

Records

Why keep records?

- Check colony health
- Track bee behaviour
- Measure performance

Big questions

- How was the colony last inspection?
- How are they now?
- What do you expect of them next time?



What to check (1)

Ted Hooper's 5 questions - **REDDS**

- **ROOM:** Does the colony have room to store pollen & honey? Does the queen have room to lay?
- **EGGS:** Is the queen present and laying?
- **DEVELOPMENT:** How many frames of brood? Are there queen cells?
- **DISEASE:** Any health issues? Any sign of Chalkbrood, Foulbrood, DWV, etc.?
- **STORES:** Do the bees have enough stores to last until the next inspection?



What to Check (2)

Queen attributes – range from 1 (very bad) to 5 (excellent)

- DOCILITY – Stinging, head-butting, following, etc.
- STEADINESS – Moving quickly around the frame, forming clumps
- BROOD PATTERN – Gaps can indicate poor mating (diploid drones), presence of drones can indicate failing queen, etc.
- POLLEN STORAGE – Lots of pollen is needed to raise brood
- COMB BUILDING – Required to store food & raise brood



Evaluating Queens

Breed from queens with:

- Total average rating of 17 or more
- Docility average > 3
- Brood pattern average > 3