

Instructions for completing the record cards;

DO NOT WRITE RANDOM, MEANINGLESS NUMBERS!

The record cards are kept on a clip-board in the black bee shed at the old farmyard, Cherry Gardens Farm.

Always fill in the details as soon as you have closed up the hive, and before going on to the next colony.

If you have a helper, then get them to write the records as you go.

When you have filled in the last row at the bottom of the page, create a new record card and **transfer ALL the permanent information** from the top of the old card to the new one.

DATE; Enter today's date in the date column. EG: MAY 25th

WEATHER; Enter the weather in the weather column, EG; Hot, Sunny, Windy, Cold, etc.

Q; When looking through the hive, if you see the **queen**, write **OK** or **tick** in the Q column. Note; check that the queen's actual colour matches the colour recorded in the permanent information at the top of the card. If there is a difference, make a note in the Notes column, and change the information at the top. (Don't forget there could be 2 queens!)

QC; If you see queen cells, write the **number left in the hive when you have finished**, and if it/they is/are **open** or **capped**, in the QC column.

A **queen cell** is a large acorn shaped vertical cell, containing an **egg, larvae or pupa**.

If it is **empty** it is **NOT A QUEEN CELL!** It is either a **Queen cup** or it **has hatched**. Write this information in the Notes column.

BROOD FRAMES; Enter the number of complete frames of brood. EG; if **half the frame is covered with brood** for example the whole of one side of the frame, it is **½ Frame**. If it is **covered with brood both sides** it is **1 frame**.

Indicate what stages of brood are present; EG; if there are **Eggs**, open **Larvae**, and capped **Pupae**, you can write **Brood In All Stages = BIAS**

If there is only one or two types of brood, for example; only **capped brood** = write **capped brood only**.

STORES FRAMES; Enter the number of complete frames of stores.(=honey & pollen) EG; if **half the frame is covered with stores** for example the **whole of one side of the frame**, it is **½ Frame**. As with brood frames.

ROOM FRAMES; Enter the number of **complete frames of empty drawn comb**. If there are frames of foundation only, write the number of these in separately.

HEALTH; Write brief note of any obvious signs of poor health. EG; Deformed wings, or dysentery.

VARROA; If you have counted dead varroa mites on the floor insert, write in how many have been counted, and the number of days since the last clearance of the insert. Calculate a Daily Dead Mite Drop if appropriate.

TEMPER: Write; **very good; good; poor; or very poor**; as appropriate.

FED: Write in the amount of food given today; EG; **5 litres sugar syrup**. Or **Still eating**, if the last feed has not been consumed.

SUPER(S): Write the number of supers on the hive. IE; the number of boxes above the Queen Excluder.

NOTES / NEXT ACTIONS: Write any other relevant information here, and suggestions for the jobs required at next visit. For example; **Needs super** next time or **Treated with Oxalic Acid** or **Being robbed by wasps**.