

Bee: colony genetics

1. User:
 - beekeepers who are interested in managing genetics within their operation
2. Frequency of use:
 - the frequency of assessment will depend on the size of the operation, beekeeper preference and their reason for doing the assessment (e.g., checking for disease, suitability for breeding)
3. Reasons for recording this information include:
 - bee management
 - reduced reliance on external sources for bees (i.e., reduces bee biosecurity risk)
 - it is a tool for breeding bees to local conditions (e.g., increased honey production, winterability)
 - it is a tool for breeding bees to beekeeper preference (e.g., gentleness, disease resistance)
 - financial management
 - it is a tool to reduce susceptibility to disease and use of medication (and fewer food safety concerns and increased bee biosecurity)
 - it is a tool to help increase honey production by breeding for honey production
 - bee biosecurity
 - bees can be bred for disease resistance
 - food safety
 - if there is less need for medication, there is a reduced likelihood of honey contamination
4. References to the Bee Biosecurity Standard and CBISQT:
 - Bee Biosecurity Standard: pages 13-19
 - CBISQT: none
 - this template is an adaptation of Bee Biosecurity Standard form 1.0 (pages 128-134)

 - BMP: pages 33-42
5. General comments:
 - beekeepers should keep the information updated if they determine that genetics and queen breeding is vital to their operation
 - small operators who produce only enough honey for household use may not find this template useful
 - one reviewer suggested using colour markers (e.g., push pins) on hives to indicate queen age is an easy method for seeing age of queen in the hive
 - beekeepers may find it handy to keep a few blank paper copies of this template (or their equivalent) in their bee truck/vehicle
 - the frequency of recording hive genetics will depend on the size of the operation, and beekeeper preference for tracking bee genetics