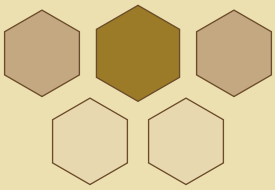
THE BEEKEEPER'S

VINTAGE LOG

KEEPER'S EDITION



A Complete Record of the Hive & Its Seasons

Beekeeper's Name: _____

Apiary & Location: _____

Season & Year: _____

Hive Identifier: _____

Speared Apiaries

Est. MMXXVI

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The Vintage Keeper — Speared Apiaries

HIVE INSPECTION LOG

Speared Apiaries — The Vintage Keeper

Date of Inspection: _____ *Hive Identifier:* _____ *Inspector:* _____

Time In: _____ *Time Out:* _____ *Duration (min):* _____ *Weather Conditions:* _____

~ HIVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT ~

Queen Observed? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Uncertain *Queen Cells?* ☐ None ☐ Swarm ☐ Supersedure ☐ Emergency *Eggs Present?* ☐ Yes ☐ No

Brood Pattern: ☐ Solid ☐ Fair ☐ Spotty ☐ Absent *Larvae Visible?* ☐ Yes ☐ No *Capped Brood?* ☐ Yes ☐ No

~ POPULATION & STORES ~

Colony Strength: ☐ Weak ☐ Moderate ☐ Strong ☐ Very Strong *Temperament:* ☐ Gentle ☐ Calm ☐ Restless ☐ Defensive

Honey Stores: ☐ Scarce ☐ Adequate ☐ Good ☐ Abundant *Pollen Stores:* ☐ Low ☐ Adequate ☐ Plentiful

~ VARROA MITE EXAMINATION ~

Method: ☐ Alcohol Wash ☐ Sugar Roll ☐ Sticky Board ☐ Not Checked

Mites per 100 bees: _____ *Treatment Required?* ☐ Yes ☐ No *Treatment used:* _____

~ HIVE BODY & EQUIPMENT ~

Supers on hive: _____ *Frames of honey:* _____ *Frames of brood:* _____ *Empty frames:* _____

Equipment concerns noted: _____

~ OBSERVATIONS & FIELD NOTES ~

~ NEXT ACTIONS REQUIRED ~

- _____
- _____
- _____

~ OVERALL RATING ~

☐ *Poor* ☐ *Fair* ☐ *Good* ☐ *Excellent* ☐ *Ou*

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HONEY HARVEST RECORD

Speared Apiaries — The Vintage Keeper

Harvest Date: _____ *Hive(s):* _____ *Extractor Type:* _____

~ SUPER YIELD REGISTER ~

Super	Frames	Capped %	Wt Before	Wt After	Net (lbs)	Honey Variety	Notes

~ YIELD TOTALS & QUALITY ~

Total frames extracted: _____ *Total gross weight (lbs):* _____ *Net yield (lbs):* _____

Moisture %: _____ *Brix:* _____ *Honey pH:* _____ *Honey colour:* ☐ Water White ☐ White ☐ Extra Lt Amber

Aroma notes: _____

Flavour profile: _____

Floral source(s): _____

~ PROCESSING & BOTTLING ~

Filtering method: ☐ Coarse strainer ☐ Fine mesh ☐ Double filtered ☐ Raw/unfiltered

Bottling date: _____ *Batch label #:* _____ *Jars filled:* _____ *Storage location:* _____

~ TASTING NOTES & REMARKS ~

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~ TASTING NOTES & REMARKS ~

QUEEN ACTIVITY & BREEDING NOTES

Speared Apiaries — The Vintage Keeper

Date: _____ *Hive ID:* _____ *Queen Mark/ID:* _____ *Marked Year:* _____

~ QUEEN STATUS ~

Queen observed? ☐ Laying ☐ Present (not laying) ☐ Not found ☐ Uncertain

Laying pattern: ☐ Solid (excellent) ☐ Good ☐ Spotty ☐ Very spotty ☐ None

Queen age (approximate): _____

Marking colour: ☐ White (1,6) ☐ Yellow (2,7) ☐ Red (3,8) ☐ Green (4,9) ☐ Blue (0,5)

~ QUEEN CELLS ~

Cells present? ☐ None ☐ Swarm cells ☐ Supersedure cells ☐ Emergency cells

Number of cells: _____

Cell stage: ☐ Fresh egg ☐ Young larva ☐ Capped ☐ Recently emerged

Action taken: ☐ Left in place ☐ Removed ☐ Split colony ☐ Used to raise

~ REQUEENING RECORD ~

Old queen removed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

New queen source: ☐ Raised in-hive ☐ Purchased ☐ From split ☐ From swarm

Introduction method: ☐ Candy plug ☐ Direct release ☐ Push-in cage ☐ Newspaper

Introduction date: _____

First eggs seen: _____

~ GENETIC TRAITS (rate 1–5) ~

Honey Production	*Gentleness*	*Swarm Resistance*	*Disease Resistance*
☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5	☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5	☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5	☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5

