOD VALUES - SAMPLE FRAME ONLY

The percentage of brood should be given as a percentage of the entire area of both sides of only the frame from which the 300 bees were taken. If you need two frames to get enough bees use the one from which you got most bees for the calculation.

Brood percentage is subjective and can be difficult to estimate therefore it is best for you to have a standard guide from which to compare each frame and always use that method.

For example, Use the base of the sugar shaker tub (870 ml) which has an area of 64 sq cms.

The base of the tub is 1/11 or 9% of the National frame and 1/14 or 7% of the Commercial frame.

National frames			Commercial frames	
Brood covers shaker tub bases	% of brood frame		Brood covers shaker tub bases	% of brood frame
1	9%		1	7%
2	18%		2	14%
2.5	22.5%		2.5	17.5%
3	27%		3	21%
3.5	31.5%		3.5	24.5%

Once you have estimated the brood percentage please give your best estimation of the ratio of Open brood to Closed brood. (eg: 3 to 1; 1 to 2) Always give the Open brood figure first. Finally tick one box to indicate, in your opinion, the level of combined open and closed drone brood on the frame.

Any queries please contact Keith Browne at nuigbeerresearch@gmail.com , 091 494490 or 089 2004762