



CHECKING BROOD BOX

The following should be looked for when checking the brood box:

1. Queen

- Present ?
 - Yes – move to next item
 - No – are queen cells present?
 - Yes – decide if you wish to allow supersedure
 - No – colony will die out unless you add new queen

2. Brood

- Amount of brood present
- Eggs sited
- Larvae sited
- Capped brood present
- Brood Pattern
- Drone brood present
- Time of year

3. Honey and pollen stores

- Is there sufficient stored honey
- Is there sufficient stored pollen
- Are fresh nectar and pollen being collected

4. Pests and Disease

- Check for small hive beetle and add /replace trap as required
- Check brood for evidence of AFB/EFB/ Chalkbrood and Nosema
- Check for evidence of Wax moth
- General check for other insects, ants, snakes

5. Comb

- How many frames are drawn
- Does colony require more room
- Burr comb present

When checking the brood frames, always remove a frame away from the centre of the hive, preferably an undrawn foundation frame or one with the least amount of bees working it. This minimises the possibility of squashing the queen. It also then gives you room to crack apart each frame horizontally and in position, so you can remove each for inspection without ripping frames apart.

If the frame you are inspecting has brood present, do not leave it out of the box. Inspect it carefully on both faces, and then place back into the box in the same position, and in the same orientation.
Continue for each frame.

Use the flat edge of your hive tool to gently push the frames back tight together, leaving the gap for the initial frame removed. You can use your smoker to gently move bees out of the way as you push the frames tight.

Replace the first removed frame in its spot.

Check trap/s, feeder

Replace lid.

Record observations in your hive diary.