~ ADDITIONAL NOTES ~

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~ ADDITIONAL NOTES ~

VARROA MONITORING LOG

Speared Apiaries — The Vintage Keeper

Threshold: 2 mites per 100 bees (spring–summer) | 1 mite per 100 bees (fall, pre-winter)

~ MITE COUNT REGISTER ~

Date	Hive	Method	Sample	Mites	Rate/100	Action Taken	Notes

~ TREATMENT RECORD ~

Date	Hive	Treatment	Dose	Duration	Temp	Efficacy	Follow-up

~ NOTES ~

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FEEDING & SUPPLEMENT LOG

Speared Apiaries — The Vintage Keeper

~ FEEDING REGISTER ~

Date	Hive	Feed Type	Ratio/Recipe	Amount	Feeder	Consumed?	Notes

~ SUPPLEMENT NOTES ~

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Date	Hive	Feed Type	Ratio/Recipe	Amount	Feeder	Consumed?	Notes

~ SUPPLEMENT NOTES ~

SWARM & SPLIT RECORD

Speared Apiaries — The Vintage Keeper

Entry 1

Date: _____ *Source Hive:* _____ *Type:* ☐ Prime swarm ☐ Cast swarm ☐ Planned split

Size: ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ Very Large

Captured? ☐ Yes ☐ No *Placed in:* _____ *Installed:* _____ *Queen status:* _____

Prevention steps: ☐ Space added ☐ Cells removed ☐ Reversed boxes ☐ Split ☐ None

Notes:

Entry 2

Date: _____ *Source Hive:* _____ *Type:* ☐ Prime swarm ☐ Cast swarm ☐ Planned split

Size: ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ Very Large

Captured? ☐ Yes ☐ No *Placed in:* _____ *Installed:* _____ *Queen status:* _____

Prevention steps: ☐ Space added ☐ Cells removed ☐ Reversed boxes ☐ Split ☐ None

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Entry 3

Date: _____ *Source Hive:* _____ *Type:* ☐ Prime swarm ☐ Cast swarm ☐ Planned split

Size: ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ Very Large

Captured? ☐ Yes ☐ No *Placed in:* _____ *Installed:* _____ *Queen status:* _____

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FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Speared Apiaries — The Vintage Keeper

Date: _____ *Apiary:* _____ *Season:* ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☐ Autumn ☐ Winter

~ FORAGING & ENVIRONMENT ~

Blooms observed: _____

Pollen colours carried: _____

Forager activity: ☐ Very low ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☐ Active ☐ Very active

~ WEATHER OBSERVATIONS ~

Temperature (°F): _____ *Humidity:* _____ *Wind:* ☐ Calm ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Strong

Sky conditions: ☐ Clear ☐ Partly cloudy ☐ Overcast ☐ Rain

~ GENERAL NOTES ~

~ SKETCHES & DIAGRAMS ~

~ CONCERNS & FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ~

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ANNUAL APIARY SUMMARY

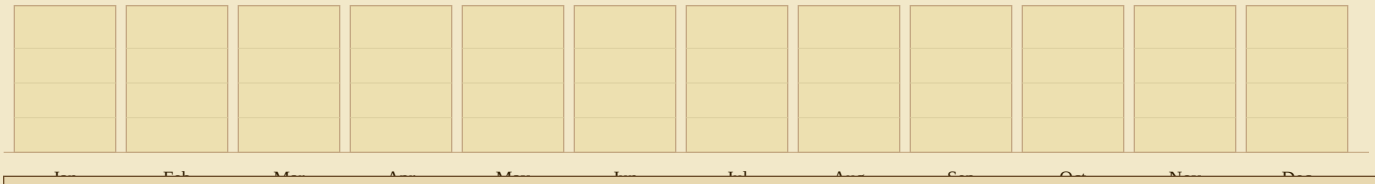
Speared Apiaries — The Vintage Keeper

Year: _____ *Apiary Name:* _____ *Hives (start of year):* _____

~ PRODUCTION TOTALS ~

Total honey (lbs): _____ *Beeswax (lbs):* _____ *Splits made:* _____

~ MONTHLY HONEY YIELD CHART (lbs) ~



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~ GOALS FOR NEXT SEASON ~

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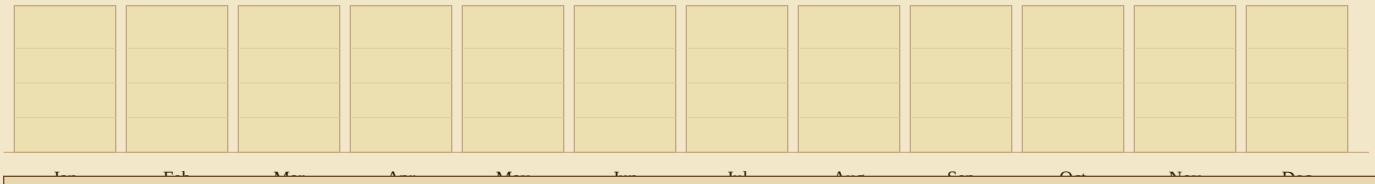

~ SEASONAL NOTES ~

~ GOALS FOR NEXT SEASON ~

SEASONAL BEEKEEPING CALENDAR

Speared Apiaries — The Vintage Keeper

SPRING (March – May)

- Early spring: assess winter survival; check for queen and stores
- Feed 1:1 syrup if stores are low — stimulates brood rearing
- Add supers as colony expands — 80% frame coverage is the guide
- Inspect every 7–10 days for swarm cells during buildup
- Mite counts should be taken; treat if threshold is breached
- Principal forage: dandelion, fruit blossoms, willow, clover

SUMMER (June – August)

- Peak nectar flow — harvest when 80% or more of frames are capped
- Add supers proactively; do not allow overcrowding
- Monthly mite monitoring; threshold: 2 per 100 bees
- Reduce entrance in late summer dearth to prevent robbing
- Maintain water source close to apiary — essential in heat
- Prepare harvest equipment well ahead of peak flow

AUTUMN (September – November)

- Critical varroa treatment before winter bees are raised (Aug–Sept)
- Feed 2:1 syrup to build winter stores — target 60–80 lbs per hive
- Combine colonies that are too weak to overwinter alone
- Fit mouse guards and reduce entrances before October
- Remove queen excluders before prolonged cold
- Begin planning spring management; order equipment now

WINTER (December – February)

- Disturb as little as possible — inspect only on warm days above 50°F
- Heft hives monthly to gauge stores — a light hive needs emergency feed
- Emergency winter feed: candy board or fondant on top bars over cluster
- Ensure top ventilation to prevent condensation and fungal issues
- Review season logs and evaluate colony performance
- Order queens, nucleus colonies, and equipment for the coming year

DISEASES & PESTS OF THE HONEYBEE

Speared Apiaries — The Vintage Keeper

Varroa Mite (Varroa destructor)

The most serious global pest. External parasite on bees and brood, vectors for viruses.

Signs: Signs: deformed wings, crawling bees, visible mites, high sticky-board counts

Remedy: Treatment: Oxalic acid, Apivar (amitraz), Apiguard (thymol). Rotate annually.

Always confirm diagnosis before treating. Consult your local extension office or state apiarist.

American Foulbrood

Notifiable bacterial disease — highly contagious spores. Report to state apiarist.

Signs: Signs: sunken/perforated cappings, brown ropy larvae (pencil test), putrid smell

Remedy: NO TREATMENT — infected equipment must be burned. Contact authorities.

Always confirm diagnosis before treating. Consult your local extension office or state apiarist.

European Foulbrood

Bacterial — less severe. Associated with nutritional stress.

Signs: Signs: twisted/melted larvae, sour smell, yellow-brown discolouration

Remedy: Treatment: Oxytetracycline, requeening, improve colony nutrition

Always confirm diagnosis before treating. Consult your local extension office or state apiarist.

Chalkbrood

Fungal disease of larvae; stress and moisture related.

Signs: Signs: chalky white or grey mummified larvae; often found at hive entrance

Remedy: Treatment: Improve ventilation; reduce moisture; requeen if persistent

Always confirm diagnosis before treating. Consult your local extension office or state apiarist.

Nosema (apis / ceranae)

Microsporidian gut parasite affecting digestion and colony vigour.

Signs: Signs: dysentery streaks, weak spring build-up, feces on landing board

Remedy: Treatment: Fumagilin (limited); good nutrition; thorough ventilation

Always confirm diagnosis before treating. Consult your local extension office or state apiarist.

Small Hive Beetle

Scavenger beetle; serious in warm humid climates.

Signs: Signs: slimy fermented honey, beetles fleeing inspection, larvae in comb

Remedy: Treatment: Beetle traps, strong colony management, dry sunny locations

Always confirm diagnosis before treating. Consult your local extension office or state apiarist.

Wax Moths

Larvae destroy comb in weak or unoccupied hives; opportunistic only.

Signs: Signs: silk tunnels and webbing, destroyed combs, larvae in stored boxes

Remedy: Treatment: Strong colonies self-manage; freeze stored comb 48 hours

Always confirm diagnosis before treating. Consult your local extension office or state apiarist.

FEEDING & SUPPLEMENT REFERENCE

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Sugar Syrup Ratios

Type	Ratio	Description	Best Use
1:1 Spring Syrup	1 lb sugar : 1 pint water	Thin, mimics nectar. Stimulates brood rearing and comb building.	Spring buildup; new packages; swarms; drawn-comb
2:1 Autumn Syrup	2 lbs sugar : 1 pint water	Dense; bees convert quickly to winter stores. Maximum caloric value.	Autumn feeding; topping up winter provisions
Fondant / Candy Board	Cooked sugar paste (soft ball stage)	Emergency winter supplement — placed over cluster on top bars.	Mid-winter emergency; avoid breaking cluster to feed

Supplements & Nutritional Additives

Pollen Substitute Patty
Protein source mimicking natural pollen (AP23, MegaBee, Global Pollen).
Use: Early spring before forage; colony recovery; nutritional gaps

Honey B Healthy
Essential oil stimulant (lemongrass, spearmint). Encourages feeding.
Use: Add to syrup; deters mold; useful during dearth and package installation

Amino-B Booster
Amino acid supplement for protein-deficient colonies.
Use: Spring build-up; stress recovery; pesticide exposure aftermath

Oxalic Acid in Syrup
Varroa miticide via syrup dribble or oxalic acid.
Use: BROODLESS PERIODS ONLY — autumn/winter preferred

Propolis Tincture
Antimicrobial resin extract; general immune support.
Use: General health; fungal or bacterial resistance support

Warning: Never feed honey from unknown sources — risk of American Foulbrood contamination.
Provide a clean water source within 100 feet of hives. Avoid HFCS as a primary long-term diet.

THE BEEKEEPER'S GLOSSARY

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- **Apiary** — A collection of beehives maintained in one location.
- **Apiculture** — The science and craft of keeping honey bees.
- **Brood** — Eggs, larvae, and pupae collectively.
- **Capped brood** — Brood cells sealed with wax while larvae pupate.
- **Colony** — A complete bee community: queen, workers, and drones.
- **Drone** — Male bee; sole function is to mate with virgin queens.
- **Festooning** — Bees hanging in chains from frames; indicates comb-building activity.
- **Fondant** — Cooked sugar paste used as emergency winter feed.
- **Forage** — Plants from which bees collect nectar and pollen.
- **Frame** — Removable wooden or plastic structure within the hive box.
- **Hygienic behavior** — Workers that detect and remove diseased or mite-infested brood.
- **Langstroth** — Standard removable-frame hive — the most common in North America.
- **Laying worker** — A queenless worker that lays unfertilised drone eggs.
- **Nectar flow** — A period of abundant nectar availability from flowering plants.
- **Nuc (nucleus)** — Small starter colony — typically five frames with a mated queen.
- **Operculum** — Wax cap sealing a honey cell or brood cell.
- **Pheromone** — Chemical signal used by bees for communication within the colony.
- **Propolis** — Resinous plant material gathered by bees and used as hive sealant.
- **Queen excluder** — A grid preventing the queen from accessing honey supers.
- **Robbing** — Aggressive theft of honey stores from a neighbouring colony.
- **Scout bee** — A worker that locates new food sources or potential nest sites.
- **Split (divide)** — Deliberately dividing a colony into two or more units.
- **Super** — A box placed above the brood chambers for surplus honey storage.
- **Supersedure** — Natural queen replacement instigated by the colony without swarming.
- **Swarm** — Natural reproduction — approximately half the colony departs with the old queen.
- **Uncapping** — Removing wax cappings from honey cells prior to extraction.
- **Varroa** — Varroa destructor — the primary parasitic mite pest of honey bees worldwide.
- **Virgin queen** — A newly emerged, unmated queen bee.
- **Wax moth** — Galleria mellonella — pest larvae that damage comb in weak hives.
- **Winter cluster** — The tight, heat-generating ball of bees formed during cold months.

Speared Apiaries

Est. MMXXVI

"To understand the hive is to understand life itself."

The Vintage Keeper · A Speared Apiaries Production